

## CAREER SERVICES

### ONWARD TO OPPORTUNITY (O2O)

#### 2,856 ENROLLED

- 1,429 veterans and 392 military spouses
- 832 active duty and 193 National Guard
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (478) | 30-49 (1,974) | 50+ (394)
- **Top certifications:** PMP®, Google Cybersecurity, CompTIA Security+, CAPM® and PHR®

#### O2O PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



- Our partnership with **Northrop Grumman** resulted in 14 direct hires, 12 cohort engagements, and two national spotlights—creating meaningful career connections for over 1,700 Onward to Opportunity participants.



**NYLE VAN DOREN**, U.S. Army, E-5,  
O2O Jacksonville Program Graduate

"The Onward to Your Career (OTYC) course, along with the guidance and resources offered by the O2O team, played a crucial role in building confidence and preparing me for the next chapter of my career. I'm grateful for the opportunity and highly recommend this program to any service member preparing for life after the military."

### VETERANS PROGRAM FOR POLITICS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (VPPCE)

- Program Highlight: Secured funding for an additional three years, and added an additional Ideation cohort for 2025.
- 175 applications for 3 cohorts - Most applicants since program launch



"For anyone starting out in politics, this program is an invaluable opportunity to gain knowledge, make connections, and grow alongside fellow participants. A big thank you to the VPPCE team for an incredibly informative and rewarding experience!"

- **ROB LOVICH**, Army Veteran, Ideation 2023,  
Campaign Planning 2024

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

### 7 UNIQUE PROGRAMS RUNNING THIS QUARTER

#### 660 ENROLLED ENTREPRENEURS

**Seven programs include:** Breaking Barriers in Entrepreneurship, Bunker Build Up, CEOcircle, EBV, STRIVE, V-WISE, Veterans in Residence

- 448 veterans and 101 military spouses
- 44 active duty and National Guard
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (18) | 30-49 (436) | 50+ (173)
- **Boots to Business** trained 557 participants in 39 workshops worldwide.
- **Military-connected Entrepreneur Events**
  - **Military Entrepreneurship Forum** in Atlanta - 287 registrations
  - **Mission to Marketplace** in Philadelphia - 179 registrations
  - In partnership with Walmart, IVMF hosted the "**Road to Open Call**" pitch event, preparing 23 veteran entrepreneurs to present. 7 participants earned Fast Passes to Walmart's national Open Call, showcasing IVMF's ability to expand market access for veteran entrepreneurs.
  - **V-WISE** had its 29th cohort in Phoenix.
  - Added 75 new entrepreneurship resources in Q4 to the [Center of Excellence digital library](#).



"The speakers, the community, and the whole vibe reminded me that I'm not alone in this and that it's okay to start small and grow at my own pace. I walked away feeling more inspired, confident, and excited about what's ahead for me and my business."

- **VANESSA O'NEAL**, BBiE Program Graduate

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **SyracuseServes** coordinated 68 requests on behalf of 41 unique clients, and participated in over 20 engagements with local provider partners.
- Funding secured from Mecklenburg County, NC, to conduct a Veteran Needs Assessment, and develop an outreach strategy to better connect local qualified veterans to available services.

## RESEARCH & EVALUATION

- Total number of downloads from the [digital library](#) this quarter: 8,434
- 37 [research publications](#) and 56 in-person/virtual engagements
- IVMF's Keoki Spaulding presented the history of our team's work with Warriors and Quiet Waters at Houston's Nature and Health Conference.
- The evaluation team began its 7th consecutive annual evaluation of the G.W. Bush Center Veteran Leadership Program.

## POLICY

- Gilly Cantor [testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee](#) on April 29, advocating for the reauthorization of the SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, incorporating IVMF and partner insights.
- On June 12, Ray Toenniessen joined a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee roundtable on transition and post-service success, sharing IVMF data and insights on veteran outcomes and the impact of transition programs.
- On April 2, IVMF hosted a DC roundtable with 40+ leaders from a wide spectrum of sectors to explore veteran transition and continuing education, with a focus on developing actionable solutions for veterans and their families.

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

### 52 AMBASSADORS REPRESENTING 30 COMMUNITIES

- 77% veteran, 15% military spouse, 8% National Guard/reserves
- Ambassadors and Regional Leads contributed to 100+ events nationwide from April to June, expanding outreach through networking, thought leadership, capital access, and mentorship.

### AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



#### RYAN HUNT

Chicago Ambassador, U.S. Army Veteran;  
Founder, Tenth Mountain Recruiting;  
Creator, Veteran Social Summit

- Ryan was named “[Military Friendly’s Illinois Vetpreneur of the Year](#)” and was honored as one of the Top 25 Notable Military-Connected Entrepreneurs Changemakers by Military Entrepreneur Magazine (Rosie Network).

## FEATURED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS:

- The policy team is keeping an eye toward future transitioning servicemembers, working with Secretaries of Defense and the VA to improve the process. Learn more: [Joint MOU between the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs](#).
- Megan Andros at The Heinz Endowments penned [an op-ed in Stars and Stripes commending the MOU](#), and pushing for an even larger focus on employment.
- [Military Spouse Employment Landscape: Trends, Barriers, and Opportunities](#)
  - Active-duty military spouses reported a median income of \$35K—42% lower than civilian counterparts.
  - Military spouse employment is a structural challenge shaped by mobility, caregiving, occupational segregation, and limited advancement opportunities.
- [The Skills-Based Business Case for Hiring Veterans](#)
  - Veterans bring critical skills to today’s workforce—skills that will be even more essential in the future.



## TOP CONTENT & NEWS

### • Most read IVMF content:

- IVMF Alumni Spotlight: Daniella Mestyanek Young - [From Cult to Army Intelligence Officer to Entrepreneur](#)
- Blog: [Deals & Discounts for Veterans](#)
- Blog: [Why Veterans Could be the Answer to America’s Manufacturing Workforce Crisis](#)
- Blog: [IVMF Entrepreneurship Resource Directory](#)

READ MORE  
ON OUR BLOG



- **Best attended VetNet Webinar:** [Explore CEOcircle: A Program for Growth-Stage Veteran Entrepreneurs](#)



## DEVELOPMENT

### IVMF FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

# Walmart

Walmart  Foundation

- **Walmart** and the **Walmart Foundation** have been key partners of IVMF since the beginning—supporting the launch of our EBV program, the growth of AmericaServes, and recent innovations like digital credentialing in Onward to Opportunity.
- With more than \$12.5 million invested since 2011, their support has helped us reach tens of thousands of veterans and military families across entrepreneurship, career training, research, and community services. We’re grateful to continue this impactful partnership.