



## CAREER SERVICES

## ONWARD TO OPPORTUNITY (O2O)

## 1,873 ENROLLED

- 989 veterans and 311 military spouses
- 458 active duty and 115 National Guard/Reserve
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (311) | 30-49 (1,313) | 50+ (249)
- **Top certifications:** PMP®, Google Cybersecurity, CAPM®, CompTIA Security+, PHR®

## O2O EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

- IVMF partnered with **CareerCircle**, an Allegis Company, to host an employer spotlight for O2O participants, sharing practical insight on how employers evaluate candidates beyond the résumé.



**JHERMARIEN TERRY**, E-5 (Staff Sergeant), U.S. Air Force (Ret.) | Medical Logistics | O2O Fort Campbell

"The program strengthened my résumé and credentials and also provided full access to high-value training, including the opportunity to pursue my PM certification. More importantly, it rebuilt my confidence when I truly needed it. The support from the instructors and cohort helped me shift my mindset toward growth, possibilities, and long-term goals."

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

## 70 ENROLLED in Campaign Planning &amp; Ideation Programs

- 54 veterans and 3 military spouses
- 7 active duty and 8 National Guard
- 28 Democrat, 21 Republican, 21 other

## VPPCE ALUMNI UPDATES:

- Chelsey Curney was elected to the Jonesboro City Council in Georgia, and Alicia Barnes was elected to the Oakland-area school board in Maine. Matt Van Epps was elected to represent Tennessee's 7th Congressional District in a special election.

## COMMUNITY INSIGHTS &amp; IMPACT

- The CI&I team convened veteran-serving organizations in Syracuse to explore engagement with New York State's new Social Care Networks under the 1115 Medicaid Waiver, featuring insights from the NYS Department of Health, Healthy Alliance, and Veteran Services of the Carolinas.
- IVMF's CI&I team partnered with **Mecklenburg County Veterans Services** and **Veterans Bridge Home** to launch a [countywide needs assessment survey](#) for veterans and military families, gathering insights to inform future service delivery and community engagement.
- **SyracuseServes** coordinated 69 requests on behalf of 40 unique clients.
- Renewed grant with the **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** to continue SyracuseServes operations as well as pilot partnerships with two lead entities from NYS's Social Care Networks to better integrate veteran services into these networks.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

## 5 UNIQUE PROGRAMS RUNNING 11 COHORTS

## 292 ENROLLED ENTREPRENEURS

**Five programs include:** CEOcircle, EBV, EBV-A, Military Founders Lab, STRIVE

- 212 veterans and 44 military spouses
- 16 active duty, 11 National Guard/Reserve, 6 other
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (9) | 30-49 (167) | 50+ (113)
- **Boots to Business** trained 575 participants in 38 workshops worldwide
- **Military Entrepreneurship Forum** event in Williamsburg, VA had 230 registrations & **Mission to Marketplace** virtual event had 162
- We welcomed the new **CEOcircle** cohort representing \$430M in combined annual revenue.
- **Boots to Business** instructor, David Park, was selected as SBA's 2025 Instructor of the Year
- The **IVMF Member Council** launched to guide research priorities, inform programming, and strengthen the veteran entrepreneurship ecosystem. Working groups are focused on Ecosystem Advancement, Policy & Advocacy, and Research & Data Alignment.
- 11 veteran- and military spouse-owned businesses participated in **Walmart's Open Call** in Bentonville, AR, with seven earning "golden tickets" for placement on Walmart shelves and online, and one securing an internal Walmart deal with long-term growth potential.
- **Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)** renewed their grant to provide EBV program access to WWP alumni seeking to grow and scale their businesses.

## POLICY



[Barbara E. Carson](#) and [Misty Stutsman Fox](#) testified before the **U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs** and the **U.S. House Committee on Small Business** on issues affecting veterans' economic mobility and post-service success. Their testimonies emphasized improving the military-to-civilian transition through stronger coordination and accountability, advancing a National Veterans Strategy, and expanding access to capital and market opportunities for veteran-owned businesses.

## RESEARCH &amp; EVALUATION

- Total number of downloads from the [digital library](#) this quarter: **6,230**
- 20 [research publications](#) and 22 in-person/virtual engagements
- IVMF was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the **Rancho Santa Fe Foundation** to launch a San Diego County Veterans Needs Assessment, with findings to be released by November 2026.
- Jeanette Harvie presented on food insecurity in the U.S. military during the National Community of Practice Monthly Call, highlighting measurement, key socio-economic drivers, and military-specific factors contributing to food insecurity.
- **Face the Fight Grant Renewal** - launched in 2023 by USAA, Reach Resilience, and the Humana Foundation, Face the Fight brings together a coalition of organizations to reduce veteran suicide.

## 45 AMBASSADORS REPRESENTING 26 COMMUNITIES

- 85% Veteran, 13% Military Spouse, 2% National Guard/Reserves
- **Ambassadors** contributed to 45+ events nationwide, expanding outreach through networking, thought leadership, capital access and mentorship to over 500 military-connected entrepreneurs and made 65+ local partnership connections.
- **San Antonio** community: Our Ambassadors secured an in-kind donation of office, meeting, and event space from Geekdom to establish a dedicated space for veteran resources and connections.
- Charleston, SC Ambassador, **Moniek James** shares about IVMF's veteran entrepreneur services and career training in an interview [here](#).



*"IVMF is more than a collection of programs; it is a lifelong partner in my entrepreneurial journey. I am deeply grateful for the knowledge, the mentorship, the community, and the opportunities that IVMF continues to create for veterans like me."*

**SHELLI BRUNSWICK, EBV; V-WISE; MFL**

- **Most read IVMF content:**  
[Top Conferences & Pitch Competitions](#)

[How to Get your Business VOSB or SDVOSB Certified](#)

- **Beyond the Frontline** podcast episode with **Megan Andros** from **The Heinz Endowment**: [Navigating Transition: Philanthropy & the Veteran Journey](#)

- [Seven IVMF alumni selected for Cuse50 Award](#)

- **Best Attended VetNet Webinar:**  
[How to Start Selling on Amazon Stores:](#)

- **Most read IVMF content:**  
[Top Conferences & Pitch Competitions](#)

[How to Get your Business VOSB or SDVOSB Certified](#)

- **Best Attended VetNet Webinar:** [Cyber Shield: Empowering the Military-Connected Community in the Age of AI.](#)

## PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWS:

- [Army veteran, mom turns idea into multi-million dollar company](#),  
Beth Benike, Army Veteran, Founder of Busy Baby

## FEATURED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

### Q2 RESEARCH REVIEWS:

- Research Review #276 - [Experiences of women and minoritized US military veteran business owners: descriptive evidence on "vetpreneur" survival and growth](#). Veteran-owned businesses are more likely to be women-owned (69%) compared to nonveteran businesses (59%).
- Research Review #277 - [Structure in transition: The role of structure in facilitating workplace efficacy and belonging for military veterans and civilians](#). This research synthesizes findings from three empirical studies (2019-2023) showing how organizational structure affects veterans' workplace self-efficacy and belonging.

## IVMF FUNDER SPOTLIGHT



IVMF's long-standing partnership with **Fiserv**—spanning more than a decade and \$21 million in investment—demonstrates how sustained, multi-year support can create lasting impact for the veteran and military community. Since Fiserv's First Data's initial \$7 million gift in 2015, Fiserv's investment has strengthened IVMF's core operations, supported key initiatives including Veteran EDGE and the Centers for Veteran-Owned Business, and co-created the Military Entrepreneurship Forums, a national model for connecting veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs with local resources, expertise, and networks.