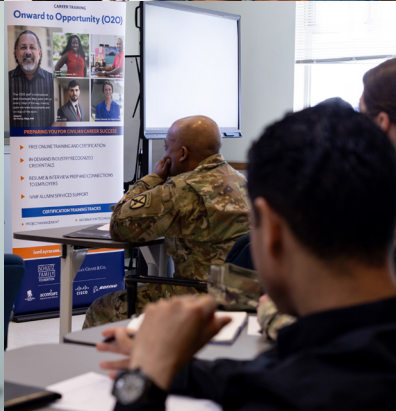


2024

D'ANIELLO INSTITUTE FOR
VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT

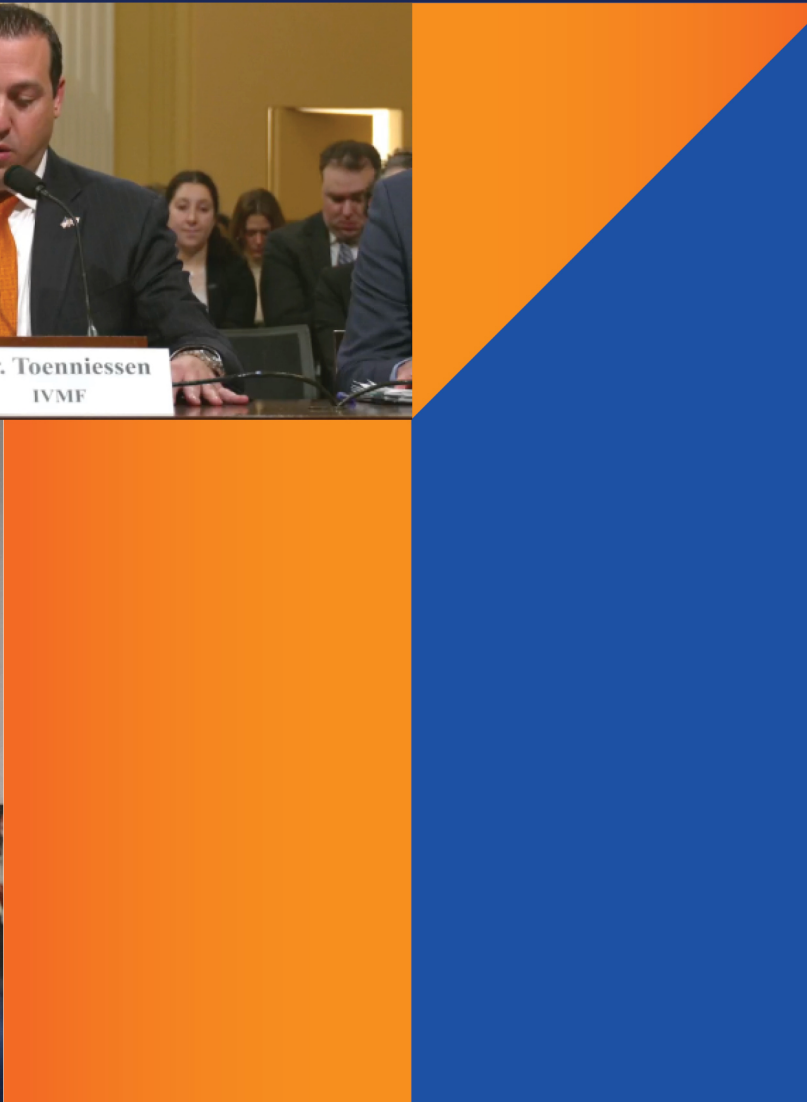


 Syracuse University

D'Aniello Institute for
Veterans & Military Families

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partner

219,000



1000

IMPACTED

“ Moving the needle on difficult transition challenges requires upstream interventions and integrated approaches that reduce barriers between agencies and champion public-private partnerships. They also require investment in ongoing evaluation and oversight to keep our efforts aligned with the specific and evolving needs of the military-connected population, to ensure our efforts are efficient and effective at meeting those needs, and to scale the efforts that work best.

In order to maintain and strengthen our nation’s all-volunteer force, we must implement policies that enable the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to contribute to and remain accountable for ensuring veterans and their families are equipped to thrive in their post-service lives. ”

—Ray Toenniessen, before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs

▶ ADVANCING MILITARY-CONNECTED
ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT



RESEARCH

ACHIEVEMENTS/METRICS

- ▶ In 2024, the Research & Analytics team took part in nearly 190 speaking engagements and contributed to a range of publications. Topics covered included employment and economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, higher education, government and community support, and issues relevant to military families.
- ▶ The team’s publications were accessed over 21,000 times in 2024 through the Digital Library. Top users included Menlo Security, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Microsoft Limited.
- ▶ Team members participated in numerous conferences and speaking engagements, as well as academic publications. Topics included entrepreneurship, transition, and higher education, with notable appearances at USASBE, GCEC, AOM, AWP, Babson, the SVA National Conference, and NASPA.
- ▶ Through the Bernard D. and Louise C. Rostker IVMF Dissertation Research Initiative, IVMF awarded \$27,673 in 2024 to support Syracuse University Ph.D. candidates conducting research on veteran and military family-related topics. The initiative has now supported \$119,588 in total funding, advancing high-quality scholarship across disciplines.
- ▶ The “Advancing Military-Connected Entrepreneurship” initiative, supported by Walmart and led by the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), is working to build a stronger ecosystem for veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs. At the 2024 Veteran EDGE Conference, IVMF and Walmart convened the “Military-Connected Entrepreneurship Ecosystem: Growth, Empowerment, and Connectivity Summit,” which brought together corporate partners and military-connected entrepreneurs to tackle challenges and identify solutions in corporate procurement, ecosystem collaboration, capability development, and engagement. The summit produced clear recommendations for how military-connected businesses, corporate partners, and veteran-serving programs can grow and collaborate more effectively.

IVMF Digital Library

Team’s Publications were Accessed **21,000+**

Bernard D. and Louise C. Rostker IVMF Dissertation Research Initiative

IVMF Awarded **\$27,673**



“ In order to maintain and strengthen our nation’s all-volunteer force, we must implement policies that enable all of us to contribute to and remain accountable for ensuring veterans and their families are equipped to thrive in their post-service lives. ”



▶ RAND EVENT: FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO ASSIST MILITARY-TO-CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION

POLICY & EVALUATION

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ In March, the IVMF was invited to submit a statement for the record for the Joint Veterans Affairs Committees annual hearing on legislative priorities for veteran-serving organizations. We provided our 2024 areas of focus within our three policy priorities: Integrate Health and Non-Clinical Care, Improve the Military to Civilian Transition, and Expand Economic Opportunity for Veterans and Military Spouses.
- ▶ In June, Dr. Haynie participated in RAND's release event (pictured on the left) for the first of two reports on the state of military-to-civilian transition programs. Dr. Haynie was part of the education panel that included leaders from the Veteran Benefits Administration, Student Veterans of America, and American Institutes for Research.
- ▶ We ended the year with renewed investment from The Heinz Endowments for two more years of funding to support our policy efforts.
- ▶ In October, we presented on the AmericaServes model alongside our partners in Pittsburgh and Northwestern University at the Civitas Networks for Health Annual Conference.



“Moving the needle on these difficult challenges requires upstream interventions and systemic, integrated approaches - both whole of government and public-private partnerships. They also require investment in ongoing research, measurement, and evaluation to keep our efforts aligned with the specific and evolving needs of the military-connected population, to ensure our efforts are effective at meeting those needs, and to scale the efforts that work best.”





V-WISE
SALT LAKE CITY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ACHIEVEMENTS


4,614 
GRADUATES IN 2024

 **13,421**
VETERAN-OWNED
BUSINESSES
REACHED

220 
EVENTS
HELD

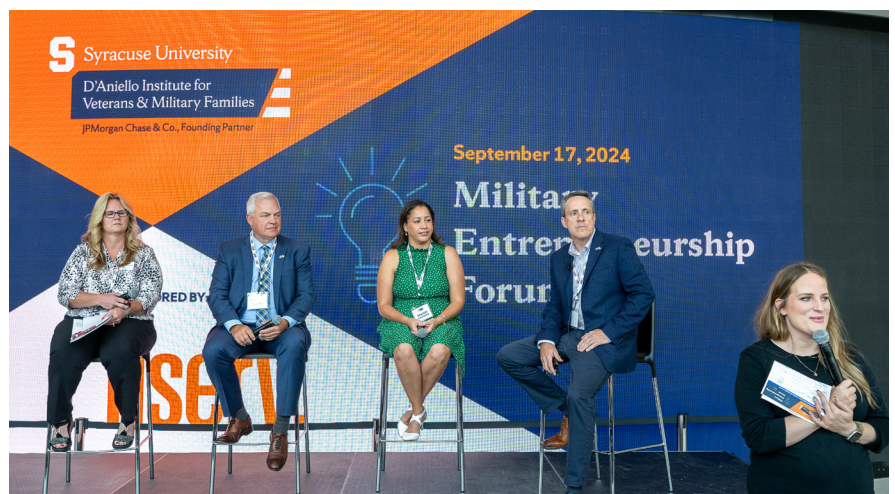
 COMBINED
465
GRADUATES
FROM TWO
V-WISE (ATLANTA,
SALT LAKE CITY)
PROGRAMS, \$13M+
IN REPORTED
REVENUE FROM
V-WISE ALUMNI

2,589 
MEMBERS IN COALITION FOR
VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES (CVOB)

 EXPANDED REGIONAL
EVENTS, BRINGING
PROGRAMS TO AUSTIN,
ATLANTA, MILWAUKEE,
DENVER, AND WORCESTER
(BOSTON).

- ▶ Acquisition of Bunker Labs fully integrated four core programs into the Entrepreneurship portfolio - CEOcircle, ViR, BBU, and BBIE.
- ▶ STRIVE Consortium expanded to include Houston Community College and Pellissippi State.
- ▶ IVMF launched a high-impact procurement readiness initiative, in partnership with Walmart, designed to help veteran- and military spouse-owned businesses better navigate the complexities of corporate procurement and position themselves for long-term success in supply chains.
- ▶ The initiative officially kicked off at the Veteran EDGE Conference in Dallas, TX, with a Walmart-hosted Procurement Summit that drew over 100 participants. This summit served as a launchpad for candid discussions between procurement executives and veteran-owned businesses (VOBs), offering practical advice, buyer expectations, and a roadmap for becoming supplier-ready. The initiative has already resulted in increased visibility for veteran-owned businesses within Walmart's supplier pipeline and set the stage for deeper engagement in 2025.

“ There is so much valuable information and inspiration no matter where you are in your entrepreneurship journey from mere ideas and conception to well-established businesses. It’s a powerful atmosphere to fuel growth both personally and professionally. ”





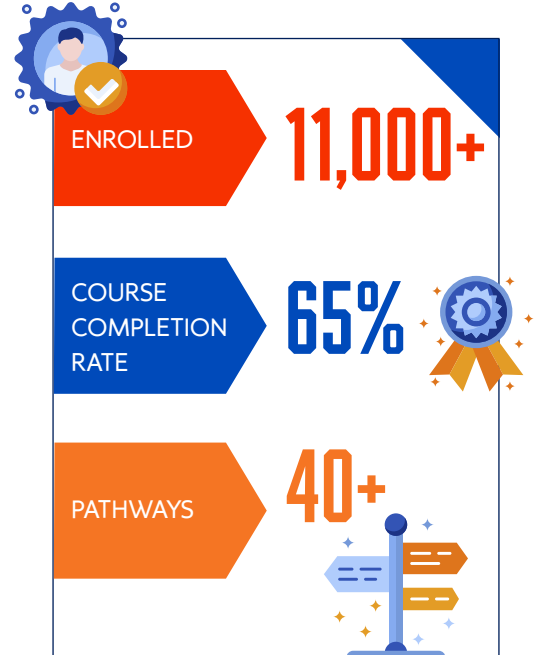
“O2O has played a tremendous role in my professional development and transition into corporate America. Imbuing me with the tools to succeed, my pursuit to earning my PMP certification makes me a more capable and confident member in the Finance and Banking industry. I feel fully prepared and supported on my journey to earning my PMP certification with the calculated and proven guidance of O2O and IVMF and I couldn’t recommend this program more to veterans and spouses that want to launch their career to the next level.”

Jarviel Rayford, Navy O-3 Veteran, PMP

CAREER PREPARATION

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ Onward to Opportunity (O2O) has continued to make significant strides in 2024, providing critical career training and certification to veterans and military spouses. The program has enrolled over 98,000 participants through 2024 and maintained a 65% course completion rate, exceeding industry averages. This achievement underscores the program's effectiveness in addressing employment and career advancement challenges faced by veterans and military spouses.
- ▶ In 2024, O2O has also focused on improving its operations, quality, and data management processes to drive efficiency, transparency, and informed decision-making and performance metrics.
- ▶ The program's continuous evolution to meet technological advancements, shifts in industry priorities, and emerging workforce trends has positioned O2O as a thought leader in career transition support and training leadership.



▶ COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)
WASHINGTON, DC

“ Being part of the SSG Fox Community of Practice (CoP) has been transformative for Operation Stand Down Tennessee. When we first became an SSG Fox Suicide Prevention grantee, we faced many uncertainties and challenges in building a program that could deliver real results. The CoP has been a game-changer, offering us a space to share and learn best practices, improve communication with the VA, and strengthen our model. Thanks to the CoP, we’ve built a stronger network of Veteran-serving organizations across the country, which has not only improved our immediate impact but will continue to benefit Veterans for years through better connections and referrals. This funding and the support of the CoP have truly helped save lives. ”



*Arlie Haddix, Chief Operating Officer
at Operation Stand Down Tennessee*

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ACHIEVEMENTS/METRICS

- ▶ Throughout 2024, the Community Services team hosted several events at the National Veterans Resource Center, including its 3rd annual Suicide Prevention Talk in partnership with the Syracuse VA Medical Center and the VA’s Veterans Experience Office Northeast regional summit. We welcomed over 250 individuals representing organizations across New York state and New England as well as leadership from across the VA. Events like these demonstrate IVMF’s commitment to connecting and convening veteran-serving organizations in our region and beyond, and speaks to the strengthening relationship between our team and the VA at the local, regional, and national levels.
- ▶ The team also connected several of its Community of Practice members who are recipients of the VA’s Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant to members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to provide their thoughts and feedback on how the program can be modified and improved as its 3-year pilot sunsets and approaches reauthorization. While the language has not yet been finalized as of the writing of this report, we are pleased to share that several items of feedback from grantees have been incorporated into the reauthorization’s draft language, including more funds to cover critical functions that support connecting and screening more individuals as well as increased compliance for VA to work with grantees.
- ▶ Our SyracuseServes program continues to grow in the Central New York region, with dozens of organizations engaged and/or onboarded over the course of 2024. Display graphically:





▶ AMBASSADOR FLY-IN
ATLANTA, GA

ALUMNI & ENGAGEMENT

ALUMNI



13,000

REACHED



HOSTED
17

WEBINARS &
EVENTS



1,200

RESOURCE
REQUESTS
VALUED AT
OVER \$850K+
IN KIND
SUPPORT

- ▶ WITH THE ACQUISITION OF BUNKER LABS, ONBOARDED A NEW COMMUNITY INTO THE IVMF ALUMNI NETWORK, OFFERING RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND ACCESS TO AN EVER-GROWING ALUMNI NETWORK



“Upon completing the program, IVMF has been very active in ensuring that I’m aware of the many resources available, and that I have the support needed to explore which ones are best suited for my business. Some of the professional development programs they offer would cost thousands of dollars, but I can receive at no cost thanks to IVMF. Many organizations say that they support veteran entrepreneurs, but IVMF delivers.”



Michael Ramos
EBV WSU Graduate 2024

AMBASSADOR

60 Ambassadors representing 30 communities. A new program integrated into the IVMF with the acquisition of Bunker Labs, Ambassadors serve as entrepreneurial community builders leveraging their skills, connections, and resource knowledge to enhance the local business ecosystem. Some highlights from the work Ambassadors achieved in 2024:

- ▶ **60+** Ambassadors were provided with training, peer to peer learning, and tools to go out and enhance their local entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- ▶ Supported **2,200+** veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs through resource referrals, connections, mentorships, and networking events.
- ▶ Formed and strengthened **200+** partnerships to increase awareness of local network and entrepreneurial resources.
- ▶ Hosted **100+** events, workshops and networking sessions to build community.
- ▶ Secured **\$100,000+** in kind resources, products, and services in support of military connected entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Formally launched the Ecosystem Leadership Project (ELP) which aims as targeting communities’ unique challenges serving military-connected entrepreneurs and developing tactical achievable ways to support and overcome those challenges.

“When you get out of the military, you kind of lose a bit of that purpose and that ability to serve. The Ambassador program helps you continue being of use and of service to the country and to other veterans.”



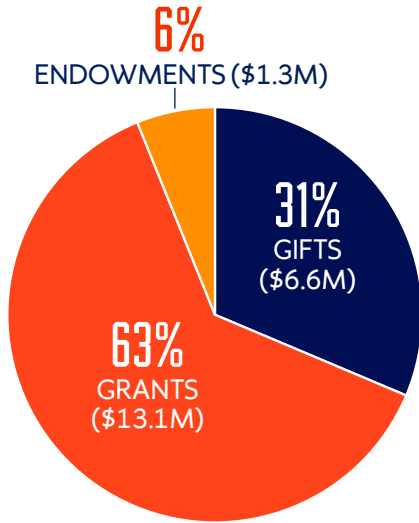
Charles Maters Rodriguez,
Miami, FL Ambassador

FINANCIALS

FY'23 July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

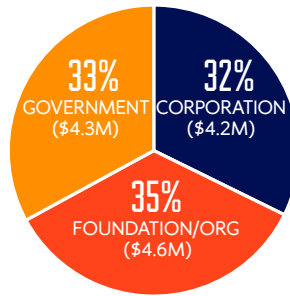
\$21M

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED



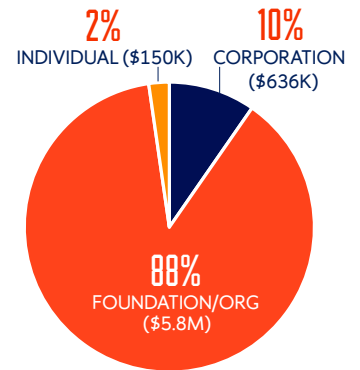
\$13.1M

GRANTS



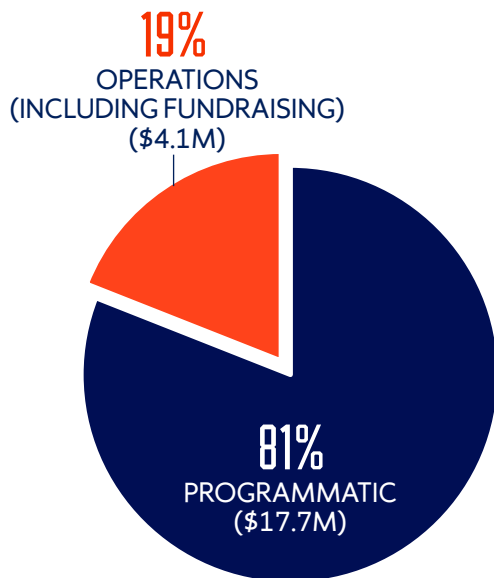
\$6.6M

GIFTS



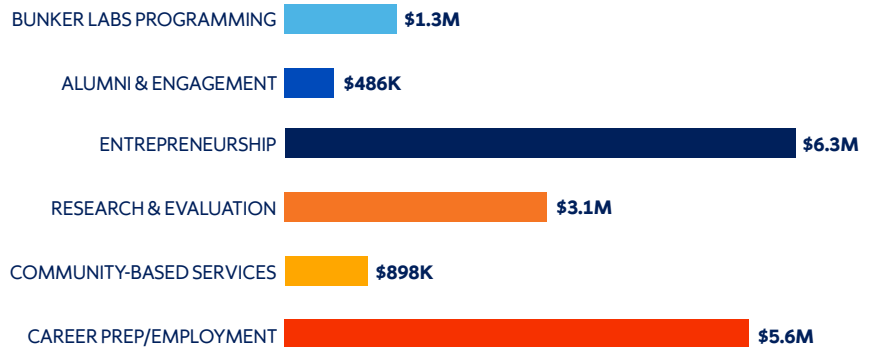
\$21.8M

TOTAL EXPENSES



\$17.7M

PROGRAMMATIC EXPENSES





Community of Practice: 2023 Gathering

Five Years of Learning Together: Giving Thanks to our Community of Practice



▶ **CEOCIRCLE**
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 81% of every dollar donated to the D’Aniello Institute is used to deliver programs and services to 20k+ participants each year at little or no cost. This is possible only through the generosity of our partners, funders and sponsors.



USAA: \$1.4M for Onward to Opportunity, V-WISE, and research on military spouse employment, and launching our partnership with Face the Fight, supporting Face the Fight grantees with data-enriched solutions to better serve their veteran clients.



Schultz Family Foundation: \$1.5M for Onward to Opportunity and policy work to strengthen veteran transition.



Google: \$500K in additional support of our Cybersecurity certification program.



PriceWaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation: \$1.6M, continuing their \$3M commitment to Bunker Labs Veterans In Residence (ViR), Breaking Barriers in Entrepreneurship (BBiE) and Ambassador programs.



General Motors: \$225K supporting entrepreneurship programs.



JPMC: \$500K supporting growth stage entrepreneurs through the CEOCircle program.

**OUR KEY PARTNERS
& SUPPORTERS**

FOUNDING PARTNER

JPMorganChase



The D'Aniello Family





▶ **SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION VISIT**



▶ **BISIGNANO SPEAKER SERIES**

MALLORY WEGGEMANN

4x Paralympian and 6x medalist (4 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze), NBC Sports Olympics and Paralympics host, Author, Director and Equality Activist

FELISHA LEGETTE-JACK

Syracuse University's Women's Basketball Head Coach

VIPS & DISTINGUISHED VISITORS



BONNIE JENKINS
Undersecretary of State for Arms



UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO VISIT



ESGR SIGNING



KIMBERLY JACKSON
VA Chief of Staff



VIVIANA DECOHEN
NYS DVS Commissioner



DOD CHIEF TALENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER



Syracuse University's D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) was founded in 2011, as a partnership between Syracuse University and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Headquartered on the campus of Syracuse University and located in the Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Building at the Syracuse University National Veterans Resource Center, the IVMF was founded as higher-education's first interdisciplinary academic institute singularly focused on advancing the lives of the nation's military, veterans, and their families. The IVMF team designs and delivers class-leading training programs and services to the military-connected community, in support of the transition from military to civilian life and beyond. Each year, more than 20,000 service members, veterans, and family members engage IVMF programs and services, which are provided at largely no cost to participants. The IVMF's programs are informed by the Institute's sustained and robust data collection, research, and policy analysis team and infrastructure. The D'Aniello Institute's work on behalf of the military-connected community is made possible by gifts and grants from individuals and corporations committed to those who served in America's armed forces and their families. For more information, please visit ivmf.syracuse.edu



**THEY SERVE, WE SUPPORT.
DONATE TODAY.**

Funded through the generosity of donors, the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families is a grant and gift funded non-profit organization supporting veterans, service members and their families during their post-service lives with low or no cost national programs. Please consider making a gift to help fund these training programs, as well as our continued research and policy work, empowering those who have volunteered to serve our country find success when they return to the workplace, to higher education, to communities.

315.443.0141 | vets@syr.edu | ivmf.syracuse.edu

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@IVMFSyracuseU