



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*February 28, 2017*

Contact: Rogue Gallart, 407.420.4875 | [Rogue@NationalEC.org](mailto:Rogue@NationalEC.org)  
Jaime Quarnoccio, 407.531.1231, ext. 7339

## **SEMI-ANNUAL VETERANS BUSINESS INITIATIVE HELPS VETS CONQUER BUSINESS WORLD**

*All US Veterans and Veterans' spouses are eligible for the free 8-week workshop,  
kicking-off March 1, 2017*

Orlando, FL – Veterans and spouses of veterans seeking entrepreneurship, employment, and/or continuing education opportunities are encouraged to participate in the sixth annual Veterans Business Initiative (VBI) program, made possible by the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with CareerSource Central Florida.

The no-cost, 8-week program meets Tuesday mornings from 8:00 a.m. – Noon, and will commence with an orientation session Wednesday, March 1 at the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, located at the National Entrepreneur Center (3201 East Colonial Drive, Suite A-120 in Orlando, FL 32803).

To date, more than 350 veterans have participated in the program, with a career placement success rate of nearly 40 percent.

“It is actually pretty simple - hiring a veteran of the U.S. Military comes with a host of benefits. Veterans have the proven ability to learn new skills and concepts. In addition, they can enter your workforce with identifiable and transferable skills, proven in real-world situations,” said Rogue Gallart, president of the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce. “Veterans are more likely than other demographic groups to start their own businesses, and possess a resourcefulness that can help companies grow quickly from the inside.”

Created by the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, this inclusive workshop is designed to prepare 75-100 veterans and/or their spouses for today's job market. Participants will receive tools, training, and mentorship focused on helping them obtain a job or career, become an entrepreneur, or further their education. The interactive workshop provides US military Veterans and spouses of Veterans with invaluable access to several local companies for networking and interviewing opportunities, and is available to all US Veterans and Veterans' spouses, whether disabled or not.

Participating companies include Florida Hospital, Manpower, Regions Bank, UCF, Rosen Hotels & Resorts, Duke Energy, Universal Orlando Resort, Orlando Health, Hilton Grand Vacations, Lockheed Martin, Herzing University, Wyndham Vacation Ownership, Orlando Business Journal, Southwest, Travelers, Score, OUC, JobPath and many others.

---

Additional services for Veterans include:

- Veteran's job matching program
- Entrepreneurship education and training
- Federal employment navigation
- Personalized resume assistance

Veterans/spouses interested in applying for selection should complete the VBI registration form online at [https://cscfit.formstack.com/forms/vbi\\_spring\\_2017](https://cscfit.formstack.com/forms/vbi_spring_2017).

Sponsors, employers and job-offering organizations to support this initiative are welcome.

---

*CareerSource Central Florida provides tools to businesses and career seekers in Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to advance their professional standing. On average, we assist 1,300 businesses each month with job posting and recruitment, retention and training. We also provide nearly 8,800 career seekers each month with services including career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, and internships. For more information, visit [www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com](http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com).*

# # #