



Syracuse University Introduces Veterans Bootcamp Program Sponsored by BLX

Inaugural Program Offers Free Small Business Education to Veterans

New York, NY – July 18, 2007 – Business Loan Express (BLX) has awarded the Department of Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises in the Whitman School of Management and The Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University \$25,000 to launch the “*Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities*” (EBV), a cutting edge, experiential training program in entrepreneurship and small business management for veterans identified as disabled resulting from their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Registration for the inaugural bootcamp has proven to be a success. At the close of registration on June 5th, the program was filled to capacity of 20 students from communities across the USA. Through two phases, the participants will focus on practical training in the tools of new venture creation and growth, reflecting issues unique to disability and public benefits programs. EBV delegates will participate in a self-study curriculum, facilitated by an online discussion and assessment module, which will be moderated by entrepreneurship faculty and graduate students from the Whitman School of Management. This module began on the 17th of July and will run through early August.

Phase two will take place from August 11th to 19th, and involves veterans traveling to Syracuse University to participate in onsite classes. Key topic areas will include opportunity recognition, business concept development, profit models, resource acquisition strategies, business plan development, venture launch methods, guerrilla marketing approaches, deal structuring and negotiation, valuation, entrepreneurial finance and unique funding opportunities for veterans with disabilities, operations and operating models, service delivery, risk management, human resource management, and legal and regulatory challenges.

Business Loan Express is working with the EBV to develop business financing-related educational materials for program attendees. Furthermore, Deryl Schuster, Executive Vice President & Director Governmental Affairs for Business Loan Express, will be part of a panel of experts in the area of finance and lending. Mr. Schuster will also take part in a 2-day offsite meeting with the program faculty for teambuilding and a series of “train the trainer” sessions.

According to Deryl Schuster, of BLX, “We are very happy to take part in such a worthy educational program, and share our knowledge on small business financing with disabled veterans from around the country. We look forward to working with the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University to bring veterans exceptional tools and knowledge they need to start their own businesses.”

“The Whitman School at Syracuse University is honored to hold a program that helps disabled veterans learn about entrepreneurship and small business development,” said Dr. Michael Haynie

of The Whitman School. “With this unique program, veterans with disabilities will gain the necessary training and education to develop the skills for creating their own small businesses.”

For more information on the program visit: <http://whitman.syr.edu/eee/veterans>

About BLX

BLX is one of the country’s largest non-bank small business and commercial lenders. BLX has originated over \$4 billion in loans to small business and investment real estate investors throughout the U.S. representing over 300 different industries. BLX loan programs are specially designed for borrowers with financing needs up to \$5,000,000. Borrowers may use BLX loan proceeds for a variety of business and commercial purposes, ranging from real estate acquisition and refinance to working capital.

Loan products include conventional business and commercial loans, as well as government guaranteed Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. BLX is a licensed participant in the SBA’s 7(a) and *CommunityExpress* guaranteed loan programs and is a nationwide SBA Preferred lender. BLX is also a leading lender under the SBA’s 504 and Express programs. For more information, please visit the website at www.BLXonline.com.

About Syracuse University

Chartered in 1870 as a private, coeducational institution of higher education, Syracuse University is a leading national research university of more than 18,000 full- and part-time students from all states and 90 countries, and more than 1,400 faculty members. Syracuse University is propelled by the bold idea of *Scholarship in Action*—education that is not static, but the living expression of insight that drives change. It is a place where students become leaders, teachers, and collaborators and where the community is continually impacted by the energy of new ideas.

About The Whitman School of Management

The Martin J. Whitman School of Management was established in 1919 and was one of the first schools to be accredited by AACSB International in 1920. The school was honored with a naming gift from Martin and Lois Whitman in 2003. The Whitman School prides itself on being a diverse learning community, focused on developing entrepreneurial managers who will become leaders in an era of global competitiveness and technological advancements. Whitman is also a thriving center for research, committed to discovering and disseminating relevant knowledge, contributing perspectives on frontline business issues, and advancing the theory and practice of management.

About The Burton Blatt Institute

The Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), located at Syracuse University, is building the premier organization to advance civic, economic, and social participation of persons with disabilities in a global society by creating a collaborative environment—with entrepreneurial innovation and best business practices—to foster public-private dialogue, and create the capacity to transform policy, systems, and people through inclusive education, the workforce, and communities.

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