

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)

The Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University has been awarded an Enitiative grant titled *Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)*. Peter Blanck, Burton Blatt Institute Chairman and University Professor, will use the funding to support the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans and the entrepreneurs participating in the program over the next two years.

Building on an innovative program created in 2007 to expand the reach of educational programs in entrepreneurship available to veterans, the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University is leading a nationwide partnership with the UCLA Anderson School of Management, Mays Business School at Texas A&M University and Florida State University's College of Business to offer cutting-edge training in entrepreneurship and small business management to veterans with disabilities. Each EBV affiliated university offers classes entirely free to accepted veterans. BBI provides technical support, mentorship, and trainers to the EBV Consortium of Schools. BBI coordinates information on agency's resources for the veterans, including funding, services, and supports for their businesses. This information includes hiring and tax incentives related to veterans or others with disabilities, access to training, tuition, or on-the-job training, disability-related supports, and other resources that will enhance the success of their businesses. BBI also provides information about people with disabilities as target customers and as employees, and information about corporate practices related to disability.

Leading BBI's efforts have been Gary Shaheen, Managing Director for Program Development, and James Schmeling, Chief Operating Officer. Schmeling says "As an Air Force veteran I know the importance of EBV. Listening to the vets present their business plans at the end of the most recent session at SU just reinforced what a fantastic resource this program is, and the success the vets will have over the coming years." Shaheen notes "I'm proud that BBI has been able to partner with Whitman's incredible program from the beginning, and that we're working with the vets and the schools delivering EBV."

This project was made possible, in part, through an Enitiative award. Enitiative (the Syracuse Campus-Community Entrepreneurship Initiative) is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman foundation of Kansas City, MO, focusing on entrepreneurship in the arts, technology, and our neighborhoods. To learn more about Enitiative, please visit www.entrepreneurship.syr.edu.

The Burton Blatt Institute: Centers of Innovation on Disability (BBI) fosters public-private dialogue to advance the civic, economic and social participation of persons with disabilities in a global society. The institute takes its name from Burton Blatt (1927-85), a pioneer in humanizing services for people with mental retardation, a staunch advocate of deinstitutionalization and a national leader in special education. BBI currently has offices in Syracuse, New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Tel Aviv. For more information, visit <http://bbi.syr.edu>.