JOIN US AS WE TRANSFORM RTP INTO THE CENTER OF VETERAN ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

September 24th, 2015
2:30 – 7:30 pm
The Frontier
800 Park Offices Drive
Durham, NC
THE NEED TO SUPPORT VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

After World War II, 49 percent of veterans went on to start and own their own businesses, according to the Kauffman Foundation. Today 25 percent of Post-9/11 veterans express an interest in starting and owning their own business, and only six percent will.

THE SOLUTION

There is an abundance of educational training options and resources in North Carolina for veterans. What veteran entrepreneurs need are mentors and thriving entrepreneurial communities.

VETSTART OBJECTIVE

With a population of more than 736,000 veterans, VetStart’s aim is to capitalize on our state’s veteran talent pool and community resources to create a catalytic environment for veteran entrepreneurs. Our goal is to help veterans start new businesses and create jobs.

“VetStart brings together aspiring veteran entrepreneurs in North Carolina with the resources and talent to help them realize their dream of creating long term, sustainable businesses. Through innovative training programs, introductions to viable funding sources, and intense one-on-one mentoring on a continual basis, veteran entrepreneurs will be well-prepared to launch business ventures that will create value for both themselves and their communities for many years to come.”

Paul Dillon – CEO of Dillon Consulting Services
Vietnam Veteran
FROM BATTLEFIELD TO BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Join the movement to turn veterans into entrepreneurs! VetStart is a free event for veterans, military spouses and community members who want to learn about starting new businesses.

AGENDA & OUTLINE

- 2:30-3:00 Registration/Open Networking
- 3:00-3:10 Introduction & Welcome
- 3:10-3:55 Entrepreneurship Panel
- 4:00-4:45 Veteran Resource Panel
- 4:55-5:40 Business Financing Options
- 5:45-6:15 Keynote
- 6:15-7:30 Food, Refreshments, Networking

Three panels of experts will cover business opportunities and options, resources and where to find them, and financing options and how to access. Evening will end with food, refreshments, and networking with the experts to identify next steps in your business planning.

Amy Howard – Founder of Amy’s Web Design
US Army Veteran

“The team behind VetStart helped me grow my business. I went to them because I felt that I could use some help. I have a business degree so I was surprised at how much I didn't know. I recommend that every start-up business get some help and VetStart is a great place to get it.”

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Randy H. Nelson is a speaker, a coach, a qualified entrepreneur, and a former nuclear submarine officer in the U.S. Navy. He founded and later sold two multi-million dollar companies – Orion International and NSTAR Global Services. NSTAR and Orion were ranked #8 and #9 at the same Fast 50 awards ceremony in 2012 after 22 and 10 years of business, respectively. Randy now runs Gold Dolphins LLC, a coaching and consulting firm to help entrepreneurial leaders and CEOs become Qualified Entrepreneurs and achieve their maximum potential.

During his time in the Navy, Randy gained invaluable leadership skills at a very young age and became qualified in both submarine operation and engineering. As his career moved to entrepreneurial endeavors and business leadership, Randy found that CEOs are not required to become qualified in their skill sets as he was required on his submarine. Taking his experience from the Navy and applying it to the business world, Randy developed a system for entrepreneurs to determine their most efficient role and make the decision to become a Qualified Entrepreneur. With topics ranging from vision creation to career-long learning and from financial leadership to creativity and discipline, Randy Nelson speaks to each audience as a humble entrepreneur who has learned from the mistakes he has made along the way and promotes self-reflection and accountability.

Randy has been a member of both the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) and Vistage (Global CEO Peer Group) for over 10 years. He is a strong believer in continued learning and has attended the EO Birthing of Giants program at MIT from 1999-2001 in addition to the EO Advanced Business Program at MIT from 2006-2007. Randy has served on the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center Advisory Board for the past 12 years and is the current Board Chair. General Shelton was the 14th Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1997-2001, serving under both President Clinton and President George W. Bush.
WHO’S COMING TO THE SEPTEMBER 2015 VETSTART BUSINESS PROGRAM?

Here are just a few examples of the business and community leaders who are participating in the event.

- **Dean Bundschu, Founder of Startup Veterans**
  Entrepreneur, accomplished sales professional and business advisor. Former Army officer and Iraqi Freedom veteran.

- **Bill Warner, Founder & Director EntreDot**
  Seasoned executive with 34 years experience in the tech industry, business consultant, fund executive of an angel fund. Army Veteran.

- **LaShon Harley, Director, Small Business Center at Durham Community College**
  Raised in a military family, community business leader with 17 years experience in education, training and legal affairs.

- **Tommy Sowers, CEO/Founder of SOLOpro**
  Entrepreneur, educator, veteran, and public servant. Former Army Special Forces officer and combat veteran.

- **Kyle Winder, Chairman of North Carolina Veterans Business Association**
  Entrepreneur and President of Flight Plan Financial. Air Force Veteran and former instructor pilot.

- **Patrick Rodriguez, Sr. Area Manager SBA**
  Over 15 years of diverse management experience in both the public and private sectors. Extensive media relations background. Army Veteran.

- **Bob Louthan, CEO of VeteranCrowd**
  30 years business experience, including 20 years venture capital, private equity & acquisitions. Former Army Officer.

- **Dennis Lewis, NC Military Business Center**
  Over 14 years experience in the Federal Business Sector. Former Army Officer and U.S. Military Academy graduate.

- **Michael Kothakota, CEO of DataTactix**
  Army combat veteran, Pat Tillman Scholar, graduate of The Bunker first cohort.

- **Michelle Rogers, Executive Director for Triangle Region Network**
  Operations, sales and training executive with 20+ years of diversified experience.

- **Joshua Holley, Vets In Tech**
  Senior Consultant at Ernst & Young. USMC NCO, veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

- **Joshua Robertson, COO of Smashing Boxes**
  Leadership team for multiple startups, former Naval Officer and veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.

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VETSTART PARTNERS AND ATTENDEES ARE COMING FROM THESE HIGH IMPACT ORGANIZATIONS
There is no charge for this event but registration is requested at EventBrite. Military/Veteran entrepreneurs please bring your spouses and friends.

**JOIN US!**

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**EVENT INFORMATION**  
Brad Lienhart  
919.522.0722  
blienhart@entredot.org

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
Dean Bundschu  
919.656.4434  
dbundschu@startupveterans.org

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For Event Information or Sponsorship Opportunities Please Contact Us or Visit:  
[www.startupveterans.org/vetstart](http://www.startupveterans.org/vetstart)