

## News Release

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### ***Virginia veteran completes Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities***

RICHMOND—For more than seven years, Thad Jones, a disabled veteran, attended seminars and workshops on starting a business. But, it wasn't until he completed the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) at Syracuse University that he felt ready to move forward with launching his own enterprise.

EBV helps disabled veterans, like Jones, develop the skills needed to take their ideas or existing business to the next level. Just like the bootcamp Jones went through when he first joined the Army, EBV is demanding, rigorous, and mentally challenging.

“Attending EBV has put me on a solid foundation and I am now able to go forward with opening my own business, Seniors Mobile Tax Service,” said Jones. “I have heard so much about the business plan as the most important facet for starting a business. Until I attended EBV, it was all foreign. Now, I understand the nuts and bolts involved in starting a business,” he added.

After completing a nine-page application and competing against hundreds of other disabled veterans, Jones was accepted to the program and received several text books. During phase 1 of the program, Jones read the books and responded to his professors' inquiries via Syracuse University's online blackboard. During phase 2 of the program, Jones spent nine days attending classes on campus. After successfully graduating from the program, Jones will now complete a one-year mentorship with Syracuse University Whitman School of Management.

There is no cost to veterans for program tuition, text books, and materials; and, even transportation to Syracuse University, lodging, and all meals were provided at no cost to the veterans.

“The EBV program is a fast-growing event searching for disabled veterans with an entrepreneurial mindset,” said Jones. “The application process wasn’t easy, but to get accepted is an honor. EBV is the key for ensuring that a veteran will have the necessary tools prior to starting his or her own business.”

Jones looks forward to formally launching his tax service in January 2010. His goal is to provide residence tax preparation service to senior citizens at an affordable price. In addition to focusing on his business, Jones serves as a member of the Virginia Board of Veterans Services and regularly volunteers as a bill payer with Senior Connections, the Capital Area Agency on Aging.

For more information about EBV, visit <http://www.whitman.syr.edu>.

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