

# MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, April 2024



Building  
partnerships



Supporting our  
Veteran Business Owners



Identifying training  
opportunities



Creating valuable  
networking relationships

## WELCOME TO THE MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT!



### WELCOME: NEW MVO TASK FORCE MEMBER



**VetsGoGlobal**  
Connecting Veterans to Global Markets

### IN THIS ISSUE: FEATURED MVO TASK FORCE MEMBERS



The MVO Task Force continues to forge ahead expanding its reach and bringing more and more organizations into a network dedicated to supporting, promoting, and collaborating together. As more military and veteran organizations join our task force, we continue to be an unstoppable force multiplier that can provide assistance, education, mentorship and guidance to any and all veterans and their families. We especially look to educate and provide mentorship to our service disabled/veteran business owners and entrepreneurs through collectively working together to furnish them with information on how to grow, sustain and drive their business forward to success.

Case in point, as the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) celebrates its 10th year of certifying thousands of veteran businesses we provide that path toward opportunities with corporate America. We open up those doors providing the means to drive their business forward with unlimited advantages to succeed.

**Are you a military or veteran organization with SD/VOBs in your network?** If so, reach out and learn more about being a task force partner. Join an elite group of organizations and support our military business community. Let's work together to help those SD/VOBs succeed. If you are a veteran business owner and want to grow your business, look no farther than NVBDC and start your certification process today!

I hope you enjoy this current issue of our NVBDC MVO TF Newsletter. Enjoy learning more about few more of our fellow TF members, take a peek at NVBDC's 10 Years of unparalleled opportunities for growth and innovation and check out all of the exciting upcoming events hosted by our task force partners. There is definitely something for everyone. Don't hesitate to register for these events today!

**Together we can achieve more for America's Heroes.**

**Kathryn M. Poynton, LTC (ret)**  
**Director, MVO TF**  
**NVBDC Board of Directors**

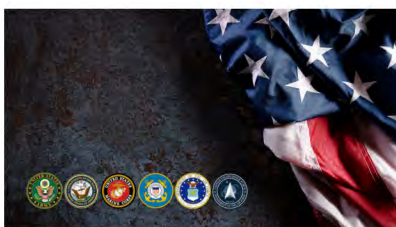


JOIN NOW



NVBDC.ORG | 888-CERTIFIED | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG

**10 YEARS OF UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND INNOVATION**



As NVBDC continues to commemorate a decade of certifying veteran-owned businesses, it unveils unparalleled opportunities for member corporations to tap into a wealth of talent and expertise.

NVBDC Certified service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses offer unique advantages, driven by a blend of leadership, resilience, and technical proficiency cultivated through military service.

This milestone marks the NVBDC as the sole veteran business certification agency acknowledged by the members of the Billion Dollar Roundtable, a testament to its rigorous standards and the caliber of businesses it certifies.

In fact, NVBDC's impact is unparalleled, with just a third of the Council's corporate members collectively spending over \$4 billion with NVBDC certified service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses in 2023, a 30% increase from 2022. This underscores NVBDC's significant role in facilitating veteran participation in the nation's economic landscape.

Veterans possess an exceptional skill set honed in high-tech military occupational specialties, including cybersecurity, drone operations, nuclear operations, and guided missile systems.

This expertise provides them with a competitive edge across diverse industries such as logistics, agriculture, emergency response, energy, engineering, and technology development.

High-tech expertise becomes a competitive advantage for veteran entrepreneurs, especially in fields like cybersecurity, where the protection of sensitive information is paramount. In drone operations, veterans' experience in remote piloting and mission planning translates seamlessly into applications for agriculture, disaster response, and infrastructure inspection. Similarly, veterans' proficiency in nuclear operations and guided missile systems equips them with valuable skills applicable to emergency response, energy production, and technology development. Their diverse experiences and rigorous training create a deep reservoir of knowledge and skills that are highly sought after in today's technology-driven business world. Veterans bring a unique perspective to problem-solving and innovation, drawing from their experiences in high-pressure environments to drive efficiency and excellence in their endeavors.

The benefits of partnering with NVBDC certified service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses extend beyond technical proficiency. Veterans' innate leadership qualities, forged in the crucible of military service, enable them to navigate complex challenges and adapt to evolving business environments with agility and resilience.

By purchasing products and services from veteran-owned businesses certified by NVBDC, corporations not only gain access to top-tier talent but also demonstrate their commitment to diversity, inclusion, and corporate social responsibility.

**EMPOWERING  
VETERAN-OWNED  
BUSINESSES:  
A SPOTLIGHT ON  
VETSGOGLOBAL**



**Brian Beams**

Deputy Director Global Finance Team  
**Co-Founder VetsGoGlobal**  
Sr. International Trade Specialist



**Anthony Sargis**

Senior International Trade Specialist

**Building Bridges  
to Global Markets**

Connecting diverse businesses  
to international opportunities.



Find an event near you



Brian Beams, who served in the U.S. Air Force and is the Co-Founder and Deputy Team Leader of VetsGoGlobal, alongside Anthony Sargis, the Team Leader of the VetsGoGlobal Initiative, provided enlightening information about their organization's purpose, goals, and forthcoming ventures. As a crucial component of the International Trade Administration within the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, this initiative is dedicated to advancing and aiding trade activities.

Anthony Sargis devoted his career to serving his country, first through active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard from 2003 to 2007, followed by a reserve role from 2008 to 2014. After his military service, he transitioned to the U.S. Commercial Service, where he became an integral part of the VetsGoGlobal Team. Anthony and Brian have stated they both aim to assist veteran-owned businesses in reaching international markets to foster global expansion.

VetsGoGlobal is dedicated to supporting the U.S. veteran-owned exporter community. Brian's involvement stems from a desire to locate, educate, and support VOB's in navigating the export process. Through initiatives like VetsGoGlobal, awareness is raised about the U.S. Commercial Service's offerings, fostering growth and international competitiveness among VOBs.

The organization's primary goal is twofold: to continue supporting existing VOBs engaged in exporting while also encouraging non-exporting VOBs with exportable products or services to explore international markets. With a focus on education and empowerment, VetsGoGlobal aims to create prosperity by strengthening the international competitiveness of U.S. industry and promoting fair trade practices.

At its core, VetsGoGlobal is a veteran-led initiative committed to helping fellow veterans succeed in the global marketplace. Through educational programming and strategic partnerships, such as the recent collaboration with NVBDC, the organization strives to equip VOBs with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive internationally.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, VetsGoGlobal is set to offer a series of educational and informational programs on the exporting process and international business opportunities. By empowering VOBs with the tools they need to navigate global markets, the organization hopes to drive continued growth and success within the veteran-owned business ecosystem.

VetsGoGlobal encourages interested parties to visit the agency's website, [www.trade.gov](http://www.trade.gov), to learn more about the U.S. Commercial Service and its trade promotion services.

For personalized assistance, he advises reaching out to local U.S. Commercial Service Offices and speaking with an international trade specialist.

In the words of Wayne Huizenga, "Some people dream of success while other people get up every morning and make it happen." VetsGoGlobal embodies this ethos, actively working to turn dreams of international business success into reality for veteran entrepreneurs.

In closing, Brian highlights that while VetsGoGlobal operates as a U.S. taxpayer agency, it also offers fee-based services for U.S. exporters, further demonstrating its commitment to supporting and empowering veteran-owned businesses on their global journey.



In the heart of Idaho, there's an organization driven by a profound mission: to seamlessly connect veterans, transitioning service members, and their families with the resources and services they need. The Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce (IDVCC), under the leadership of Mindi Anderson, its President, Executive Director, and Founder, is redefining how veterans reintegrate into civilian life.

Mindi Anderson started IDVCC with a unique vision - to act as a navigator rather than a duplicator. This approach steers veterans and their families towards existing resources and services within the community, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of support systems. "Instead of duplicating services, we navigate veterans to the resources that are already in place," explains Anderson. This navigation model not only streamlines the process but also fosters better communication and connections within the community.

IDVCC's goals are ambitious yet clear. They aim to expand the navigation model across Idaho, reaching more veterans, their families, and community members willing to engage and support them.

The ultimate objective is to remove barriers and obstacles, paving the way for a smooth transition of veterans into civilian life, aligning with their goals and aspirations. As a 501c3 organization, IDVCC provides a free navigation network hub focusing on five essential service areas: Education, Entrepreneurship, Housing, Workforce, and Family & Wellness. Their vision is to build sustainable partnerships within Idaho and the military communities, promoting collaboration and connection.

Their mission statement succinctly captures the essence of their work: to provide wrap-around services and a navigation network hub, ensuring access to community resources for education, housing, entrepreneurship, workforce management, family, and wellness services.

IDVCC's 2024 calendar is packed with signature events, fundraisers, workshops, networking opportunities, and collaborations with other veteran service organizations. These events, detailed on their website reflect their ongoing commitment to supporting veterans in every aspect of their transition and life after service.

What sets IDVCC apart is its understanding that transitions for veterans are not a one-time event but a continuous journey. "Transitions do not just happen once they leave the military, they can continue to happen, and we are here to help navigate them every time," Anderson emphasizes.

This philosophy ensures that veterans and their families never feel alone, regardless of where they are in their journey. Jessica Kofoed, Board Chair and Thrivent Financial Advisor, poignantly summarizes IDVCC's ethos: "Veterans should never feel disconnected from the resources that they've rightfully earned." This statement echoes the organization's commitment to ensuring veterans are always linked to the support they deserve.



With a state-wide presence, IDVCC continues to grow, developing a larger footprint and more presence in regions across Idaho. This expansion signifies their unwavering commitment to Veterans and their families.

IDVCC stands as a testament to the power of community, collaboration, and commitment to serving those who have served. Through their innovative approach and unwavering dedication, they are not just filling gaps; they are building bridges between veterans and the Idaho community.



Paul K. Hopper, a retired Colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the National President & CEO of the Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA) whose military journey began with a passion for flying chose the USMC for the unique opportunity it offered him to become a Naval Aviator. This decision marked the start of an enduring relationship with the Marine Corps. Over the years, his connection with the organization deepened, leading him to become part of the MCRA's leadership team in 2010, initially as the Treasurer, and then, as fate would have it, the National President & CEO in 2011.

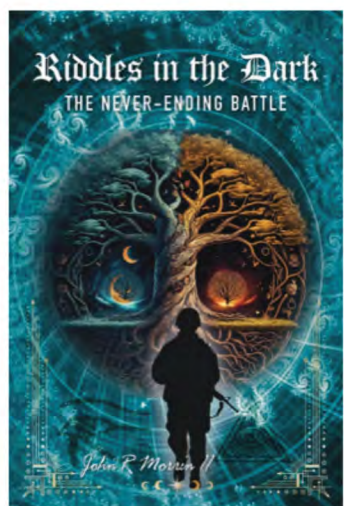
The MCRA, founded in 1926 in Quantico, VA, has grown into a global organization. It serves as a vital support system for the Marine Corps Reserve, its members, families, and supporters, both past and present. As a registered 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization, the MCRA's mission resonates deeply with Mr. Hopper's personal ethos: to serve and advocate for the Marine Corps Reserve and its members, ensuring their professional development and advancing the interests of the total United States Marine Corps.

Looking ahead to 2024, Ken highlights several key events and objectives for the MCRA. These include participation in Modern Day Marine events, supporting The Basic School (TBS) Graduations, the Marine Corps University - Reserve SNCO Academy graduations, and the organization's annual meeting in October. Underpinning these events is a commitment to grow the MCRA's membership and expand its support to the Marine Corps Reserve.

The MCRA's ethos of partnership and collaboration is central to its mission. Ken emphasizes the organization's openness to partnering with any entity that shares its dedication to serving members of the Marine Corps Reserve. This collaborative spirit is essential for promoting the professional development of Reserve Marines and providing services beneficial to them.

Ken and other members like Capt. W.E. "Gene" Lednicky, USMCR, articulate a deep sense of belonging and purpose within the MCRA. Lednicky's words, "I joined the Marine Corps Reserve Association to stay connected to Marines, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Marine Corps. I joined the Marines to serve my country. The Marine Corps Reserve is simply the best organization to be a part of," encapsulates the spirit of the association. Finally, Ken poignantly reminds us of the enduring legacy of the MCRA: "As long as there is a Marine Corps Reserve, there will be a Marine Corps Reserve Association." This statement not only highlights the association's lasting commitment to the Marine Corps Reserve but also underlines its vital role in the broader military community.

In conclusion, the Marine Corps Reserve Association, under the stewardship of Col Paul K. Hopper (Ret), continues to forge a path of service, advocacy, and support for the Marine Corps Reserve and its members. The association stands as a beacon of commitment and camaraderie, bridging generations of Marines with a common goal of preserving the security of the U.S.



The CEO of Tactical 16 Publishing, Chris Schafer stands at the helm of a unique venture dedicated to amplifying the voices of veterans, first responders, and their families. In a recent interview, Chris shared insights into the organization's mission, vision, and upcoming goals.

The primary goal of Tactical 16 Publishing is to provide a therapeutic outlet for veterans through storytelling. Chris believes that sharing experiences, whether published or not, is profoundly healing. The organization's "about us" section encapsulates its ethos: preserving the untold stories of sacrifice, humor, and resilience amidst chaos.

Founded on the principle of providing a platform for those who've served, Tactical 16 Publishing serves retired and active military personnel across all branches, alongside their families and friends. Chris's involvement with the organization stems from years of immersion within its operations and his own experience as an author. When offered the opportunity to take ownership, he embraced it wholeheartedly. At the core of Tactical 16 Publishing lies a commitment to authenticity. The team eschews filters and spins, striving to present stories exactly as they were experienced. With upcoming releases slated for 2024, including sequels from current authors and new titles, the organization aims to host signing parties in unconventional venues—places where veterans congregate, fostering a sense of celebration and camaraderie.

Looking ahead, Tactical 16 Publishing has ambitious goals for 2024 and beyond. The team aims to sign 24 new authors by the third quarter of the year, expanding its reach and amplifying diverse voices within the veteran community.

What sets Tactical 16 Publishing apart is its deeply ingrained connection to the military and first responder communities. Every member of the organization either has military experience or familial ties to veterans, fostering a profound understanding of the stories they seek to share. Reflecting on the organization's ethos, Chris shared their tagline: **"Write with Passion, Be Unapologetic."** It encapsulates the spirit of authenticity and fearlessness that defines Tactical 16 Publishing.

If you are a potential author please visit the Tactical 16 [website here](#). In closing, Chris expressed eagerness to delve further into the organization's myriad facets during future interviews. With a dedication to honoring America's heroes through unfiltered storytelling, Tactical 16 Publishing continues to be a beacon of authenticity and empowerment within the veteran community.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS\*

\*LISTED ARE KNOWN UPCOMING EVENTS AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.  
FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR WEBSITE

### 2024

APRIL 3	SMALL BUSINESS START-UP ORIENTATION HOST: VETBIZ CENTRAL	BOB HOPE SHOW HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
APRIL 5-6	BOB HOPE SHOW HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
APRIL 9	EMPOWERING WOMEN VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES IN BUSINESS WEBINAR HOST: VETBIZ CENTRAL	
APRIL 13	VIRTUAL WINE TASTING EVENT HOST: MODERN MILITARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	
APRIL 15	MMAA STRONG COMMUNITIES HOST: MODERN MILITARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	KEGS 4 KAUSE HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
APRIL 16	CONTRACTS & COFFEE WEBINAR PT. 2 HOST: VETBIZ CENTRAL	LINKEDIN WORKSHOP FOR CAREER GROWTH: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES! HOST: BLUE STAR FAMILIES
APRIL 18	DOD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
APRIL 23	CENTRAL REGION VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR FOR VETERANS HOST: RECRUITMILITARY	
APRIL 27	WOMEN VETERANS ENGAGE CONFERENCE HOST: WOMEN VETERANS ALLIANCE	
MAY 1-2	CONSTRUCTION COMBINE HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
MAY 5	CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES HOST: PATRIOT HILLS OF NY	VETERANS, GUNS & CIGARS- TAMPA FL HOST: MERITORIOUS
MAY 6-28	MULTI-PART EXPORT DOCUMENTATION AND LOGISTICS SERIES HOST: INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION	
MAY 7	MILITARY SPOUSE VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT HOST: RECRUITMILITARY	
MAY 9	WORLD TRADE WEEK NYC 2024 HOST: NEW YORK DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCIL	

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FEATURING YOUR ORGANIZATION IN A FUTURE ISSUE? WE WELCOME YOUR UPDATES AND INTEREST. PLEASE CONNECT WITH MVO TASK FORCE DIRECTOR LT. COL. KATHRYN POYNTON, RET. • KPOYNTON@NVBDC.ORG • 703-282-6862

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### 2024

MAY 13	ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT 2024 HOST: NC VETERAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	
MAY 16	DOD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	VETERAN EXPO & SMALL BUSINESS POP-UP HOST: VETBIZ CENTRAL
MAY 17	1ST ANNUAL L2F HERO OPEN HOST: LINKS TO FREEDOM FOUNDATION	
MAY 18	PUTTS FOR PATRIOTS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	17TH ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE RUN FOR THE WARRIORS HOST: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS
MAY 20	MMAA STRONG COMMUNITIES HOST: MODERN MILITARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	
MAY 21	NATIONAL VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR FOR VETERANS HOST: RECRUITMILITARY	
MAY 24	1ST ANNUAL ROCKIN' WITH WARRIORS HOST: LINKS TO FREEDOM FOUNDATION	
JUNE 1	WOMEN VETERANS MAGAZINE PENNSYLVANIA LAUNCHING JUNE 2024 HOST: WOMEN VETERANS ALLIANCE	MMAA NATIONAL GALA HOST: MMAA
JUNE 4	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR FOR VETERANS HOST: RECRUITMILITARY	
JUNE 8	IDAHO WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
JUNE 17	MMAA STRONG COMMUNITIES HOST: MODERN MILITARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	
JUNE 18	EASTERN REGION VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR FOR VETERANS HOST: RECRUITMILITARY	
JUNE 20	DOD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
JUNE 23	ANNUAL HERITAGE MILITARY BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY HOST: THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES OF AMERICA	

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JULY 8	4TH ANNUAL VETERAN GOLF SALUTE HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
JULY 10	VEA SUMMER COHORT: SCALING YOUR BUSINESS (RUN THROUGH 14AUG24) HOST: VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR ALLIANCE	
JULY 18	DoD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
AUGUST 8	ANNUAL FEDERAL RESERVE EVENT HOST: NVBDC	
AUGUST 15	DoD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
AUGUST 24-26	15TH ANNUAL HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS CELEBRITY INVITATIONAL HOST: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS	
SEPTEMBER 16	9TH ANNUAL L2F CUP HOST: LINKS TO FREEDOM FOUNDATION	
SEPTEMBER 19	DoD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
OCTOBER 8	VEA FALL COHORT: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN BUSINESS (RUNS THROUGH 12NOV24) HOST: VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR ALLIANCE	
OCTOBER 17	2024 STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE HOST: FARMER VETERAN COALITION	
OCTOBER 27-29	DoD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
OCTOBER 28	2ND ANNUAL BIRDIES AND BUNKERS GOLF CLASSIC HOST: THE ROSIE NETWORK	
OCTOBER 29-30	NATIONAL VETERAN MATCHMAKING CONFERENCE AND VETS NIGHT OUT HOST: NVBDC	
NOVEMBER 7	IDAHO VETERANS ANNUAL CHAMBER SUMMIT HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	
NOVEMBER 9	7TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY GOLF BENEFIT HOST: LINKS TO FREEDOM FOUNDATION	LONG ISLAND RUN FOR THE WARRIORS HOST: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS

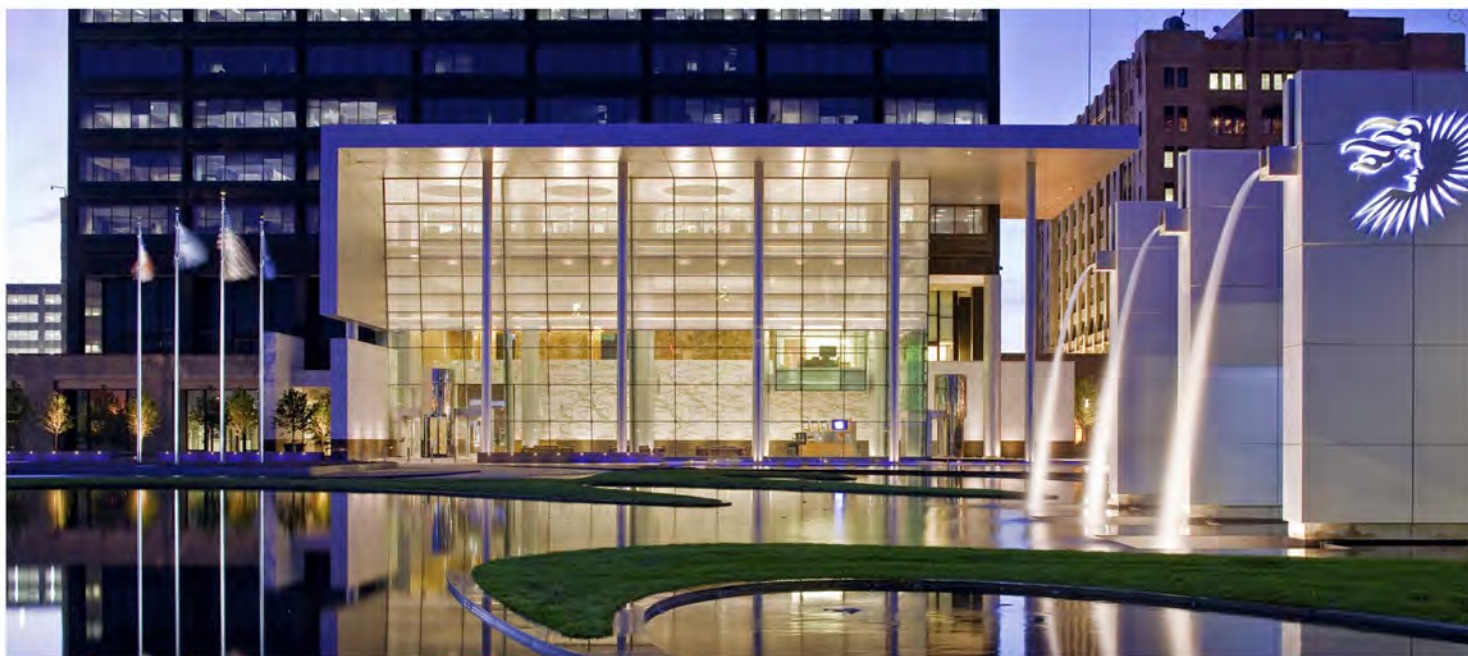
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NOVEMBER 10-12	17TH ANNUAL IVEC FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON DC HOST: IVEC FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER 14	ANNUAL AWARDS GALA HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
NOVEMBER 21	DOD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DECEMBER 19	DOD SKILLBRIDGE FOR EMPLOYERS HOST: ID VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR THE 8TH YEAR NVBDC IS PARTNERING WITH THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO TO OFFER A FULL DAY OF EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND 1:1 MATCHMAKING WITH SOME OF WORLD'S LARGEST CORPORATIONS. WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR THIS SIGNATURE MATCHMAKING EVENT AT: [NVBDC.ORG/EVENTS](http://NVBDC.ORG/EVENTS)



Hosted By:  
**DTE**