



Louisiana Small Business Development Center

For Immediate Release

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LSBDC Briefs Active and Retired Military on New Business Opportunities & Resources

As our nation observes Veterans Day, the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) honors our veterans and soldiers with special programs statewide to help them take advantage of the latest business opportunities. The LSBDC is a unique collaboration between Louisiana Economic Development (LED), U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and participating universities.

The LSBDC offers a full-range of services to help our veterans and soldiers start, grow and expand their small businesses. LSBDC provides free confidential business consulting, entrepreneurial training, and online business resources on topics from business plans to marketing research. Eleven percent of the LSBDC clients are veterans.

In honor of Veterans Day, the LSBDC network is holding these events throughout the state:

- **Monroe** on Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - “SBA Patriot Express Loan Program” at University of Louisiana at Monroe, Administration Bldg., Room 2-105. This SBA loan program is geared toward veterans, military personnel, and military spouses to finance their businesses. Free
- **Shreveport** on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.- “Veterans Mean Business” Breakfast at the LSU University Center Ballroom, 2nd floor, One University Place. Cost is \$10 including full breakfast buffet. The event will inspire and educate veterans on how to start, run, and grow a business. Speakers include:
 - Michael Ricks, Louisiana District Director for SBA and veteran
 - Scott Allen, owner of Supreme Machine of Ruston, winner of Louisiana 2008 Small Business of the Year award and veteran
 - Rep. Henry Burns, La. House of Representatives, owner of the Wooden Spoon in Bossier City and veteran
 - Cooper Cochran, LSBDC Center Director and veteran
 - Elva Taylor, Northwest Louisiana Government Procurement Center
 - Connie Shirley, Barksdale Air Force Base/2nd Contracting Squadron
- **Hammond** on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.- “Veterans Day Open House” at LSBDC at Southeastern Louisiana University, 1514 Martens Drive. Veteran entrepreneurs can learn about LSBDC and SCORE small business assistance and other related programs. “Vetrepreneurs” can also schedule an appointment with a LSBDC or a SCORE consultant. Free
- **Lafayette** on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.- “Opportunities for Military Veterans” Workshop at South Lafayette Community College, Fine Arts Laboratory, 320 Devalcourt Street, Lafayette. Speakers will discuss small business assistance, government contracting, small business lending to veterans, and SBA programs including Patriot Express loans. Free.

For more information and to pre-register for the events, log onto www.lsbdc.org and click on training events.



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