

# CENTER OF **EXCELLENCE** FOR **VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

FIRST DATA, FOUNDING PARTNER



**Advancing Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families**

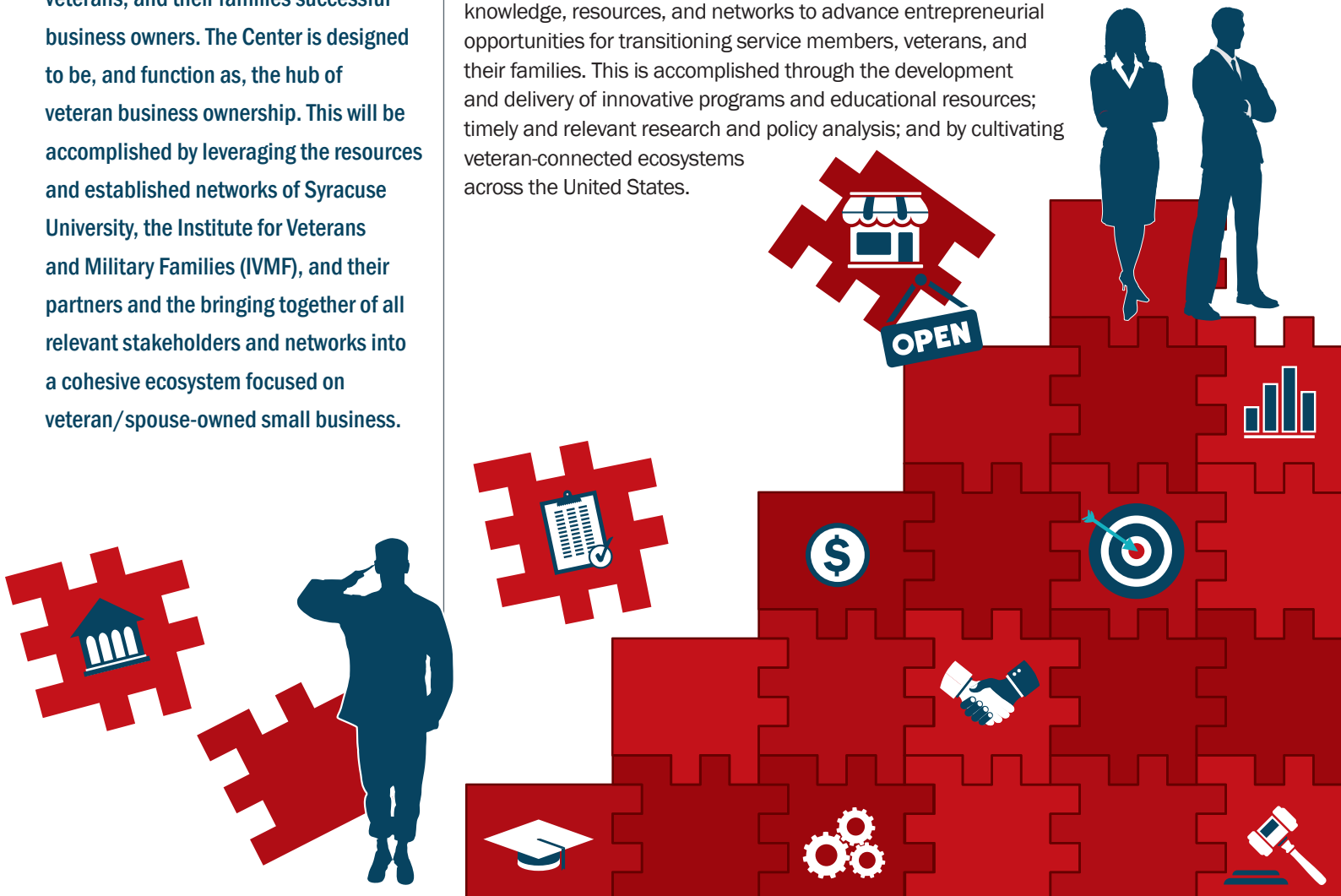
**T**he Center of Excellence (CoE) for Veteran Entrepreneurship will work to unite veteran-owned businesses (VOBs), researchers, small business program managers, policymakers, resources, and private and public companies in an organized effort to make transitioning service members, veterans, and their families successful business owners. The Center is designed to be, and function as, the hub of veteran business ownership. This will be accomplished by leveraging the resources and established networks of Syracuse University, the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), and their partners and the bringing together of all relevant stakeholders and networks into a cohesive ecosystem focused on veteran/spouse-owned small business.

## VISION

To be the nation's premier center of research, trusted thought leadership, and innovative programming positioned to advance opportunities for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families to successfully pursue business ownership in America.

## MISSION

The mission of the Center of Excellence for Veteran Entrepreneurship is to create, collect, organize, and share knowledge, resources, and networks to advance entrepreneurial opportunities for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families. This is accomplished through the development and delivery of innovative programs and educational resources; timely and relevant research and policy analysis; and by cultivating veteran-connected ecosystems across the United States.



## PRIORITIES

### RESEARCH AND POLICY

- Evaluate and assess research and policy
- Organize current knowledge that exists in the field of veteran entrepreneurship
- Create and drive new and necessary research
- Advocate using data to influence strategies and policies that will have a positive impact on business creation and growth for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families
- Cultivate networks – evaluate current networks and take steps to close gaps and/or establish new networks

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Design, develop, and deliver innovative programs
- Create a clearinghouse for veteran small business connected curriculum
- Identify and disseminate best practices
- Develop standards for veteran connected small business programming and curriculum
- Provide supportive services for stakeholders within the ecosystem – VOBs, employers, veteran entrepreneurship educators and the like

### COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

- Serve as the bridge to connect all stakeholders and networks
- Build and maintain strategic partnerships
- Create and connect supply chain opportunities
- Mentor VOBs and other stakeholders



**2.5 MILLION**  
THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES  
VETERANS OWN IN THE  
UNITED STATES

U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Survey of Business Owners. <http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/>



VETERAN-OWNED  
BUSINESSES GENERATE  
**1.1 TRILLION**  
IN RECEIPTS



VETERANS ARE AT LEAST  
**45%** MORE LIKELY THAN  
THOSE WITH NO ACTIVE-DUTY  
MILITARY EXPERIENCE TO BE  
SELF-EMPLOYED.

Source: Hope, J. B., Oh, B., and Mackin, P. C. [SAG Corporation]. (2011). "Factors affecting entrepreneurship among veterans." Washington, DC: U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy.

**First Data®**



First Data has committed to providing resources to support the CoE with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF).