



HCC



HCC VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

The HCC Veterans Entrepreneurship Center will provide the Veteran start-up community with access to mentoring, educational programs, and networking opportunities. By providing these services, the Center will mitigate those factors that frequently contribute to business failure while also increasing opportunities for the launch and funding of successful start-ups. Perhaps most importantly, the Center will provide an environment that is sensitive to the needs of the military population which will allow them to more easily acclimate to societal business conditions and norms.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

- Comprehensive academic programs, community events, and grant-funded projects
- Active collaboration with 40+ regional partners
- National recognition and awards from premier entrepreneurship organizations
- Florida VETS Entrepreneurship Program grant recipient

A recent study conducted by the Small Business Administration found that "Veterans are **at least 45 percent more likely** than those with no active-duty military experience to be self-employed."

BUDGET:

OPERATIONS: \$90,000

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: \$40,000

FURNITURE: \$20,000

TOTAL: \$150,000

Over the past 2 years, **44 students** have completed the **certificate program** and **seven businesses** have launched.

Academic Programs

- 12 credit hour certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- 25 credit hour certificate in Business Development and Entrepreneurship
- Associate in Science in Entrepreneurship
- Associate in Arts with a transfer track in Entrepreneurship

Accomplishments

Florida VETS Entrepreneurship Program Grant

HCC is the only community college that is part of a statewide network of university partners that is delivering entrepreneurship training to over 400 veterans across the state. The college was recently awarded \$135,000 to support entrepreneurship training for active duty and transitioning members of the military.

Host Institution/City for 2017 Annual Conference for the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE)

Annual Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Symposium (VETS)

HCC hosts an annual event for Veterans and active duty service members during Veterans Day week to provide a full day of training related to entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities. Over the past four years, the event has served over 500 Veterans and active duty service members and their families.

Startup Toolbox Speaker Series

This speaker series, now in its fourth year, has featured 21 events (panel discussions, speaker series & TED talk-themed presentations) and served over 2,000 students and community members.

1 Million Cups – Tampa Chapter

HCC was instrumental in creating the 1 Million Cups – Tampa Chapter. This weekly event takes place at Hillsborough County's Mark Sharpe Entrepreneurship Collaborative Center (ECC). It features entrepreneurial pitching, networking, and educational support for the entrepreneurship and business community.

Coleman Foundation and Hillsborough County EDI2 Grants

