

SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Voice of Small, Emerging Diversity Owned Businesses



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VETERANS' CORNER

Disabled American Veterans Hails Historic Legislation Addressing Health Care Needs of Women Veterans

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) applauds Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) in addressing the unique needs of our women veterans by introducing the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act next week. Reps. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-S.D.) and Ginny Brown-Waite (R-Fla.), introduced similar legislation in the House late last year. These groundbreaking bills were developed in consultation with the DAV, which today is launching a nationwide legislative initiative to fully meet the health care needs of all America's veterans.

"It's crucial we start looking seriously at the health care needs of all women veterans," said Joe Violante, DAV's national legislative director. "Once they walk off that battlefield, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or a previous conflict, many women veterans are facing yet another battle here at home when it comes to accessing health care services that are suited to their needs."

Both the House and Senate bills seek to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ability to assess and treat women who have experienced military sexual trauma, increase the use of evidence-based treatment practices, and call for a long-term study on the gender-specific health challenges facing women veterans, particularly those exposed to combat conditions.

"It's troubling that we don't even know what we don't know when it comes to potential health implications for women serving in a combat zone," said Joy Ilem, DAV's assistant national legislative director. "We definitely need more research on the unique health care needs of women veterans. Thankfully, there is now legislation that would address this problem with a call for an in-depth study of the issue."

Stand Up for Veterans Initiative

In addition to encouraging support for women veterans' legislation, DAV launched a new nationwide initiative today in Washington, D.C. to educate the public and members of Congress on the health care needs of all veterans.

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Leading Businesswomen Bring Expertise to the Classroom at San Francisco State Extended Learning

San Francisco State University's College of Extended Learning (CEL), known for its cutting edge academic programs, has started gaining a strong reputation for having some of the top women leaders in their respective fields passing on their expertise in the classroom.

"We've been able to bring in some of the top talent in the Bay Area across all fields of professional development we offer," said Gail Whitaker, Dean of CEL. "Their real world experience is a critical component to the success of our programs, and the fact that many of them are women is inspiring to our students."

Noted Sound Effects and Supervising Sound Editor Andrea Gard, whose credits include *Cast Away*, *What Lies Beneath* and *Armageddon*, teaches in the Digital Video Intensive Program, bringing over 12 years of experience working for Skywalker Sound to the classroom.

"What I enjoy most about teaching Audio in the Digital Video Intensive is the chance to help students make their movies sound good. From field production to adding sound effects and music and finally to balancing all the audio elements in the final mix, good sound is a very important part of the audience's experience," said Gard.

The importance of bringing industry into the classroom is epitomized by the Regulatory and Compliance Certificate Program designed

in cooperation with GeneEd, a pharmaceutical and healthcare training company.

"We are seeing more and more women scientists and physicians becoming key figures in the clinical trials space, seeking to bridge the gap between the latest scientific discoveries and actual products that can save people's lives," said Alycia Shilton-Lloyd, Ph.D. Chief Scientific Officer at GeneEd and an instructor in the program. "I'm thrilled to be a part of this field."

One of the most successful programs at CEL is the only ABA-approved Paralegal Studies Certificate Program in San Francisco. Instructors include the Honorable Ruth Astle, who has served as an administrative law judge for over 22 years.

"The paralegal program gives our students many exciting opportunities to enter the legal world. I bring in practicing attorneys and other judges as guest speakers to expose the students to a wide variety of agencies," commented Judge Astle.

Learn more about these inspiring women and the unique curriculum at CEL by visiting their website at <http://www.cel.sfsu.edu>

Source: Hollenbeck Associates

Business and Trade Association Leaders to Participate in First National Regulatory Fairness Hearing

The Office of the National Ombudsman at the U.S. Small Business Administration will host its second national regulatory fairness hearing in Washington D.C. on March 12, at 10 a.m. This event, which will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency's East Building, will give leaders from business organizations and trade associations an opportunity to comment on unfair or excessive federal regulatory enforcement that impacts their members and small businesses nationwide.

"The first national hearing was a great success, as groups explained the challenges their small business members face when trying to comply with regulations within their respective industries," said SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens.

"We would like to build upon last year's hearing, and continue to successfully identify

those federal regulatory enforcement actions that are excessive — rather than effective — for small businesses across the nation," Owens said.

The national hearing will also function as an information session on how SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman serves as a troubleshooter for the nation's small businesses. "We'd like the representatives, on behalf of their associations' members, to come away with a better understanding of how the National Ombudsman is a vital resource for America's small business owners," Owens said.

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 created the Office of the National Ombudsman within the SBA and established 10 regional regulatory fairness boards nationwide.

Each year a series of public regulatory fairness hearings are held around the country. These hearings are usually chaired by the National Ombudsman and regional board members and attended by officials from various federal regulatory agencies. During the hearings, small business owners have an opportunity to testify in person, presenting their concerns about unfair practices or burdensome policies imposed on them by federal agencies, without fear of retaliatory action. Business owners also have the option of submitting their comments in writing to the National Ombudsman.

The upcoming national hearing will follow a similar format. During a typical regional hearing, comments from business owners are forwarded to the appropriate federal agency for their review. The National Ombudsman

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