

MARK TAKANO

41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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September 30, 2013

Ms. Ramona Peyton
Office of Veterans Business Development
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20416

RE: Veteran Business Outreach Center Program: Special Program Announcement –
Entrepreneurship Services in SBA Region IX

Dear Ms. Peyton:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for an application from the Riverside Community College District for the Veteran Business Outreach Center Program Entrepreneurial Services in SBA Region IX grant.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I have a particular interest in supporting this critical project, and veterans not only in my District but throughout the SBA Region IX states and territory. Locally, Riverside County has the 8th largest veteran population of any county in the U.S., with nearly 150,000 in this county alone. The RCCD Office of Economic Development and the District at large provide outstanding entrepreneurial programs and veterans-specific services.

I recently announced the Warriors' Peer-Outreach Pilot Program Act at Riverside City College, which is designed to improve veterans' higher education outcomes, as well as their utilization of other resources and services. RCCD is a leader in offering veterans resources; approximately 1,200 veterans attend one of the three RCCD colleges each semester. That number is expected to grow when the nearly 34,000 troops return from Afghanistan by 2014.

RCCD's Office of Economic Development excels in providing entrepreneurial services to our military personnel, including long-term counseling, training, technical and financial assistance, comprehensive business assessments, and mentoring to veteran, service-disabled veteran

entrepreneurs, and small business owners interested in starting new or expanding/diversifying established small businesses.

RCCD's Office of Economic Development is the organization that will best lead the Veteran Business Outreach Center program for SBA's Region IX. The many entrepreneurial services that they offer will be invaluable throughout the region.

Your full and fair consideration of this request with current laws, rules, regulations and agency policy will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Takano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Takano
Member of Congress