

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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TITLE: Melvin is District Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

The Clermont Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Director, John Melvin, has been selected as the 2007 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for the Columbus SBA district. Melvin was nominated for this award by Michele Abraham, Ohio Department of Development Statewide Director for the SBDC Program.

Champion awards are presented to persons who have used their professional skills or personal talents to further public understanding and awareness of small business and who work to advance small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces. U.S. Marine Veteran Gregory Cook said of Melvin, in a letter to the State SBDC, "John Melvin's knowledge, expertise and sincere desire to help me start up my company are appreciated more than you'll ever know."

"We are so pleased that John is here to serve the business planning needs of our veterans...John knows how to achieve true success and shares this knowledge with his clients", said Chamber President Matt Van Sant. Melvin has been with the Clermont Chamber of Small Business Development Director for seven years, and has also served as Interim Chamber President. Through Melvin's work at the SBDC at the Clermont Chamber, last year alone, 606 jobs were created and maintained, 41 businesses were started, 852 counseling sessions and 11 training events were held, 36 loans were approved for a total of \$10,590,000, sales increases totaled \$68,000, total capital formation was \$12,968,000 and 1065 hours were spent in consulting. Bob Dameron, Vice President of Commercial Banking at National Bank & Trust and Chairman of the SBDC Advisory Committee said of Melvin, "In my 20 year involvement with the SBDCs of Ohio, I have found John Melvin and our local SBDC committed to helping veteran entrepreneurs start, grow and sustain a business."

The Small Business Development Centers of Ohio provide free, confidential, in-depth business consulting to pre-venture, start-up, and existing small business throughout the state. Ohio's more than 30 SBDCs also serve as a clearinghouse of federal, state and local regulation information affecting small businesses. The programs and services of the SBDC at the Clermont Chamber are provided through a partnership between the Ohio Department of Development, U.S. Small Business Administration and the Clermont Chamber of Commerce.

The awards presentation will take place at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café in Columbus on April 18. For information about the Small Business Development Center at the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, call 576-5007.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce promotes local and regional business through business attraction, retention & expansion, educational and networking opportunities, business consulting assistance and business advocacy for the over 1100 Clermont Chamber Members. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The current President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chair of the Board is Sue McHugh of Community Press Newspapers.