

1 WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE
'SO YOU WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS OR NON-PROFIT'
May 8, 2014

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. What is my vision?
2. What is my definition of success?
3. What makes me unique?
4. What do I need to learn to decide about owning my own business/non-profit?
5. What support do I need and from who?

BASICS

1. What can you do now to plan, build, and launch your idea?
2. Can you market yourself well or learn to do so?
3. Are your finances in order and can you cover the first 1-2 years costs and living expenses while you build success? Or can you start your business on the side?

SOME IDEAS FROM SUCCESSFUL WOMEN SOLOPRENEURS

Be sure you really love what you've chosen to do. Your passion will help you cope with the reality that pretty much every task and project you undertake along your journey will take at least twice as long to complete as you anticipate. Linda Rivero Global Action Women

Get comfortable with ambiguity. Don't let not knowing stop you. Julie@ileadstrategies.com

Ask for help. Diane Cohen Coaching2Connect

Know what you don't know! So many of us feel we have to be wonder-women that we don't honestly assess our own weaknesses and plan accordingly. Joan Porte, CTC www.joanstravelpartners.com

Pay careful attention to cash flow. My annual earnings have been great since year one, but it is only now (year 3) that my cash flow isn't causing me palpitations. Carlisle J. Levine, Ph.D. BLE Solutions

Have a solid support network built upon experience and trust. Don't discount the information given from others but use all information to draw your own conclusion. Jennifer Rose Oltman

Separate Family from Business (physically, mentally). Have a designated work space for your business location. Competition - keep a record or file on your competition and always know what they are doing and not doing. Saudra Boulware

Determine if there's a demand/need for your service/product and who your target audience is. Wendy Price www.whpresearch.com

RESOURCES

A. Federal and State

US Small Business Administration
www.sba.gov

Veterans Business Development
<http://www.sba.gov/content/veterans>
<http://www.sba.gov/content/veterans-business-outreach-centers>

Women
<http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2895>
<http://www.sba.gov/content/womens-business-resources>

VA Small Business
<http://www.va.gov/osdbu/entrepreneur/index.asp>
<http://www.vetbiz.gov>

Federally-supported
Small Business Development Centers

SCORE
http://www.score.org/topics/veteran_guardes_reservists

Transitioning
<http://boots2business.org/>

B. Non-profits

Institute for Veterans & Military Families
<http://vets.syr.edu>

Kauffman Foundation
<http://www.entrepreneurship.org/>

National Veteran Small Business Coalition
<http://www.nvsbc.org/>

Womens Business Enterprise National Council
<http://www.wbenc.org/>

C. For profits providing info, resources

National Veteran Owned Business Assn (+
Vetpreneur Mag)
<http://www.navoba.com>

Entrepreneur for women
<http://www.entrepreneur.com/women/#>

100 great sites for vet entrepreneurs
<http://militaryonlinecolleges.org/veteran-entrepreneurship>

<http://www.veteransenterprise.com/>

Wall Street Journal - Startup Journal
<http://online.wsj.com/public/page/small-business.html>

PATRA'S TRANSITION RESOURCES

Veterans Expert for Job-hunt.org: (sample article)
<http://www.job-hunt.org/veterans-job-search/career-self-analysis.shtml>

Military Transition Guide:

<http://www.slideshare.net/ClearedJobsNet/military-transition-job-seeker-guide>

Videos on Military Transition and Job Search: (sample)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7nBAPazK6g>

M2C program - free quarterly transition coaching day in Chantilly, VA

<http://www.nmrconsulting.com/programs/m2c/>