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South Palm Beach SCORE Chapter Launches Veterans Business Grant and Training Program

Partnership with 'Pathway to Business Success Foundation' to Award $400,000 in Grants for Small Business Start-Ups

Boca Raton, Fla. (Sept. XX, 2011) – South Palm Beach SCORE, a chapter of the nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide, today launched a new business grant and training program designed to assist eligible veterans of the post- Sept. 11 Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families start and grow their own businesses. SCORE is now seeking eligible participants for the program, which is scheduled to kick off January 2012.

"The men and women who have served so valiantly in our country's recent conflicts deserve a chance to achieve the American dream for which they risked their lives – owning your own business," said Hal Finkelstein, chairman of the South Palm Beach SCORE. "The tragedy is that many of them return from fighting for our country, and have a tough time finding work. We cannot sit by and allow that to happen."

SCORE plans to coordinate its efforts with Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans' organizations. Program participants will be eligible to receive counseling, electronically and or face-to-face, assistance in developing a business plan and in meeting requirements to receive funding. In addition, SCORE's veteran business experts will train them in the basics of starting and successfully operating a business.

Participants who successfully demonstrate both a need and a viable business plan may qualify for grants from the foundation. The grants could be used to buy business equipment, marketing and other services that will contribute to the success of the business.

To be eligible, participants must be a Florida resident veteran of the post-Sept. 11 Iraq and Afghanistan wars with an honorable discharge, an active-duty service member eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program or reservists or a National Guard member that served in theater and received an honorable discharge. The program is available to veterans who served more than 90 days of active duty during the conflicts. In addition, the spouses or widowed spouses of qualifying veterans are also eligible for the program.

For information about what SCORE offers to veterans on a national level, visit http://www.score.org/topics/veteran-guards-reservists.

About South Palm Beach County SCORE

Based in Boca Raton, Fla., South Palm Beach County SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, Chapter 412, counsels and provides education on the formation, growth and success of small business. The South Palm Beach chapter, which was recognized as SCORE Chapter of the Year in 1999 and Outstanding Chapter of the year in 2008, is a part of a national nonprofit association founded in 1964 and based in Washington, D.C. http://southpalmbeach.score.org/chapters/south-palm-beach-score