



# The Guardian

The Newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

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May, 2018

## Three VBOC Clients Honored as Top Veteran-Owned Business in the State



**One Community Auto, LLC** President **Gary Petersen** (third from left) is honored by May 2 at the New Mexico Small Business Work Hours and Awards Breakfast in Albuquerque and the April 26 9th Veterans Business Conference for being named 2017 New Mexico SBA Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year.

**From L to R:** WBOE Albuquerque Executive Director Walter Paul, WBOE President Agnes Norcum, VBOC Director Rich Coffey, Mr. Petersen, New Mexico SBA District Office Director John Garbis, and WBOE State Director Russell Wyrick.

Three clients of the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS)—have been honored for outstanding achievement by the New Mexico District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Retired U.S. Air Force MAJ Gary Petersen, who founded One Community Auto LLC in Albuquerque, was named the state's 2017 New Mexico SBA Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year. Founded in 2013 upon his retirement from service, the company refurbishes used vehicles donated to non-profit organizations. The vehicles are then resold—with the organizations keeping a large portion of the profit.

Retired Air Force MSGJ Chris Sweelin and his wife Jennifer, CEO and President of their Albuquerque-based company J-D Security Training Solutions, were honored as New Mexico's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for, according to

parameters of the award, "... fulfilling a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces." The Executive made it a point to hire veterans for their company, which provides elite security training to deliver strengthened full-spectrum protective capabilities for businesses.

And retired U.S. Army LT Shanda Vestal, Founder and CEO of LumaTek LLC, was honored as the state's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Her company provides problem/solutions management services for equipment, supplies, staffing, and other professional services needs for governments and select private corporations.

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J-D Security Training Solutions President Director Sweelin (center) and husband/owner, CEO Chris (far left) were also honored as New Mexico's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year at the April 26 9th Veterans Business Conference and the May 2 New Mexico Small Business Work Hours and Awards.