



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

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OGS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO DIVISION OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Applications For Firms To Become Certified Now Available

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the appointments of Kenneth E. Williams as Director and Stephen F. Mercurio as Program Manager of the Division of Service Disabled Veterans' Business Development within the Office of General Services. The Commissioner also announced that qualified firms can now apply to obtain New York State certification as a Service Disabled Veterans' Business (SDVOB). The application and information on the program is now available online at www.ogs.ny.gov.

"I am pleased to announce the appointments of Kenneth Williams and Stephen Mercurio to key positions in the Division of Service Disabled Veteran's Development," Commissioner Destito said. "Governor Cuomo recognizes the importance of veterans in our communities and by increasing their level of participation in New York State contracts, we will expand their opportunities to grow their businesses and play a greater role in the State's economy."

The appointments follow the enactment of the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act that was signed into law in May of this year. The Act established a six percent goal for participation on state contracts by service disabled veteran owned firms in addition to other measures to support these companies.

The Division will be responsible for certifying eligible Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses. To qualify as a SDVOB, business owners must have received a compensation rating of ten percent or greater from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or have incurred an injury while in uniform equivalent to a compensation rating of ten percent or greater from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. National Guard veterans may also be eligible upon confirmation of a service-disability by the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Williams was most recently employed by Siena College teaching strategic management and as the entrepreneurship lead at the Stack Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship where he facilitated the design and launch of student and affiliated businesses. In addition to starting and

running his own businesses, he has consulted extensively for companies like BMW of North America and was sent by USAID to Ukraine to help jump start entrepreneurial ventures. Williams received a BS in Accounting, Finance and Law and MS in Accounting and Finance from Clarkson University.

Most recently employed by the New York State Department of Labor in Syracuse, Mercurio is a Canisius College graduate and holds an MBA from Sage Graduate School. He has also operated his own financial services business and served as a project manager for the New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation. In addition, Mercurio served in the United States Navy for more than 20 years in leadership and managerial roles.

“Veterans play a vital role in our country, state and economy,” Eric J. Hesse, Director of the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, said. “These appointments by Governor Cuomo signal his strong support for this program and builds momentum for its success.”

“All necessary systems are in place to expeditiously process applications,” Williams said. “We encourage qualified veterans to contact us with any questions and look forward to their participation.”

In addition to visiting the OGS website, information on SDVOBs can be obtained by calling 844-579-7570 or sending an email to veteransdevelopment@ogs.ny.gov.

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