

Youngstown Business Incubator

YBI'S VISION

The Youngstown Business Incubator will leverage its entrepreneurial expertise and resource network to meaningfully impact technology-based economic development and community wealth.

YBI'S MISSION

Our mission is to facilitate the creation of high-value businesses through collaborative partnerships that promote innovative technologies and long-term, sustainable employment opportunities, with a focus on information technology and advanced manufacturing.

Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC)

The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Minority Business Development Division (MBDD) supports the growth and sustainability of small, minority-owned, and disadvantaged businesses in Ohio.

Supporting these businesses means providing them with resources that include technical and professional assistance, access to capital, surety bonding, and connection to business opportunities through the assistance of the Minority Business Assistance Centers (MBAC). The Division leverages these resources to support the achievement of the state's 15% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) set-aside goal, which is overseen by the Department of Administrative Services.

The Division works with entrepreneurs, and emerging business enterprises to help them achieve, scale, and market success. The overarching goal is to help small, minority-owned, and disadvantaged businesses contribute to job creation and economic growth in Ohio.

The Centers provide the following services:

- Accounting assistance
- Business management counseling
- Completing federal, state and local certification applications
- Contract procurement assistance
- Estimating/Bidding assistance
- Identifying local resources

Loan packaging assistance
Marketing plan development
Referrals to financial assistance programs

Professional Biography_Richberg, Vernard

Education

BS, University of Maryland, Government (Business minor)
AS, Air Force Community College, Police Sciences

Military Experience

US Air Force, Retired (E7)

- Law Enforcement Specialist,
- Military Working Dog Trainer,
- Emergency Services Team Leader,
- Recruiter

Military Highlights:

- Distinguished Graduate, NCO Leadership School

- Air Force Leadership School Europe, Graduate
- Air Force Emergency Service Team School

Professional Experience

Director, Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) Youngstown OH, 09/2019 to present

Certified Business Advisor, MBAC, 08/2017 to 08/2019

Director, Business and Operations, Oasis Akron, 04/2015 to 12/2016

Economic Opportunity Manager, Community Builders Inc (Boston MA), Akron OH, 02/2011 to 03/2015

Founder/Owner, More Over Mobile, B2B Marketing and Advertising, 09/2008 to 01/2011

Ohio Registered Representative/Financial Advisor, Smith Barney, 1998-06/2008

Community Service

Former Executive Director, Children Defense Fund Freedom School, Youngstown Ohio

Board Member, Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (Meander Water) 10/2016 to present

Professional Certifications:

Growthwheel Business Advisor

Entrepreneurial Learning Institute, Entrepreneurial Mindset Program Facilitator

Certified Business Advisor