

A federal grant secured by Rep. Peter Welch is providing equipment for a new center at Vermont Technical College (VTC) that will provide office space and support for Vermont veterans hoping to develop or expand their own businesses.

Welch was on hand Monday in Randolph to launch the Office of Veterans' Entrepreneurship, a partnership between the Vermont Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and VTC that will provide veterans with space to do work and hold business meetings free of charge. The center is fully equipped with meeting space, office equipment, high-speed internet service, and video conferencing technology.

"Our troops come home with proven leadership skills that make them uniquely qualified to start and run businesses," Welch said. "This center will serve as an incubator to help Vermont's veterans turn their good business ideas into reality."

In 2008, Welch secured a \$300,000 grant to increase Vermont Guard members' access to business development support. In addition to providing equipment for the Office of Veterans' Entrepreneurship, the grant [established a Vermont-pioneered partnership that helps returning veterans start small businesses](#)