

## Steven Colella

Program Director, Mid-Atlantic Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

Steven is an experienced economic and community development professional. A native of Frederick County, Maryland, Steven honed his craft working with small businesses as a promotion and events manager for the Downtown Frederick Partnership. What he learned there, applies to all of his ventures: Taking the time to invest in small businesses enhances all communities.

As the director of economic development for the town of Sykesville, Md., he successfully led a public relations campaign to name Sykesville the “Coolest Small Town in America” in a national competition against 140 other small towns. He’s been working for the Maryland Small Business Development Center for the past several years. After writing the Small Business Administration grant that enabled the Mid-Atlantic VBOC to launch, Steven was named director. He sums up the mission of the VBOC in this way: “We want to start businesses, create jobs and put money back into the economy.”