John D. Mikelson, SFC, retired from the United States Army after 25 years of service (1978-2004). Medic, Recruiter and Supply Sergeant among other duties

He graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in History and his Masters in Higher Education in December 2008. John helped to form the University of Iowa Student Veterans Center and was a co-founder/Distance Education Director for Student Veterans of America. John sits on boards for The AbleUp Iowa Foundation, The Iowa City VA Medical Research Foundation The Veterans Liberty Center and the Homebase Iowa Education Committee. He has served as the The Veterans Affairs Advisor for the Association of Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE), the 2013-14 Chair of the NASPA Veterans Knowledge Community. He currently serves as the Area 6 Chair for the Iowa Committee on Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve and runs Midwest Military Outreach, a non-profit in Eastern Iowa. He was recently named the 2023 SBA Veterans Small Business Champion for Iowa

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