E Security, LLC

Years in Business: 7

Number of Employees: 30

Community: Farmington and the Navajo Nation

SBDC: San Juan College

The words "Protect and Serve," are written into the DNA of Everett Howe's company, E Security, LLC.

Based in Farmington, E Security works across the Navajo Nation, in New Mexico and Arizona. The company provides security services at local schools, Navajo Technical University, oil fields, county and regional fairs, family events and much more.

Howe is a retired U.S. Marine Corp. Sergeant, and a retired McKinley County Sheriff's Deputy – two careers that taught him the many meanings of service.

"I wasn't going to get involved in anything, and a lot of people on the Navajo Nation wanted security. I should start a security company. I thought it was a good idea," he said.

But, he said, after a couple of years of struggling to get the business off the ground, he started looking for help. He first went to the Navajo Nation Small Business Development Department who recommended the SBDC at San Juan College in 2014.

"That's where I met them all. I was getting my SAM number, and they helped me," Howe said. A SAM, or System for Award Management, number is necessary for businesses that contract with the federal government. Carmen Martinez, the director of the SBDC at SJC, also helped Howe register his company with Arizona Public Service, with bookkeeping, and showed him how to develop the business.

"I want to expand through Arizona and all through the Reservation. I'm going slowly. I don't want to rush it," he said.

The company has grown quickly and so far he has 30 employees – but that might not be enough: E Security is going to be providing security at a new helium mine, a new solar facility and an oil field in the coming year.

But first, he said, he wants to make sure of the "serve" part of the company's protect-and-serve mission. He wants to encourage more Navajo youth to go into law enforcement and to that end, he's working to establish a scholarship to encourage more Navajo and tribal police officers, as well as sponsoring local youth athletics.