Young Veteran Responds to Market Demand

Tim Kim, an Army Veteran wants to continue serving his community by going in two interwoven directions. A For-Profit business and a separate Non-Profit organization to give back to fellow veterans that want to utilize his expertise.

Tim is a veteran with two service tours to Iraq and nine years of professional experience, with a current role as a Manager of Corporate Relations at the Pittsburgh Cultural trust. He is passionate about the community and the veterans who live in them and looks to find ways to serve. Tim practices judo and jiujitsu five days a week and believes in the value to society.

At Shared Submissions, he works to get veterans, service members, and first responders into the grappling martial arts, specifically Judo and Jiujitsu. He will pay for their first year of tuition, equipment and provide additional support where needed.

The Why: Shared experiences build strong communities. Transitioning veterans often struggle to find communities that can relate to their experiences. There are only a few communities that can mirror military circles. Built on shared struggle, one rare community is the grappling martial arts community, mainly Judo and Jiujitsu. It embodies the military slogan, “Embrace the Suck”; it is difficult and painful, but there is humility and community. At Shared Submissions, he believes in the communal benefits of Judo and Jiujitsu for our community as well as the physical and mental benefits.

Tim requested the services of the University of Pittsburgh SBDC for strategic planning to continue scaling the company. He appreciates the one on one, private counseling of the SBDC consultant, Michael Wholihan who continues to provide on-going counsel for the future development of the business.