

Business

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'Apprentice' winner speaks on what got him this far

By DAVID E. LEIVA, Staff Writer

The same kind of values and leadership training taught in the military are the ones that will spur success in business -- not to mention the respect of Donald Trump, according to the second-season winner of "The Apprentice."

"It's a no-brainer. It's helped me in everything I've done," said Kelly Perdew, a former Army officer who beat out 17 others on the NBC reality TV show last year to become a vice president for the New York real estate mogul.

On Thursday, Mr. Perdew got a warm reception from a crowd of military veterans at the Veteran Owned Business Expo in Annapolis. He urged them to instill an entrepreneurial fire and loyalty in their employees, which he's learned during his stint

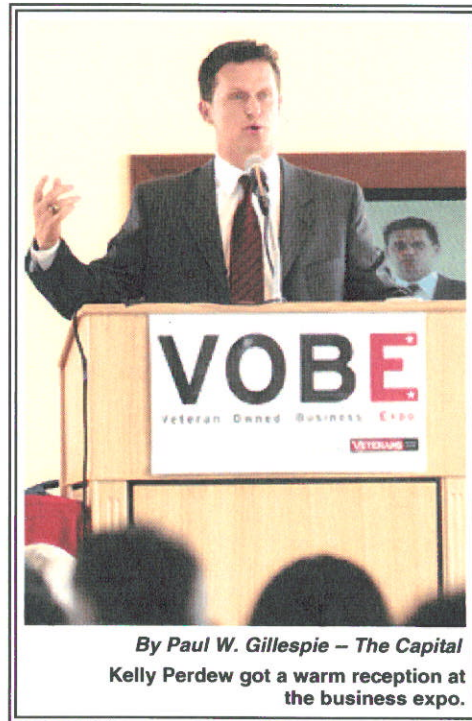
working for Mr. Trump. Many of his employees have worked for him more than 20 years.

"I have been very surprised at how entrepreneurial the Trump organization is," he said. "Loyalty is the most important attribute (to Mr. Trump). It creates a phenomenal organization."

Mr. Perdew also leaned on his previous experience preparing for a career as a corporate attorney. He found people hated their jobs.

"You have to be passionate," he said. "Without passion, you're not going to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Mr. Perdew spent a semester at the Naval Academy during his West Point days. He was discharged from the Army in 1992. Three of his brothers have served in the armed forces, including one who graduated from the Naval Academy.



By Paul W. Gillespie – The Capital
Kelly Perdew got a warm reception at the business expo.

