

**Jathan A. Chicoine**

*Executive Director, Veterans Resource Center*

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**Biography**

Jathan A. Chicoine is the co-founder of the first Veterans Resource Center in the State of South Dakota where he currently serves as the Executive Director.

Jathan is a Veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served a six-year enlistment (1995-2001) as a Navy Seal at Seal Delivery Vehicle Team Two in Virginia. Following military service, Jathan traveled extensively through Europe and South America while developing language competency in both French and Spanish. During his undergraduate career at the University of South Dakota, Jathan was highly active in student affairs and activities, serving two years as President of the USD Veterans Club to revitalize the organization and create deeper empathy and understanding about Veterans issues within the University and greater community. In 2006, Jathan ran an energetic campaign that resulted in the largest voter turnout in the history of student government elections at the University of South Dakota, becoming the President of the USD student body. Jathan finished a double major in Cultural Anthropology and International Studies with a French minor and graduated with the distinction of University Scholar. Jathan is currently pursuing his Master's degree.

Jathan's life experiences and personal challenges reintegrating into the civilian world following military service have provided him a unique perspective as he serves as a Veteran's advocate and continues to work towards creating a better environment for those who have served us all as society. In December of 2008, Jathan was honored with the opportunity to serve on the Small Business Association's Veterans Advisory Committee.