

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD's "Honor a Hero, Hire A Vet" Ontario event brings  
530 veterans and other job seekers together with 127 employers**

***Annual veteran job fairs provide employment opportunities to  
Californians who have served their country***

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today announced its "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair at the Ontario Convention Center connected more than 530 veterans and other job seekers looking for employment opportunities with 110 employers looking to boost their workforce with qualified applicants.

"We're honored to help Californians who have sacrificed so much to serve their country," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning Jr. "These career fairs are designed so veterans can meet employers who are hiring, as well as get information on veteran services, all in one convenient location."

More than 1.8 million veterans live in California – the most of any state. Since 2008, the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs have connected more than 31,000 veterans with over 1,400 employers and resource agencies. The popular job fairs are held statewide throughout the year and are part of Governor Brown's multi-agency initiative to help veterans in their transition back to civilian life.

With their military training and experience, veterans possess many job skills valued by employers, including a strong work ethic, teamwork, discipline, and leadership. According to EDD data, 95 percent of vets have high school diplomas. Almost half have associate degrees or higher. Many veterans have mastered high tech systems and advanced electronics.

The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, funded by \$200,000 in federal *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity* Act funds, bring together public agencies and private companies in a joint effort to help returning soldiers find jobs and careers.

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The job fairs are particularly helpful to younger veterans, who face challenges in today's job market when looking to reenter the civilian workforce. In 2015, the unemployment rate for California veterans under age 35 was 17.2 percent, more than twice the 7.9 percent unemployment rate for their civilian counterparts of the same age.

The Governor's multi-agency veterans initiative brings together EDD, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVET), California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

"CalVet proudly supports EDD's Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events throughout the Golden State," said CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani. "Job fairs are important tools for educating our veterans and their families about the excellent employment opportunities at CalVet, as well as sharing information about state and federal benefits and services our veterans have earned."

In addition to the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, EDD's veteran representatives in local [America's Job Center of California](http://www.edd.ca.gov/AmericasJobCenterofCalifornia)<sup>SM</sup> offices throughout the state are available to help veterans maximize their employment and training opportunities. Veterans are encouraged to schedule an appointment with a veteran representative for personalized employment services and career assistance. For appointments and information on EDD's veterans' employment services, office locations, and upcoming job fairs, veterans can visit: [www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs and Training/Services for Veterans.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm)

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