

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release No.: 16-33

Date: November 10, 2016

**This Veterans Day, EDD encourages California employers to hire veterans
Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events and special web page offer resources
to link veterans with employers**

LOS ANGELES – This Veterans Day, the Director of California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) encourages all employers to honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed to preserve the freedoms we enjoy – by hiring them.

Speaking at an “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fair today in Woodland Hills, EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. praised all of the employers participating in the event and valuing the skills and attributes veterans bring to a job. He called on other California employers to follow their lead, and to visit EDD’s new [Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet](#) web page for a special Veterans Day collection of new data and information, employer success stories, and veteran services designed to help connect employers in need of good workers with qualified veterans. EDD also held an Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet event in San Diego today.

“Veterans have served our country with honor, now it’s our turn to honor them and the valuable skills they bring back from their military career – skills that can greatly benefit California employers,” EDD Director Henning said at the job fair. “It is a privilege to hold these events and to assist veterans throughout the year in finding new career opportunities.”

“Every year, 25,000 veterans come home to California and reintegrate into civilian life,” said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), who was also at the Woodland Hills job fair. “Events such as this ease the transition from combat to community by connecting veterans with employers that recognize the value of military experience.”

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California is home to 1.8 million veterans, more than any other state, and the EDD has a long history of success in helping veterans of all ages find jobs and training. However, young veterans, many who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are in significant need, said EDD's Henning. The unemployment rate for veterans under age 35 in California is 10.3 percent – far higher than the 6.8 percent jobless rate for non-veterans in their age group.

According to the most recent data, 856,000 veterans are employed in California. Business sectors where veterans have found employment applying their valued military skills and experience include professional and business services, educational and health services, public administration, wholesale and retail trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, and construction.

EDD's new [Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet](#) web page lists the attributes veterans bring to a job including:

- Self-directed discipline, working under high pressure conditions, collaborating within a team environment, and developing strategic plans to complete assigned tasks. The U.S. Department of Labor has found that the skills acquired by veterans typically meet or exceed the requirements of the civilian workforce.
- Experience in meeting deadlines, giving and following directions, and providing leadership. In fact, the top civilian jobs currently held by veterans in California are management occupations with a mean average wage of \$129,884.
- Extensive education. Roughly one out of every three veterans in California have a bachelor's degree or higher – 4.4% more than the share for non-veterans.
- Specialized advanced training in information technology, logistics, medical, mechanical and security fields. Veterans have experience developing computer networks, analyzing transportation routes for goods, and drawing blueprints and operating heavy machinery in construction-related jobs.

In addition, the feature web page highlights services available for both employers and veterans including:

- "[CalJOBSSM](#)" – California's online resource to help job seekers and employers navigate the state's workforce services, with directions on how employers can access a specialized CalJOBSSM link making the résumés of 160,000 veterans available to employers within seconds.
- "Heroes at Work" – presents success stories of employers who have hired qualified veterans and recognized the benefits veterans bring to the workplace.
- "Veteran's Day 2016: Heroes at Work" – a special report with veteran employment data.

- “California Veteran” – A Smart Hire that lists veterans’ enhanced training, education, and skills that include teamwork and leadership.
- A list of services for both employers and employees available at America’s Job Center of CaliforniaSM locations throughout the state. Veteran representatives at these offices help veterans find jobs and training, and assist employers in finding and preparing veterans for jobs.

The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs are sponsored under the Governor’s multi-agency veterans’ initiative that integrates veterans services through EDD, CalVet, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations’ Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

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