

N E W S R E L E A S E

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EDD's "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" Vista (San Diego County) event brings 570 veterans and other job seekers together with 90 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 Vista City Hall, San Diego County, connected more than 570 veterans and other job seekers looking for employment opportunities with more than 90 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., who met with veterans and employers attending the event. "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.

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.

(more)

- 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.

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.

The job fairs are particularly helpful to younger veterans, who face challenges in today’s job market when looking to reenter the civilian workforce. 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.

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 CaliforniaSM](#) 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

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