

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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Job fair in Bakersfield continues Governor's emphasis on matching veterans with employers and jobs

SACRAMENTO – Job-seeking veterans met with potential employers today at the “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fair in Bakersfield, an initiative sponsored by Governor Brown that offers veterans access to employment opportunities, as well as training and resources aimed at helping them reenter civilian life.

Sponsored by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the fair was held at the Bakersfield Marriott, where more than 980 job seekers met with over 130 employers, including major area businesses, in hopes of finding work. Also participating were government organizations, training programs, service organizations, and schools.

“Veterans have protected our freedom and helped to secure our nation’s future,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning Jr. “Now it’s our turn to repay them for their unselfish service and help them secure their futures in civilian life. These job fairs are just one way in which EDD supports our veterans in reaching that goal.”

The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs are held throughout the year in locations statewide. Since the inception of the job fairs in 2008, the events have linked more than 15,000 veterans with over 700 employers and employment resource agencies.

The fairs are open to all, but are particularly helpful to young veterans just home from tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Veterans bring with them unique work skills and training that are valued by employers. Ninety-five percent of California veterans have high school diplomas and almost half have associate degrees or higher. Many of them have mastered high-tech skills in the military.

“The best way to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans of every era is to ensure they continue to live with dignity and respect after military service. Helping them find meaningful civilian careers is a critical part of CalVet’s mission to serve veterans and their families,” said CalVet Secretary Peter J. Gravett.

(more)

The series of job fairs, funded by \$250,000 in federal Workforce Investment Act monies and support from the EDD, give public agencies and private companies a chance to support veterans as they return to civilian careers. It also gives employers access to a large pool of skilled, job-ready candidates. The multi-agency initiative brings together EDD, 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.

California is home to 1.8 million of the nation's 21.2 million veterans.

With an improving state economy, the jobless rate among young California veterans has been dropping. In 2013, the unemployment rate among California veterans age 20-24 was 13.1 percent, while for veterans ages 25-34 the unemployment rate was 15.2 percent.

Conversely, in August 2009, at the height of the recession, unemployment among young veterans topped 33 percent.

EDD veterans representatives who specialize in assisting veterans in exploring their employment and training opportunities are located in many local [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#) throughout the state.

Services provided include priority job referrals, customized job search and training assistance, vocational guidance, and veteran workshops. Veterans are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an EDD veterans representative for personalized services and assistance in achieving their professional goals.

For information about the veterans employment services that EDD offers, appointments, office locations, and upcoming job fairs, visit:

www.edd.ca.gov/jobs_and_training/services_for_veterans.htm

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