

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**EDD's "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job fair in Vista connects more than 500 veterans and other job seekers with 115 employers**

***Annual job fairs now in tenth year of assisting veterans with civilian employment opportunities***

SACRAMENTO: The California Employment Development Department's (EDD) "Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair brought together more than 530 veterans and other job seekers with 115 employers and 10 resource agencies today at the City of Vista Civic Center.

Now in their tenth year, the job fairs have linked more than 34,000 veterans and other job seekers with more than 12,500 resource agencies.

"The EDD has a long history of commitment to veterans as they face the challenges of finding jobs in civilian life – a commitment rooted in our admiration for their service to our country," said EDD Director Patrick Henning. "The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs have been an effective way of helping veterans find high-quality jobs and employers find high-quality applicants."

The job fairs are held at locations throughout the state as part of Governor Brown's multi-agency initiative to help veterans transition back to civilian life.

"CalVet proudly supports EDD's Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events throughout the Golden State," said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). "Job fairs are important tools in helping veterans transition the skills and experience they earned in their military service to employment in the civilian sector, as well as sharing information about state and federal benefits our veterans have earned."

EDD notes that employment prospects for veterans have improved and highlights the attributes veterans bring to a job, including:

(more)

- As the California economy continues to expand, job prospects for younger veterans have improved greatly. Their unemployment rate dropped from 9.3 percent in September 2016 to 8.4 percent in September 2017. Even with that drop, however, the unemployment rate for veterans under 35 was still nearly 2 percentage points higher than the 6.5 percent rate of their non-veteran counterparts.
- Military training and experience provides many job skills valued by employers, including a strong work ethic, teamwork, discipline, and leadership, the ability to meet deadlines, strategic planning, and problem solving. In addition, many veterans have training in advanced electronics, logistics, and information technology.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 50 percent of California's veterans had an associate degree or higher in 2017, and 96 percent of the state's veterans have at least a high school diploma.

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

In addition to the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs, EDD's veterans representatives in local [America's Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup>](#) offices throughout the state help veterans maximize their employment and training opportunities. The EDD encourages veterans to schedule an appointment with a veterans 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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