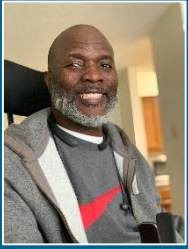


PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

March 2022

PVA Veterans Career Program: Your Partner For Life



Meet Charlie Thompson - a 52-year-old Navy Veteran and PVA Member. He suffered a C2-C3 injury as a result of a car accident in 2008. Charlie worked with a couple of our Veterans Career Program (VCP) counselors over the

years as he focused on educational pursuits; and began working with Jim Arndt in Minneapolis in 2019. They worked on Charlie's job search and was able to find him a Customer Service Representative position with VSO Incorporated. Charlie did very well with this position - ascending to team lead. Unfortunately, his position was discontinued after the contract working with the State of New York expired.

VCP is a partner for life - so Jim and Charlie began again on Charlie's job search. During his job search, our counselor discovered that the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) was accepting applications. This program (www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance) had been set up to provide education benefits for targeted areas to veterans out of work due to the pandemic. They reviewed the material and identified the area of study. Charlie chose Cyber Security. This field offers great future opportunities and allows him to work remotely.

Within four days of submitting his application, he was accepted! Charlie was on the phone the next day and had completed his registration for classes - which he started on April 4th. The school reviewed his previous college work and determined Charlie had already completed his general coursework for an Associate's degree - thus bringing him a year closer to graduation.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

19 Client Placements

- 14 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
- 0 Volunteer
 - 16 Veterans
 - 5 PVA Members
 - 3 Family Members
 - 1 Caregiver



Charles McCaffrey has been serving as the Acting Director of the Veterans Career Program (VCP) since the departure of Lauren Lobrano in early January; and in mid-March, he was officially promoted to Director. Charles is a Navy Veteran with over 30 years of military,



government contracting and small business experience. He is also a serial entrepreneur, instructor, mentor and ardent supporter of the military community. Charles recently served as the Executive Director of Eastern Market Main Street (EMMS), a nonprofit, and designated DC Main Streets program, dedicated to fostering a collaborative, connected, and competitive business community in the heart of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, DC. Prior to that, Charles was on the staff at George Mason University's Community Business Partnership; and served as Director of the Business Incubation Center (2012-2013) and Director of the South Fairfax Small Business Development Center (2013-2015) before founding and serving as the Director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center for the Mid-Atlantic region from 2015 to 2019. He is also active in the broader community; serving as a learning lab partner for the Dog Tag, Inc., Fellows program. Charles is also a regular storyteller and mentor with the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP). Charles can be reached at CharlesM@pva.org or (202) 227-1532.



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