Armando served as both an enlisted soldier (National Guard) and a commissioned officer (Army Reserve). After the military, he returned to college, went on to law school, and obtained his Juris Doctor degree. He worked in real estate law, was married with three children, and had plans for a bright future. Unfortunately, during this time, Armando also struggled with addiction; which led to divorce, disbarment, and a multitude of psychosocial problems.

In October of 2021, after years of struggles, Armando reached out to Danielle, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in New England, for career assistance. Initially, after intake, he admitted to wanting to drop out of the program. He and his counselor worked together to overcome his fears, imposter syndrome, concerns about how work would impact SSDI; and spent time with self-discovery techniques. The journey led Armando to complete the educational requirements to become a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee (CASAC-T). They created a resume and cover letter, practiced interview skills, and networking techniques. He enrolled in the Social Security Administration Ticket to Work program (choosework.ssa.gov) and was hired the next week at Education Alliance where he will be working as a trainee; and will be eligible for full certification after his required hours are completed.

Armando is now sober, enjoys a great relationship with his family; and is very pleased to be working to help others overcome addiction. Congratulations, Armando!

Since its inception in 2007, the Veterans Career Program (formerly known as PAVE) has placed over 2,700 Veterans, military spouses and caregivers in meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities.

We are pleased to share some program accomplishments for FY22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022):

**216 Client Placements (including 30 PVA Members)**
- 164 Paid Employment
  - Average full-time salary is $61,505 and the average part-time salary is $17,740. (both a 23% increase over FY21)
- 39 Education/Training
- 13 Volunteer

**92 Veterans Career Live Sessions**
- 11,207 Registrants
- 3,594 Attendees (Avg: 39 Attendees per Session)
- 60 Career Skills, 21 Employer, 5 Small Business, 3 Education, and 3 Wellness Sessions

**1-on-1 Counseling**
- 36 New Clients (monthly average)
- 594 Clients Assisted (monthly average)
- 103 PVA Members Assisted (monthly average)