

# PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

August 2023

## HELPING ALL WHO HAVE SERVED



Mr. Cox was referred to the Veterans Career Program (VCP) through the Unite Us\* network in June of this year. A retired Army veteran, Doug had recently been released from prison. Determined to not let his background as a justice-impacted individual hinder his ability to find a job, he and our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Darah Gerou, hit the ground running.

They discussed second-chance employment and his career options. After looking at the opportunities for truck drivers, he decided to get a CDL license. Darah researched the laws regarding obtaining a CDL license in his state, and sent Doug tools to help him prepare for exam. They worked together on what Doug jokingly considers the “employment success trifecta”: to update and tailor his resume, brainstorm potential references, and talk about how to craft an effective cover letter. In early August, Doug started a job at TransWest as a shuttle driver.

*Doug said the following about VCP: “Since becoming a client of the Veterans Career Program, I have had more job opportunities available to me. I am grateful for the job readiness skills that I have learned and for the continued support.”*

\*Unite Us (<https://uniteus.com>), the nation’s leading technology company connecting health and social care services, works to address the unmet needs of individuals and their families through a secure coordinated care network. This network of services benefits transitioning military members, veterans, military spouses, and military caregivers who are also seeking career assistance.

The Unite Us network of health and social care services, together with VCP’s dedicated Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and Employment Specialists, provide a whole-person approach to quality-of-life care and help the veteran community achieve their career goals. PVA Chapters, Nonprofits, community-based organizations, and other providers seeking to connect their clients to the Unite Us network of resources should click this link and complete the form: <https://uniteus.com/contact/>

## MONTHLY IMPACT

### 21 Client Placements

- 20 Paid Employment
- 1 Education/Training
- 0 Volunteer
  - 20 Veterans
  - 0 Active Duty
  - 1 Family Members
  - 0 Caregivers
  - 1 PVA Member
- The average salary for the 18 clients placed in full-time employment was \$76,477; and the average income for the 2 clients placed in part-time work was \$24,570.



## 2023 PVA HEALTHCARE SUMMIT + EXPO



PVA hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Summit + Expo August 14 – 17 in Orlando, FL. The Veterans Career Program was honored to attend, assist at the PVA info booth, and learn more about medical and technological advances that improve the quality of life for those with spinal cord injury or disorder.

*“The 2023 Healthcare Summit felt like the professional equivalent of a Baskin-Robbins,” expressed Genia Hachenberg, Associate Director of VCP. “How could I decide which flavor to pick? With an incredible variety of experts and sessions, I was able to gain significant and timely information, such as the latest status of presumptive conditions for VA service connected disabilities and infusion therapies for relapsing Multiple Sclerosis. As a Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRCs), we specialize in holistic case management. Summit is a wonderful opportunity to enrich our current knowledge in the medical, psychological, environmental aspects of multiple disabilities. Additionally, having access to such a wide range of professionals in one setting is invaluable.”*

*“This level of continuing education and networking enables CRC’s to be a more powerful ‘bridge between the individual and a self-sufficient, fully integrated life’.”\**

\*<https://crccertification.com/crc-certification/>