

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2023

OPTIONS FOR RETRAINING



Rose Lopez is an Army veteran. She contacted the Veterans Career Program after a Veterans Career Live session on Federal hiring procedures. Her degrees and experience were in IT, but she didn't know if that was the field she wanted to be in as a career. Rose and Jim Arndt, our counselor in Minneapolis,

MN, began exploring alternative careers while continuing to consider IT positions.

Rose continued to participate in our weekly career webinars; and one session that turned her career outlook around was with the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM). ATDM is a Department of Defense program designed to quickly train qualified candidates in essential manufacturing skills and trades to establish a steady and sustainable flow of qualified workers for the naval shipbuilding and repair sector of the submarine industrial base (<https://atdm.org/>). Rose applied for and was accepted into the program in late 2023. She will relocate to Virginia for training, and will be assisted with finding a career after the program is completed.

From Rose: "Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) has profoundly impacted my life. Their exceptional vocational rehabilitation counseling and unwavering commitment to empowering disabled veterans is unparalleled. Thanks to their support and dedication, I discovered the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program, paving my way toward a fulfilling career as a CNC machinist in defense manufacturing. I am deeply grateful for PVA and ATDM's support, confident that their guidance will help me achieve my goals and make a meaningful impact in the industry."

MONTHLY IMPACT

11 Client Placements

- 6 Paid Employment
- 2 Education/Training
- 3 Volunteer
 - 10 Veterans
 - 1 Family Member
 - 1 Caregiver
 - 1 PVA Member
- The average salary for the 6 clients in full time employment was \$69,600.



2023 ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

It was another busy year for the Veterans Career Program staff as we assisted transitioning service members, veterans of all eras, their families and caregivers with finding meaningful careers.

In 2023, the Veterans Career Program placed 223 clients: 209 veterans, 14 family members, and 4 caregivers. The average salary for clients in full-time employment was \$71,062 (40% higher than the national average for veteran employment).

Our counselors maintained an active client list of 550+ veterans, military family members and caregivers; including 360 new clients.

Also in 2023, we held 88 Veterans Career Lives sessions covering Career Skills (43), Employer Sessions (20), Education (11), Small Business (10), Health & Wellness (3) and Financial Planning (1).

And lastly, we launched our Disabled Veterans Self-Employment program with the goal of offering training and counseling to PVA members and spouses interested in self-employment/small business start-up. We hosted two 10-week sessions for 30 PVA members and spouses (111 applications). We awarded \$10,000 in start-up grants (thanks to the Wells Fargo Foundation) to four participants as part of "Pitch Night" competitions.