

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

February 2024

A PARTNER FOR LIFE



PVA is a lifetime partner of the disabled veteran community, and Raymond Lopez' story exemplifies this fact. Mr. Lopez has been a client of the Veterans Career Program for almost 14 years. He joined our organization in June 2010 after he met one of our counselors at

the local spinal cord injury unit in San Diego, CA. A former Marine, Raymond sustained an injury that caused back issues and eventual partial paralysis. Raymond has a long history of working in the field of education, and loves working and mentoring students. In 2010, Raymond made the difficult decision to quit his full-time job as a campus supervisor at a local middle school in San Diego.

Raymond initially worked with our counselors to pursue part-time work. However, he had to take several breaks from his job search in order to focus on his health and family. In February 2022, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), Darah Gerou, reached out to Raymond to find out if he was ready to begin his job search again. In addition to providing Mr. Lopez job leads, Darah helped Raymond to understand how his Social Security benefits would be affected should he decide to go back to work. This was a cause of concern because his children receive medical insurance as a result of his benefits. Our VRC discussed options that alleviated many of Raymond's concerns.

Raymond was recently offered a part-time position as a teacher's aide at Lake Elsinore Unified School District. This position will not only allow him to care for his young family, but also, manage his health.

Raymond had this to say about the whole experience: "it's been a long time coming. 😊"

MONTHLY IMPACT

22 Client Placements

- 17 Paid Employment
- 4 Education/Training
- 1 Volunteer
 - 19 Veterans
 - 2 Active Duty
 - 1 Family Member
 - 2 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 15 clients in full time employment was \$75,995; and the average income for the 2 clients in part time employment was \$37,000.



SBA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS (ACVBA)



We are honored and excited to announce that Charles McCaffrey, PVA's Veterans Career Program Director, was elected to be the new chairman of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs (ACVBA). ACVBA was established to serve as an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the SBA

Administrator, the Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), Congress, the President, and other U.S. policymakers.

Charles is a Navy Veteran with over 35 years of military, government contracting and small business experience. He is also a serial entrepreneur, instructor, mentor and ardent supporter of the military-connected community. Charles has been 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 first Director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center for the Mid-Atlantic region (2015 – 2019). Prior to joining PVA in October 2021, he served as the Executive Director of Eastern Market Main Street (EMMS).