

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

March 2024

OPTIONS FOR RETRAINING: PART II



In our December 2023 Program Update, we introduced you to Army veteran, Rose Lopez. Rose 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 Vocational Rehabilitation 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). Rose applied for and was accepted into the program; and relocated to Virginia for training in late 2023.

We are extremely happy to announce that Rose has completed the ATDM program; and accepted a position as a CNC Programmer/Machinist and Business Development Associate with Integrity Industries in Clearwater, Florida.

Rose shared: *"Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program have been the guiding stars on my journey. Their unwavering dedication to empowering disabled veterans is beyond compare, and I owe them a debt of gratitude for shaping my path. With their unwavering support, I've embarked on a thrilling career as a CNC machinist in defense manufacturing.*

And now, with these exhilarating changes, I'm thrilled to announce my move to Florida and the purchase of my very first home. It's a testament to the transformative power of seizing opportunities and the boundless support I've been blessed with. With this newfound energy and inspiration, I eagerly anticipate the next chapter, knowing that with their steadfast backing, the sky's the limit."

MONTHLY IMPACT

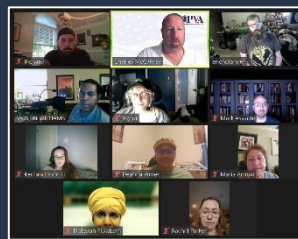
31 Client Placements

- 8 Paid Employment
- 21 Education/Training
- 2 Volunteer
 - 25 Veterans
 - 1 Active Duty
 - 5 Family Members
 - 18 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 4 clients in full time employment was \$56,842; and the average income for the 4 clients in part time employment was \$22,360.



Learn more about ATDM at <https://atdm.org/> and join us for an information session on ATDM on Tuesday, May 7th at 4PM ET. Register at <https://pva.org/find-support/veterans-career-program/veterans-career-live/>

EXPLORING SELF-EMPLOYMENT



According to the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force, but continue to turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative.

On Wednesday, March 13th, we launched our 3rd Cohort of the Disabled Veterans and Spouses Self-Employment Program. We received 69 applications (59 members, 4 spouses, 5 member/spouse teams and 1 member/caregiver team); and selected 20 participants at random. The program will run for 10 weeks (providing training, counseling and access to capital to PVA members and/or their spouses who are considering self-employment) culminating in Pitch Night on Wednesday, May 29th where we will award at least two \$2,500 small business start-up grants - thanks to a generous donation from the Wells Fargo Foundation.