

The Weekly Report

November 12th, 2021

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VE&E'S LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT



American Legion GI Bill exhibit helps dedicate new veterans resource center

“The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Salute to the GI Bill” will be on display from Nov. 1-14 at the Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello Building National Veterans Research Center.

The Veterans Employment and Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe of The American Legion also had a conversation with Ms. Misty Stutsman Fox the Director of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business portfolio at the Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) and Media and Communications Director Jeffrey Stoffer in regard to American Legion GI Bill exhibit.

The American Legion tribute to “The Greatest Legislation” will be part of events marking the dedication of a new home to the National Veterans Research Center at Syracuse University on Nov. 3.

The American Legion centennial museum exhibit that toured the country between 2017 and 2019 will once again help tell the story of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 and the organization’s role in bringing it to life. The exhibit will be on display during the dedication and celebration of the Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello building, home to the National Veterans Resource Center in Syracuse, N.Y.

The new facility at Syracuse University is home to the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, along with Army and Air Force ROTC, and represents the university’s commitment to cultivate and lead innovative academic, government and community collaborations that empower veterans. The IVMF received The American Legion’s prestigious Patriot Award in 2020.

Staff Meetings on Employment Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division had a follow-up meeting with Rolls-Royce. The purpose of the meeting was to explore further involvement in the VE&E's Employment Innovation Taskforce Group and American Legion Career Fairs. Rolls-Royce recently won a contract to replace engines for the B-52 planes and has facilities in Indianapolis. The American Legion's Executive Marketing Director and an Indianapolis-based Board member of Rolls-Royce's Veteran Connection Employee Resource Group were present to determine how both organizations can assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans in attaining gainful employment in the area.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division began initial preparations for the January 19 Career Fair by setting up the Premier Virtual platform event. Flyers for the event will be created for approval and subsequent dissemination on the week of November 15. Additionally, staff worked on a demo in the Premier Virtual platform to present to the Media and Communications Division. The demo highlights the platform's capabilities and real estate potential for possible sponsorships during Career Fairs. A one-pager detailing the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and limitations will be created to accompany the demo.

Also, VE&E staff researched Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports and federal agency annual metrics to examine veterans hiring practices in the public sector. The research will culminate in a white paper examining the impact of the Office of Personnel Management's efforts in hiring and retaining veterans in the federal workforce.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended a DOL VETS/ VSO virtual meeting. Its purpose was to inform stakeholders of the department's activities. DOL VETS provided updates on three existing Transition Assistance Program Initiatives: The Employment Navigator Partnership Pilot (ENPP), the Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses (TEAMS), and the Eightfold.AI Veteran Employment Challenge Pilot. New pilot programs introduced were the Wounded Warrior & Caregiver Employment Workshop and Off Base Transition Training Pilot, which will launch in January 2022.

Staff Meetings on Education Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with Elizabeth Belcaster and Lisa Lutz to discuss veterans' credentialing opportunities. VE&E is coordinating with various stakeholders to organize a roundtable focusing on the role of veterans' credentialing in resolving the workforce gap.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with the Media Division to discuss the Online Learning Report and a related Op-ed. The report is expected to be published in early December.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division participated in a veterans day ceremony hosted by American University and the American University Military Connected Club (AUMCC). Prominent veteran advocates and community members gathered to show support for veterans and recognize their service to the country.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division conducted a bill review on the Veteran Service Act for Representative Porter and Representative Levin. The bill would make Veteran Service Organizations eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. This bill is directed support by [Resolution No. 101: Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.](#)

Staff Meetings on Homelessness Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division assisted a veteran and his family experiencing homelessness in Florida. VE&E connected the veteran with VA and local community resources that provide shelter and other homelessness services. Staff will stay engaged and follow up with the veteran throughout the week.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division attended a hearing by the House Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations (Committee on Agriculture) on Hunger Among Veterans and Servicemembers: Understanding the Problem and Evaluating Solutions. Prominent researchers, advocates, and veterans testified on how servicemembers, veterans, and their families are experiencing hunger. The witnesses offered testimonials, statistics, and solutions regarding food insecurity affecting the military community.

Staff Meetings on Small Business Topics

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with representatives from Senator Tammy Duckworth's (D --IL) office on Wednesday, November 5th, to discuss the Legion's small business legislative priorities. The meeting resembled a similar format to the meeting that took place with Senator Rubio's (R – FL) office on November 5th. Among the issues highlighted were:

Resolution No. 150: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship: Like with Senator Rubio's Office Legion staff requested the Senator's support for a Senate counterpart to H.R. 4433 The Veterans Entrepreneurship Act, which would support a pilot program for allowing veterans to utilize G.I. Bill Funding for entrepreneurial endeavors.

Resolution No. 13: Mandatory Use of the Veterans First Contracting Program by the Department of Defense: The Legion expressed the need for the expansion of VETs First to the Department of Defense and other agencies and expressed concern with efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs to move away from the VETs First Program.

The Legion also conveyed concern with federal agencies, including USAID, not meeting their mandated 3% spending quota in procurement on SDVOSBs. The Legion will continue to engage in correspondence with Senator Duckworth's Office regarding these matters.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division conducted a roundtable with Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and Industrial Policy Jesse Salazar and the American Legion Small Business Task Force. Members of the Task Force expressed their challenges and concerns with current DoD acquisition policies and provided recommendations for potential solutions.

A key topic of interest within the discussion was the expansion of the VETs First acquisition model to the Department of Defense, as seen in **Resolution No. 13: Mandatory Use of the Veterans First Contracting Program by the Department of Defense**. Other salient topics brought to attention by task force members included rebuilding the mentor-protégé program, the need for a DoD Veteran Small Business Advisory Task Force, and increasing the current 3% federal spend mandate for SDVOSBs in federal agencies to 5%.

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