



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2015

Contact: Larry Krause
407-531-1222 ext. 2082
LKrause@careersourcecf.com

VETERANS BUSINESS INITIATIVE MATCHES VETS TO JOBS

Orlando, FL – CareerSource Central Florida is once again partnering with the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce to present the 2015 Veterans Business Initiative (VBI). This no-cost, 8-week program will run from February through March and features one 3-4 hour-long session per day for Veterans who are seeking entrepreneurship opportunities, employment, and continuing education.

“By creating the VBI we are embracing our returning war heroes and take every step necessary to ensure that they have the skills and technical knowledge needed for today's global workforce,” said Rogue Gallart, president of the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce. “We have a ready-made workforce for the 21st-century economy. From robotics to engineering, or aeronautics to biology, our veterans have practical knowledge and working experience in many of the fields that will fuel our future economy.”

Florida Hospital is the founding Trustee for this initiative, along with fellow Trustees Manpower, Regions Bank and the Orlando Business Journal. This free event provides US military veterans with invaluable access to several local companies for networking and interviewing opportunities and is available to all US Veterans, whether disabled or not.

Participating companies include Florida Hospital, Manpower, Regions Bank, Walt Disney World Parks & Resorts, Orlando VAMC, OneBlood, Primerica, Tijuana Flats, Rosen Hotels & Resorts, Amtis, UCF, Score and Universal Orlando Resort.

“Central Florida continues to grow at an extraordinary rate. We find ourselves at the forefront in regard to infrastructure advancement, job growth, and small business opportunity. Now is the ideal time to step up and provide our veterans with the tools, direction, and knowledge that will help them further their personal goals. Regions is proud to stand alongside our partners of the VBI and support this endeavor,” said Robert Minnetto, Regions Central Florida area marketing manager and vice president.

Additional services for Veterans include:

- Job leads throughout Central Florida to assist with outcomes of placement
- Veteran's job matching program
- Entrepreneurship education and training
- Federal employment navigation
- Financial training
- Personalized resume assistance
- Self-paced computer training
- Training grant information

- Salary and job market information
- Continuing education

“Veterans often tell me how they want an opportunity to speak with someone that will provide insight into hiring practices in a business,” said Joseph Patton, veterans’ program manager for CareerSource Central Florida. “The VBI was designed to address this gap between businesses and military veteran. It is a great opportunity to network with some of Orlando’s leading businesses and possibly interview for an open position.”

The Veterans Business initiative begins Thursday, February 5, 2015 with a kick-off event at the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce located at the National Entrepreneur Center, at 3201 East Colonial Drive, Suite A-120 in Orlando. FL 32803, where 100 highly-qualified Veterans will be selected for an opportunity to develop and refine their business acumen while receiving the tools, knowledge, and personal contacts needed to establish a meaningful career, advance their education, and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Veterans interested in applying for selection should complete the VBI registration form at the CareerSource Central Florida website, www.careersourcecentralflorida.com/VBI, no later than January 30, 2015.

Sponsors, employers and job offering organizations to support this initiative are welcome.

CareerSource Central Florida offers tools to find jobs and advance careers for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties. On average, the organization provides nearly 8,800 job seekers each month with services such as an online job bank, career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, career assessments and internships. It also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com.

#