

# Veteran Service Advisor Staff News Letter

(November 28, 2012)

This newsletter was created for the intent of keeping you informed of the Military and VA Communities. This newsletter is also a tool to communicate events and resources both at OSU and the community at large. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in the articles are not those of the Oregon State University Veterans Advisor Office or its counterparts.

**I want to encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone who is interested in receiving this newsletter on a continuous basis can sign up at <http://lists.oregonstate.edu/>. The name of the newsletter is "VetsNews".**

## **Military/VA Updates:**

### **Change in Legislation could result in Authorization for Non-VA Medical Services.**

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking direct final action to amend its regulation governing payment by VA for non-VA outpatient care under VA's statutory authority to provide non-VA care. Under this authority, VA may contract for certain hospital care (inpatient care) and medical services (outpatient care) for eligible veterans when VA facilities are not capable of providing such services due to geographical inaccessibility or are not capable of providing the services needed. This amendment revises VA's existing regulation in accordance with statutory authority to remove a limitation on which veterans are eligible for medical services under this authority.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective on January 28, 2013, without further notice, unless VA receives a significant adverse comment by December 28, 2012.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-28/html/2012-28778.htm>

### **Getting Veteran Students off the Sidelines**

The average traditional college student ranges in age from 18-22. In contrast, the matriculating student veteran ranges in ages from 22-42 with an average somewhere within the 23-27 age range. Many enter colleges and universities with some courses under their belt either online or acquired as part of education and training courses obtained during military service. As a result, most enter college skipping forward to their sophomore or junior year and missing the class-bonding period of a freshman year.

<http://www.military.com/education/getting-veteran-students-off-the-sidelines.html?comp=1198882887570&rank=7>

### **New VA Claims Coach App**

The American Legion has developed and launched a smartphone app to help veterans apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs for disability compensation. The "Claims Coach" app provides an applicant access to a certified Legion service officer, a resource guide, tips on working through each stage of the application, and a handy way to keep track of submitted documents. Read the full story on Military.com.

<http://www.military.com/military-report/new-va-claims-coach-app?ESRC=miltrep.nl>

### **VA secretary sees improvements in claims backlog**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki vows that major improvements are just over the horizon for veterans seeking benefits and health care. The 69-year-old retired four-star general and former Army

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chief of staff said that he knows veterans are frustrated by a complicated and lengthy disability claims process and by problems accessing VA's health-care system, but changing a large organization takes time. He has ambitious goals: eliminating the claims backlog and homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015. Meanwhile, he is expanding access to VA health care and improving programs for female veterans and for veterans in rural areas.

[http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20121118/NEWS01/211180314/VA-secretary-sees-improvements-claims-backlog?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20121118/NEWS01/211180314/VA-secretary-sees-improvements-claims-backlog?nclick_check=1)



## **G.I. JOBS Announces 2013 Top 100 Military Friendly Employers<sup>®</sup> List on MilitaryFriendly.com**

New digital site allows job seekers to find their own Military Friendly Employers<sup>®</sup> List The 10th annual list of Top 100 Military Friendly Employers<sup>®</sup> was released today on [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com), a new digital site highlighting companies with leading employment solutions for military. The list of 100 companies represents the top 2 percent of more than 5,000 eligible companies whose annual revenues exceeded \$500 million.

In its 10 years, the Military Friendly Employers list has significantly increased the quality of corporate programs aimed at recruiting veterans. Since 2003, the average percentage of veterans hired by companies on the list has grown 138%, the average number of full-time military recruiters has grown 68% and military recruiting budgets have grown 268%.

<http://www.militaryfriendly.com/>

## **Vice Chairman Commends Business Leaders for Hiring Veterans**

Hiring veterans is neither an act of charity nor patriotism, but a smart choice, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told business leaders at the start of the fifth annual "Business Steps Up: Hiring Our Heroes" event held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Thursday. As keynote speaker for the event, Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr. said he was there to "kick off what is a very important topic -- how to best serve the brave men and women who served our nation in uniform who are home looking for work," and how to best serve business people who want to hire quality people for their organizations.

<http://fortstewart.patch.com/articles/vice-chairman-commends-business-leaders-for-hiring-veterans>

## **Partnerships and patriotism**

PORTLAND, Ore. – Supporters came out in droves for a Hiring Our Heroes veterans career fair at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, here. The event boasted more than 100 employers, approximately 500 job seekers, and representatives from a wide variety of veterans' services organizations.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/98162/partnerships-and-patriotism#.UK0hjNewV8F#ixzz2CstkFumx>

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## **Upcoming Events:**

**April 9, 2012 - Veteran Resource Day for Staff Connection Program.**

More information to follow.

## **Veteran Resources:**

### **VetNet: A place for veterans and military spouses to build civilian careers**

For several years now, we've been working to help the veteran community through outreach programs and by connecting veterans and their families to useful Google products and services. For example, we've built tools like the Veterans Job Bank to connect veterans with employers, today populated with more than a million jobs. And we created a Resume Builder to help job-seekers represent their experience in just a few clicks with Google Docs.

After years of working with the community, we've come to realize that it isn't more tools that are needed, but rather organizing the ones that already exist, and making them easier to find. Perhaps the most complex challenge facing the veteran community today is the sheer volume of resources available to help them transition to civilian life. While this abundance is the measure of a grateful nation, and a tribute to those who served, in the end, the most important result is individuals and families getting the help they need.

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2012/11/vetnet-place-for-veterans-and-military.html>

### **OSU Veterans on Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAtOregonStateUniversity>.

### **OSU Veterans Website:**

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/>

### **Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:**

<http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx>

### **Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:**

<http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx>

### **OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-and-Family-Student-Association/25373662133527>

Thank you and have a great day.

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