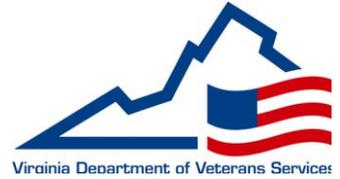


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Values Veterans Celebrates 1st Anniversary With Summit Conference in Richmond

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA— The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program held its 1st Anniversary V3 Summit on Wednesday, June 12 at Richmond’s Jefferson Hotel. Hosted by Bon Secours Health System, this event marked the completion of V3’s Pilot Year and the kickoff of the Fiscal Year 2014 V3 Program.

The V3 Program, an initiative driven by Governor McDonnell, in support of his goal to make Virginia the most Veteran Friendly state, encourages employers to recruit, hire, train and retain Veterans, National Guardsmen, and Reservists. The V3 Inter-Agency Team collaborates to bring together resources, best practices, and lessons learned to help connect Virginia’s employers with the men and women who have served our country in the military.

“The V3 Program is an outstanding way for businesses to gain valuable strategies for hiring employees who are talented, loyal, show up on time, take direction well, and thrive in a team environment,” said Paul Galanti, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. “Hiring veterans will be one of the best decisions these companies make.”

On Tuesday evening, June 11, V3 held a special reception at the Virginia War Memorial for 97 Virginia employers who have hired 2,150 veterans since June 2012. These employers, part of the first group of certified employers, have pledged almost 4,000 jobs for Veterans. The following day, June 12th, with 240 people in attendance, the V3 summit kicked off the largest of the eight V3 conferences held to date with opening remarks from Governor Bob McDonnell, who offered “I applaud the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the companies involved in this effort for doing their part to put these veterans to work after separating from military service, and to ensure that Virginia remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.”

The Honorable Kirk Cox of Colonial Heights, Majority Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates, served as the keynote speaker and noted “The Commonwealth has invested in V3 to expand this program because of the tremendous support it provides Virginia employers to help them hire and retain America's Veterans.”

Serving those who served.

During the Summit, the V3 Team presented Silver V3 Certification Awards to four employers and Bronze V3 Certification awards to 38 employers. Bronze certified employers are those who have met the initial qualifications and have pledged a percentage of their annual hiring forecast to Veterans. Those employers who have met their Bronze level hiring pledge and have committed to retaining a percentage of those new veteran hires for at least one year are awarded the V3 Silver Certification.

All employers recognized at the Summit demonstrated they realize the value veterans bring to the workforce and have led the way in making the Commonwealth of Virginia one of the best places for business and the most Veteran Friendly State in the Nation.

The V3 Program gratefully acknowledges the sponsors of this 1st Annual Summit Conference, including MeadWestvaco, Dominion Resources, CapitalOne, ManTech, Lockheed Martin, Scitor Corporation and Stratford University.

For more information and to become a V3 Certified Employer, please visit www.virgnavaluesvets.com.

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