

Veteran's Newsletter

July 2009

Welcome to the July edition of the Jefferson County Workforce Center's Veteran's Newsletter. If you have a subject you would like to see covered here, please email Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us.

Job Hunting in Denver, Colorado

By Linda Gaber

Area job hunters of all ages have the benefit of more prospects, higher high tech wages, plenty of green options and some hungry employers in certain occupations.

Denver is the seventh best U.S. city for recent college graduates to start their careers, according to a survey of college placement offices by job search web site CareerCast.com.

Denver and the other winning cities for first time job seekers have significant career opportunities and diversity.

Colorado ranks third in the country for its concentration of high technology jobs. High tech wages are near the top here as well. Average salaries for Colorado high tech employees are 97 percent higher than the private sector.

Denver ranks 27th among 100 urban technology centers, according to bizjournals.com. Criteria for the ranking include educational attainment of the workforce, and concentrations of information technology businesses and jobs.

If clean and green is the career target, Colorado has a large and fast growing role in America's clean energy economy. Green employers include Abound Solar in Loveland which designs and manufactures solar panels, and Fiberforge in Glenwood Springs which produces advanced composite materials used in lightweight and energy efficient vehicles. Nearly 60 percent of the jobs are in conservation and pollution mitigation sectors; 15.5 percent in clean energy; 9 percent in energy efficiency; 8 percent in environmentally friendly production; 7.5 percent in training and support.

Other metro Denver sectors showing hiring increases over 2008 continue to be education and health services, other services and government, according to Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. About 30 percent of employers are having trouble finding qualified workers, particularly for jobs in nursing, engineering and other skilled trades, according to the worldwide Talent Shortage Survey by Manpower Inc.

Other items of interest :

VA begins \$250 payments to veterans - As part of the national recovery plan, VA is making one time payments of \$250 to eligible veterans and survivors to offset the effects of the current economy. The VA estimates \$500 million in payments will be made to approximately 1.9 million veterans and eligible beneficiaries as part of this measure. To be eligible for the payment, VA beneficiaries must have received VA compensation,

pension, DIC, or spina bifida benefits at any time between November 2008 and January 2009. Beneficiaries also must reside within the U.S. or its territories.

VA Priority 8 ? You might be eligible for care - Restrictions have ended for some veterans who previously had been shut out of the VA health care system because they do not meet low income thresholds. Because of a new rule change, so called “Priority 8” veterans can enroll in the VA’s health care system more easily as of June 15th. Income will remain a consideration for priority treatment, with services going to those with fewer assets first. For more information, visit the VA’s health eligibility website at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility> or call 877 222-8387.

Featured Job : Government Law Enforcement – Use your military experience to get an exciting career in law enforcement. Search thousands of federal, state and local jobs in law enforcement. SecurityonMilitary.com.

We are here for you !

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Jefferson County Workforce Center place great emphasis on service to veterans. Especially to recently separated veterans and to those with a service connected disability or some other barrier to employment. If you feel you have a situation that is limiting your job readiness or hindering your job search or would just like some assistance with your job search, please call the Veteran Employment Representative at 303 271-4728 or email David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. He is located at the Laramie Building, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Co.

The Jefferson County Service Officer - The Jefferson County Service Officer assists veterans/dependents in filing claims for pension, compensation, health care, burial, education, home loan certification, life insurance, and other issues. Our Jefferson County Service Officer is Mr. Henry Mondragon. He can be reached at 303 271-4205 or hmondrag@co.jefferson.co.us. He is located at the Human Services Building, 900 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 170. His office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.