

Veterans' Newsletter

May 2008

Welcome to the May edition of the Jefferson County Workforce Center's **Veterans' Newsletter**. If you have a subject you would like to see covered here, please email either Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us or Del Atencio at datencio@jeffco.us.

Job Market Strategies for a Tough Economy

April was the fourth straight month that non-farm employment was down from a year earlier, according to the Labor Department. Here are some smart strategies that can help you land a position or advance in your company even in these uncertain economic times.

Don't Insist on "Ideal"

A good start for job seekers is to set pragmatic goals. In a sour economy you might have to settle for a situation that's not 100% ideal. Broaden your search to lesser-known firms and less glamorous roles. Just because you are not going to fall in love with a job doesn't mean you can't learn something from it and make some money. Remember the old saying, "it's easier to find a job when you have a job".

To identify career opportunities beyond what's advertised on Internet job boards, networking is critical. But don't just tap the usual suspects such as professors, relatives and friends. Also reach out to executives and hiring managers through professional networking web sites such as LinkedIn.com and Ryze.com. Another way to make connections is to join business associations and attend their chapter meetings, conferences and seminars.

Customize Your Approach

To boost your odds of landing job interviews, take the time to customize cover letters for every employer you target and show you know more about a firm than what's on its website. For example, you might mention a recent news story about the firm or its competitors or comment on something in the company's annual report.

Similarly, you'll help yourself stand out by tailoring your resume for every job you pursue. The one resume approach does not work. You have to go after openings in a very specific way so recruiters can see within five seconds how you are the perfect candidate for the job. Volunteer work can beef up your resume. If you just graduated with an accounting degree, volunteer to do the books for one of your favorite nonprofits.

Recession Proof Your Job

If you are already employed but concerned about your job security, now is the time to roll up your sleeves and work you're hardest. Offer to take on unpopular tasks that need to get done. Demonstrate you are flexible enough to take on different responsibilities within the company. Meanwhile, update your resume now in case you need to launch a job hunt on the fly. Make sure your networking efforts include professionals where you currently work. Meeting people in other areas of the company might open doors for you in a different department.

Finally, if a prolonged job hunt has you down, remember that getting hired in a sour economy often takes more time and effort than during robust times. Don't give up just because you have had 10 interviews and didn't get an offer – the more at bats you get, the better your chances of getting a hit.

Other items of interest

- Do you need a copy of your DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty? You can request a copy online from the National Personnel Records Center at www.archives.gov/veterans. On that site you will fill out a short questionnaire. Then you must print, sign, and date the signature verification form and either mail or fax to NPRC. Your DD214 will arrive in the mail within 10-15 days. If you need assistance with this, contact a Veterans Employment Representative at the Jefferson County Workforce Center.
- Should you go into business for yourself? Are you thinking of starting your own business? Where do you start? The Jefferson County and Arapahoe/Douglas County veterans employment representatives are hosting an **Entrepreneurial Seminar/Luncheon on Friday, May 30th at the Buck Recreation Center in Littleton, CO.**

Keynote speaker will be Don Strankowski, well-known career coach and motivational speaker. Don's presentation entitled, "Should You Become an Entrepreneur", will help participants determine if they have what it takes to become an entrepreneur. We will also have representatives from the Small Business Administration on site to discuss the various resources available for veterans seeking to start a new business.

Reservations are required for this event and seating is limited to the first 100 veterans that RSVP. Please email either Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us or Del Atencio at datencio@jeffco.us.

Upcoming Job Fairs and Hiring Events

Casino Job Fair May 13th 11am to 4pm

Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave, Golden, CO 80401

This job fair features many of the major casinos in Black Hawk and Central City. This is always a great opportunity for job seekers who are interested in starting a career in the casino industry. Come dressed for interview, bring copies of your resume, and be prepared to fill out applications.

Two job fairs especially targeted for veterans:

Buckley AFB Job Fair – May 29, 2008 at Hangar 909. 10am to 2pm.

Open to anyone with a DOD ID card. Over 70 employers will be present, on – the-spot interviews will be conducted, so bring your resume and be ready to interview and get hired!

RecruitMilitary Career Fair

May 29, 2008 at Invesco Field at Mile High from 11am to 3pm

We are here for you!

As always, the purpose of this newsletter is to inform our veteran job seekers of programs available at our workforce center to help them with their goal of finding employment. Please take some time and review the various workshops and assistance programs we have that can help you

with everything from putting together a resume or improving your interviewing skills to receiving financial assistance to help pay for a training program.

We want to hear from you – contact us if you would like assistance with your job search, and we can schedule a time to meet. Dave Alred dalred@jeffco.us and Del Atencio datencio@jeffco.us.