



*Veterans Employment Trajectory
(VET) Initiative*

10-Week Professional Workforce Immersion Program (2017)

The Veterans Employment Trajectory (VET) Initiative



Sponsored by the Prudential Foundation, the Veterans Employment Trajectory (VET) Initiative is designed to cultivate veterans' career advancement and workforce preparedness. This 10-week professional immersion program serves as a platform for increasing veterans' access to quality jobs and preparing them to transition from university life to the civilian working world.



Twenty-five (25) qualified student veterans from around the country will be selected to participate in the VET Initiative in Washington D.C., from May 24–August 5, 2017. Through key partnerships, career advancement sessions and professional immersion, the VET Initiative provides veterans with the tools and resources not only to overcome obstacles in the workforce, but also to translate and enhance their leadership experiences for civilian life.



Program Components

- **Internship** providing a professional workforce immersion experience with an organization that fits the participant's interest, skills and experience as a veteran (four days per week)
- **Professional Advancement Colloquium** enhancing career advancement competencies specific to veteran strengths and challenges through coursework, workshops, career coaching, development of a career strategy plan, career fair and site visits to organizations in a variety of sectors (one day per week)

VET Initiative at a Glance

410

Hours of Professional Immersion



320

Hours at Internship Site



90 Hours of Professional Advancement Colloquium

25

Hours of Accelerated Career Track Programming

15

Hours of Career Strategy Development and Coaching



30 Hours of Competencies Advancement Course



20

Hours of Career Fair and VET Summit



Support Mechanisms

- **VET Mentor Network** connecting program participants with fellow veterans who are also professional leaders in a variety of sectors and providing a platform for sharing knowledge and problem solving in the veteran community. All program participants will be matched with a mentor at the start of the program.
- **VET Summit** providing the opportunity to hear from and engage with experts and leaders at the Prudential Foundation headquarters during a one-day conference in Newark, NJ that focuses on participants' career success needs and experiences as veterans
- **VET Workforce Transition Resources** providing participants with valuable career development and veteran resources that will be consulted throughout the participants' program and career

Additional Resources:

- **Evening Academic Course** (optional) to help earn academic credit in the participant's academic field
- **Internship Site Visit** by program staff ensuring each participant's skills application and progress at their internship
- **Civic Engagement** allowing further skills and network development through volunteering and advocacy opportunities
- **Access to TWC's Student Services** including career development, social and networking events, health services, disability services and 24/7 support in case of an emergency
- **Accommodation** in TWC's state-of-the-art housing facilities located in D.C.'s NoMa district right near the U.S. Capitol

Program Learning Objectives

Through the VET Initiative, participants will:

- Develop a strong understanding of their skillsets and abilities, how their military experience translates to civilian employment, as well as what their niche is in the civilian workforce
- Enhance their understanding of the civilian sector and the required competencies for employment
- Establish a strong support network with fellow veterans through the exploration of community identity
- Strengthen key skills such as self-marketing, leadership, networking, oral and written communication, conflict resolution, critical thinking and problem-solving through participation in guided discussions, workshops, a career strategy plan and other program activities

Key Partners

The VET Initiative was developed and launched in partnership with the Prudential Foundation based on its desire to positively impact veterans. Additional partnerships stem from TWC's strong network of more than 100 like-minded organizations with a vested interest in and commitment to our nation's veteran community. These supporters, many of whom are veterans, will serve as internship site supervisors, instructors, career coaches and mentors, united in achieving the goal of better preparing veterans to obtain quality jobs in the civilian job market. TWC believes in the power of partnerships and networks. Through the right combination of resources and tools, VET Initiative participants will benefit from an integrated infrastructure of opportunity.

For more information, please visit www.twc.edu/veterans



About The Washington Center

The Washington Center's 40 years of experience in equipping thousands of college students and young professionals with the right work competencies and access to quality jobs and career mobility includes:

- Providing internships in almost all fields and sectors in hundreds of nonprofit, international, private sector and government agencies in Washington, D.C.
- Federal Diversity Internship Initiative with 12 governmental agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Leadership Initiative for Students with Disabilities
- Serving over 50,000 alumni from all U.S. states, territories and other countries, nearly 30% of whom are from diverse backgrounds
- Advancing first-generation college students, who make up nearly 1/3 of TWC's student body

Important Dates

- **Application deadline:**
February 15, 2017, 11:59 p.m. EST
- **2017 program dates:**
May 24–August 5, 2017

Scholarship Information

The scholarship, funded by the Prudential Foundation, covers most expenses (over a \$14,000 value) including:

- Program fees
- Housing*
- Financial aid of \$2,000**
- Transportation, hotel and food during the VET Summit in Newark, NJ

**Participants will be housed at TWC's state-of-the-art fully furnished residential facilities.*

***Financial aid will be provided within two weeks of the start of the program and will be taxable.*

Contact veterans@twc.edu to discuss options for applicants with dependents or individuals with unique circumstances.

Eligibility

- Honorably discharged veterans who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program when applying
- Veterans with a strong desire to excel in their civilian professional life and obtain a high quality job post-service

How to Apply

Complete the VET Initiative application online by **February 15, 2017**. The following are required in order to submit the application:

- Resume
- Unofficial transcript
- DD214 form
- Two letters of recommendation
- Statement of professional interest
- Issues essay

Once the application deadline has passed, TWC will review applications and contact the most highly qualified candidates to complete an interview for the selection process.

For more details and to apply, visit www.twc.edu/veterans.

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