

It Makes Sense to Hire a Veteran

Written by Press-Tribune Staff
Friday, 05 October 2012 09:48 -



It's not often we can follow a story long enough to determine success or failure. However, thanks to the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, we have one such story.

A media release sent out by the Chamber Thursday chronicles the progress of a military veteran who took part in a veterans' job fair recently. Her story follows:

It was just over six months ago that Air Force veteran Kristen Roohani attended the veterans Job and Resource Fair. This month she's on the other side of the hiring booth as an employee of Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Inc. and working hard to help veterans and their families find meaningful work.

"There are a lot of things that veterans bring to the table," said Roohani. "We have leadership experience; we're organized and have time management skills." During her 10 years in the Air Force, Roohani helped Airmen become mission oriented and acclimate to their assignments. Now at Goodwill, she helps job seekers transition into the workforce with resume and application guidance.

Roohani is hoping to share her experience and help others at the Hiring our Heroes event.

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According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for veterans in 2011 was 8.3 percent. That's a lot of well-trained workers not using their skills abilities to help businesses.

Why hire veterans? Here are some reasons from [Veterans Today](#) :

Accelerated Learning Curve

Veterans have the proven ability to learn new skills and concepts. In addition, they can enter your workforce with identifiable and transferable skills, proven in real world situations.

Leadership

The military trains people to lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, motivation and inspiration. Veterans understand the practical ways to manage behaviors for results, even in the most trying circumstances.

Teamwork

Veterans understand how genuine teamwork grows out of a responsibility to one's colleagues. Military duties involve a blend of individual and group productivity.

Diversity and Inclusion in Action

Veterans have learned to work side by side with individuals regardless of diverse race, gender, geographic origin, ethnic background, religion and economic status as well as mental, physical and attitudinal capabilities.

Efficient performance under pressure

Veterans understand the rigors of tight schedules and limited resources. They have developed the capacity to know how to accomplish priorities on time, in spite of tremendous stress.

Integrity

Veterans know what it means to do "an honest day's work." Prospective employers can take advantage of a track record of integrity, often including security clearances.

Conscious of health and safety standards

Thanks to extensive training, veterans are aware of health and safety protocols both for themselves and the welfare of others.

Locals will have a chance to tap into the veteran job-seeker market this month.

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The job fair is a joint effort by the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, the US Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries and the City of Bossier City. The job fair is Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Bossier Civic Center.

Businesses and Job Seekers are encouraged to register for the free Hiring our Heroes event now at www.bossierchamber.com. For more information, call the Chamber at 318-746-0252.