



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

PROJECT/REQUEST

LOCATION

Systemwide

Veterans Re-entry
Education Program

\$1,800,000



Project at a Glance

Provide specifically designed career and education services to military veterans, National Guard members and Reservists

- Enhance veterans' employment success upon returning to civilian homes and communities

Project Description

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, proposes to establish a highly integrated and coordinated system of services developed for online and "land-based" delivery to meet the career exploration and training and education needs of Minnesotans returning from active duty.

With continuing military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, approximately 215,000 new veterans separate each year across the nation from the active service. Increasingly, these servicemen and women, Guard members and Reservists have served multiple tours or have had their service extended beyond original expectations. Given the financial strains on these individuals and their families,

the employment success of a returning veteran takes on new importance.

In addition, there is an increasingly high rate of unemployment for recently separated 20- to 24-year-old veterans, which may be related to their challenging military service overseas and their lack of experience in the domestic job market. The unemployment rate for this age group is nearly 17 percent, compared with 10 percent for their non-veteran peers.

The goal of this project is to secure the rapid civilian re-employment of all separating veterans in Minnesota, with special attention given to younger veterans and those who are medically discharged or disabled.

ISEEK, the Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge, is a Minnesota Web-based gateway to career, employment, education and business development information and services. ISEEK provides information in four main areas: career exploration, education opportunities and information, employment (job bank), and resources for business startup and growth. Information comes from a



Minnesota veterans returning from active duty need career explorations, training and education opportunities.

variety of public agencies, corporations and private organizations. The excellent and strong collaboration among these organizations and agencies through the ISEEK.org Web site has enabled Minnesota to provide a vital link between employers and prospective workers.

The project will make it possible for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the state Department of Employment and Economic Development, and Veterans Affairs representatives and counselors coordinate closely to serve veterans interested in pursuing education, including programs customized for veterans' needs through

ISEEK's Training Fulfillment Center. The partner organizations will develop both land-based and Web-based information as part of the strategy for service.

Included in the service strategy will be development of veteran-specific electronic portfolio and electronic advising tools; an interest and skills inventory; cross-walks of military and civilian skills; a career choice tool based on skills learned during military service; veteran-specific labor market information and job opportunities; academic assessments; information on obtaining licenses and certifications; apprenticeship opportunities for vets; and

the most up-to-date information about education, careers and business startup opportunities.

Participants in the project will be drawn initially from the Transition Assistance Programs sponsored by the Department of Employment and Economic Development, which provide newly returning Minnesota National Guard members, Reservists and their spouses with critical information for making the transition to civilian lives. Offered for the first time in Minnesota, the Transition Assistance Programs are a two-day intensive service helping participants enroll in veteran benefits and obtain counseling and resources for employment. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will develop its tools and services to complement this expanded programming, with the expectation that additional existing service members will be reached through representatives and counselors at the state colleges and universities, WorkForce Centers and community service agencies.

Project Contact:

Michael Murphy
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Strategic Partnerships
Minnesota State Colleges and
Universities
Phone: (651) 282-5516
Fax: (651) 296-3214
michael.murphy@so.mnscu.edu

Partners:

- ISEEK Solutions
- Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, Veterans Employment Services
- Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
- U.S. Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

WELLS FARGO PLACE
30 7th St. E., Suite 350
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-7804

ph 651.296.8012
fx 651.297.5550
www.mnscu.edu

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