



From Service to Science: Veteran Transition Initiatives @ Fermilab

Office of Equity, Diversity Inclusion and Accessibility

International Particle Physics Outreach Group Conference

30 Nov 2023

VALOR (Veteran Applied Laboratory Occupational Retraining) Program

VALOR is a right-sizing of Fermilab's award-winning VetTech program. The new program expands opportunities for military veterans by providing multiple entry points for STEM-based technical learning and training that lead to consideration for full-time employment.

VALOR JROTC

Paid, six-week summer internship for Illinois JROTC high school juniors, seniors, and recent graduates. Interns provide technical support for an experiment or research group. Supervision and direction by a Fermilab employee. Interactions with project teams, scientists, engineers, and support personnel.

VetTech Program

Paid, six-week summer internship for military veterans to intern as a technician to fabricate, assemble, calibrate, operate, test, repair or modify a variety of electronic or mechanical equipment, systems, devices or databases. Information technology, procurement, and ES&H opportunities are also available.

VALOR Apprenticeship

Paid, six-month training and career exploration for military veterans at the beginning of their civilian careers. Primary focus - developing and demonstrating technical proficiencies. The apprentice may fabricate, assemble, calibrate, operate, test, repair/modify electronic/mechanical equipment, systems, devices, or databases.

DoD SkillBridge : Office of Military Affiliated Communities-University of Chicago

Purpose

- Opportunity for service members to gain valuable work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of military service.

Goal

- Build a rich workforce pipeline of trained technical, and computing and procurement professionals, to fill critical roles as incumbents retire.

Benefit

- No cost for workforce training
- Job training and work experience for active military
- Strengthens our commitment to military communities
- Pathway to long-term employment security

Division/Directorate Support

- Accelerator Directorate
- Environment Safety and Health
- Finance and Procurement
- Infrastructure Services
- Security and Emergency Management

Recruitment Strategy: Outreach and Partnerships

VetTech

- College of DuPage GMC
- IL Dept of Employment Security
- US Dept of Veteran Affairs (Hines/Jesse Brown)

VALOR

- University of Chicago OMAC
- City Colleges of Chicago
- Naval Great Lakes Station

VALOR JROTC

- Airforce Academy High School
- CPS Department of JROTC
- East Aurora High School
- Lindblom Math and Science Academy
- Marmion Academy
- West Aurora High School

Career Networking/Events

- Chicago Brigade
- Hire Vets
- NIU Spring Career Fair
- Students Veterans of America
- Women's Veteran Alliance
- Wounded Warriors Project

Resources and Engagement: Veterans Lab Resource Group

Veterans Laboratory Resource Group

A resource for military veterans, families and friends of military service men and women at Fermilab.

Leadership: Brian Niesman • Brandon White • Chandler Lawrence

Executive Sponsor: Susan Simpkins

Current Veterans employed: ~125

Resources and Engagement: Courageous Conversations

News at work

COVID-19 resources for employees

Calendar

Search all laboratory news

From lab leadership

Submit content – login required

Provide feedback

Subscribe to our newsletter – login required

Fermilab news

Search

Upcoming events

MAY
04
Thu
CSAID Roadmap - Facility Evolution
CS/ FCC1W-FCC122 - Feynman Computing Center
1st FI West
🕒 11:00 am

MAY
FSPA Early Career Seminar

Virtual Wellness Wednesday and Inclusion Matters workshop: How World Events Can Impact Veterans' Mental Health

May 2, 2023



On Wednesday, May 17, the Benefits and Wellbeing Office, the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility and the Veterans Group will co-sponsor a Wellness Wednesday workshop as part of the Inclusion Matters 2023. The How World Events Can Impact Veterans' Mental Health workshop will be facilitated live by ComPsych-EUAP from 1-2 p.m. (CT).

Current events can be triggering for veterans, impacting their mental health and overall well-being. In trying to make sense of world events, veterans often experience emotional, behavioral, cognitive and physical reactions. These reactions can lead veterans in distortions, further impacting their view on themselves, others and world events. This session will help veterans process events around the world that may impact their mental health. Additionally, relatives of military veterans and friends will benefit from this training by discovering ways to be supportive.

How World Events Can Impact Veterans' Mental Health

- Wednesday, May 17, 1 p.m. Central
- [Click here](#) to register

The on-demand recording will be available via the same link 24 hours after the live webinar.

To connect with the employee assistance program, visit guidancesresources.com and create an account following the instructions outlined [here](#) (login services required).

Visit [Fermilab Wellbeing website](#). For any questions, please contact Lucy Ontiveros (lucina@fnal.gov) or Anahi Ruiz Beltran (anahirb@fnal.gov).

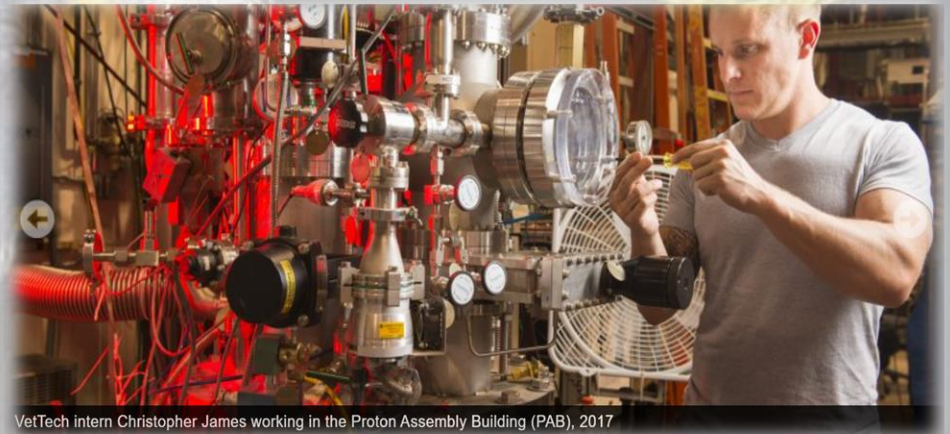
Tagged: EDIA, Inclusion matters, mental health, veterans, wellness, workshop

Success At-Glance: Conversions



Christopher James

- VetTech Intern 2017
- Neutrino Division Mechanical Technician
- SQMS Staff Engineer I Hired 2019
- VetTech/VALOR Supervisor



VetTech intern Christopher James working in the Proton Assembly Building (PAB), 2017

Converting Veteran Interns to Employees



Small Business Liaison Officer
Finance and Procurement
Hired 2023



Cybersecurity Specialist
Accelerator Directorate
Hired 2023



Financial Analyst
Finance and Procurement
Hired 2023



Area Facilities Manager
Infrastructure Services Division
Hired 2023

Connect with us!



More information:

- [Internships.fnal.gov](https://internships.fnal.gov)



Contact: Internships@fnal.gov