

For Immediate Release –
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL VETERANS HAVE ACCESS TO GOLD CARD INITIATIVE FOR JOB LOCATION

Local post-9/11 Veterans are being offered ‘Gold Card’ services—intensive assistance through the local Job Centers and the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) to help in the seeking of appropriate employment location.

Offered through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the Gold Card program offers services such as case management, skills assessment and interest surveys, career guidance, and job search assistance. The program resulted from a national effort to lower veterans’ unemployment and ensure that service members are able to navigate the difficult labor market and succeed in the civilian workforce.

Over 1 million service members are projected to leave the military between 2011 and 2016. “We need to do more for our veterans,” said SWWDB Executive Director Robert Borremans. “The SWWDB has an ongoing commitment to serve these individuals who have given so much to our country.” He added that employers interested in hiring veterans should work through the local job center indicating opportunities they may have available. They can contact the Business Services Managers—either Nancy Flanagan in the southwest region at 1370 N. Water St., Platteville, phone (608) 342-4220, Ext. 227, n.flanagan@swwdb.org, or Eric Kuznacic at the Rock County Job Center, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville, phone (608) 741-3502, e.kuznacic@swwdb.org.

“We’re centering on eliminating barriers to employment faced by our local veterans,” said Charles Jones, Veterans’ Services Rep at the Rock County Job Center. He said that by increasing the collaboration between the VETS-funded programs and the Job Centers, he is hopeful any barriers to employment would be eliminated.

Borremans said increased efforts will be made to streamline the process of job seeking services for Gold Card members. “Oftentimes job search services seem complex and challenging,” Borremans said. “By offering enhanced in-person services for the Gold Card holders we can eliminate many of those impediments our vets encounter.”

Veterans seeking Gold Card services can also learn about an enhanced 'suite' of on-line tools launched as a part of this program. On My Next Move for Veterans (www.MyNextMove.org/vets) participants will find a simple and quick search engine where they can enter their prior military experience to link to information needed to explore civilian careers and related training. This site also contains a link to an on-line assessment, the O*NET Interest Profiler, which provides results comparable to the Strong Interest Inventory. Dedicated veterans resources located on the Career One-Stop web site at <http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip> also allows veterans to quickly identify civilian job openings related to their prior military experience.

In addition, a virtual job fair is being offered on-line on November 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) in partnership with Milicruit.com. Veterans may preregister for the fair at <http://www.veteranscareerfair.com>. Vets may log in and visit employer booths, view job openings, apply for jobs, watch employer videos and presentations, chat live with recruiters, and complete on-the-spot video interviews. They may also interact with VetSuccess counselors to learn more about VA benefits.

Information about the Gold Card Services can be found at www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html. Those interested can also contact Charles Jones the Rock County Job Center at 1900 Center Ave., Janesville, WI 53546, phone (608) 289-4689. Those in the southwest region can contact either WIA Case Manager-- Lena Robinson or Brian Kitelinger at 1-800-362-332, Ext. 2339 or 2416, respectively, or e-mail bkitelinger@swtc.edu or hrobinson@swtc.edu. Information about other services and benefits can be found at www.ebenefits.va.gov/ and www.nationalresourcedirectory.org.

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