

OUR MISSION:
PROGRAMMING

To execute class-leading programming to provide knowledge, skills, and resources which empower informed decision-making; to leverage innovative service-delivery mechanisms which achieve both efficient and effective training outcomes; to leverage research and robust assessment which facilitates continuous improvement.



PROGRAMMING

The IVMF programs have continued growth, opening new opportunities for transitioning veterans and spouses as they build businesses, begin training and education, and launch careers. The Veteran Career Transition Program expanded to military spouses, added an individual learner track, and added HR certifications to over 30 industry-standard IT and operations certification tracks. VetNet, built with and powered by Google+, expanded its reach to over 200,000 followers, providing online entrepreneurship and career readiness education. Included in DoD's Transition Assistance Program, Operation Boots to Business delivered two-day trainings with the SBA to service members at over 125 military bases, with over 250 students enrolling in our 8-week instructor-led distance education phase. The V-WISE program reached nearly 600 military/veteran women and female military/veteran spouses in Jacksonville, Chicago, Seattle, and Denver. In Chicago, IVMF convened the first Women Veteran Homelessness Summit with experts from VA, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, previously homeless veteran women, and the agencies that serve them, generating new bi-monthly homelessness reports and a summary publication. Finally, EBV delivered entrepreneurship training to 150 veterans with disabilities and veteran families (EBV-F) at eight consortium universities, and hosted the 3rd Annual EBV National Training and Alumni Conference for 155 program graduates in Dallas, Texas.

ENABLING VETERANS SUCCESS

“BUILDING ON THE PAST TO A BETTER FUTURE”

Mike Gdula is not your traditional intern. He prefers to say he's “seasoned.” After all, Gdula has four degrees: three Bachelor's and one Master's, plus Air Force Meritorious Service and Commendation Medals and a rich LinkedIn profile that details a considerable technical background.

And he's not an intern with just any company either. The Air Force Reservist is spending six months immersed in JPMorgan Chase's IT Department – an in-depth exposure to the financial IT world and after just a few weeks, Gdula says he already feels like he's part of what he calls, “the inner circle.”

“I thought I brought a lot to the table with my skill set,” says Gdula. “But I'm working with a group of geniuses.”

So how did he score such a golden opportunity? It started with the Veterans Career Transition Program (VCTP) – a deal which sounded so promising, Gdula almost passed it up.

“I thought it was a hoax,” he says. “It sounded too good to be true.”

During his high-caliber military career Gdula served largely in IT roles – specifically project management, systems analysis and cyber security. But in order to best-on-ramp and advance in the civilian sector he still needed advanced level industry certificates.

Enter the Institute for Veteran's and Military Families (IVMF) and a generous grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. which funds the VCTP's three learning tracks: the Professional Skills Track, Independent Study Track and the Tech Track as well as covers some of the high-dollar exam fees. Gdula applied to the Tech Track, sailed through the courses and the final exam. Afterwards, JPMorgan reached out to Gdula and offered him a coveted spot on their team.

“It's right up my alley,” he says. “Hopefully I'm making a contribution to their infrastructure.”

Gdula recently received an offer from JPMorgan – he'll be joining their Cyber Security Team after his internship concludes – proving VCTP's worth as an invaluable stepping stone.

As Gdula says, “Each day is a gift and I'm grateful for the opportunity to prove myself.” With curricula designed in collaboration with Syracuse University's iSchool, informed by the needs of the private sector, and over 600 veterans who have gone through the program or are currently enrolled, the generous support from JPMorgan Chase & Co. promises to continue changing lives like his for years to come, empowering veterans to make the most of their already broad skillset and continue to advance in their careers.

