



Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas

"Career Development & Financial Education Seminar 2013"

After Action Report

Friday-Saturday, April 5-6th, 2013

Cedar Valley College
3030 North Dallas Avenue
Lancaster, TX 75134

The Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas (VCNCT) hosted its second annual "Career Development & Financial Education Seminar 2013". The event was hosted by Cedar Valley College and began on Friday, April 5th with Career Development preparation. Upon arrival attendees signed in and received seminar bags with resource information. The attendees were then given breakfast, sponsored by Taco Cabana, as they waited for the event to begin, and midway through the day lunch. The event was opened by Bishop DD. Hayes of the DFW International Airport Chaplaincy and Nekima Booker served as the seminars hostess, for the first day. The President of Cedar Valley College, Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, gave a sincere welcome to attendees as she educated them on the many opportunities of Cedar Valley has to offer and closed with powerful words of encouragement in their future endeavors. Attendees were trained and educated by experts with more than a combined 100 years of expertise in their fields. The speakers covered the following topics:

1. **Resume Building:** Manual Washington, Federal Resume Shoppe
2. **HR 101 How to win the Interview:** Speaking the Same Language: Fred Jones, Jones 2000
3. **How to Start and Build a Business:** Entrepreneurship 101: Jim Reid, Momentum Texas
4. **How to Prepare for Your Interview:** Don Carter, the Cart Group

Speakers had one hour to give handouts, use examples, and conducted open dialogue with the attendees answering questions and giving further detail where needed. The goal of each speaker was to better equip attendees with information and the confidence to better prepare an effective resume, properly communicate their skill set on the resume matching it to various announcements, what to expect in an interview, how to properly communicate their skill set verbally once in an interview, preparation to win in an interview being offered a position, how to build and manage your own business, properly prepare to be a successful business owner, and how to locate resources.

Our Honorary Guest Speaker was Peter Dancy, Associate Director of the VA North Texas Health Care System. Mr. Dancy is a US Army Veteran, having served 22 years of Military Service. Mr. Dancy addressed the attendees by sharing his personal story and motivating them to identify and develop their own success stories.

Attendees also had the opportunity to break and speak to Exhibitors, learning of a myriad of Veteran Service Organizations and available resources offered by Coalition Members. The attending exhibiting organizations were as follows:

1. **Operation Healthy Reunions:** Provides free and confidential counseling services.
2. **Cedar Valley College:** Providing outreach, education opportunities, and VA Educational Benefits.
3. **Dallas Urban League:** Offering SSVF Support Service Housing.
4. **Momentum Texas:** Providing information on Entrepreneurship.
5. **REACH:** Providing services to Veterans with disabilities, peer support, and resource referrals.
6. **Texas Veterans Commission:** Providing advocacy, claims assistance, and employment services.
7. **UT Arlington Veterans Upward Bound:** Providing resources for transition from service to school.
8. **VA North Texas Health Care System:** Receiving qualified resumes and registration for services.
9. **Starlite Recovery Center:** Offering confidential counseling services to Military families.
10. **Parker College:** Offering education benefits and transition assistance from Service to school.
11. **Dallas County Vet Center(Mesquite):** Offering counseling services to Veterans.

12. **Jones 2000 and Beyond:** Providing education of career development and preparation.
13. **Builders of Hope:** Offering information on receiving a free home or home upgrades.
14. **Dallas County Veterans Services Office:** Providing information on VA claims and benefits.

On the second day of the seminar, attendees were served breakfast as they checked in and lunch midway. Cedar Valley College Chief Community Development Officer Patricia Davis welcomed the attendees congratulating them on their decision to return and further educate themselves. She also gave an overview of programs and certifications offered by Cedar Valley. Major General James Williams USMC (ret) served as the Host for the day, opening with a warm welcome and an overview of the day. There were a total of six speakers for the day covering the following topics:

1. **Fixed, Indexed, and Variable Annuities-**Ray Smith, Regional Leader, Primerica
2. **Long Term Care Insurance, Legal Protection, Auto and Home Insurance, Debt Management Strategies (Debt Stacking, FICO Scores, ID Theft)-**Wendy Day, Regional Vice President, Primerica
3. **Small Business Professionals and Investing/Helping Your Fellow Veterans:** Mitch Stevens, Regional Vice President, Primerica
4. **100,000 Jobs Mission:** Janet Ware and Thomas Freeman, JP Morgan Chase

Attendees were given a "How Money Works" booklet to follow along as speakers had one hour to educate attendees on various aspects of proper budgeting, investing, adequate insurance coverage, debt management, and tips on how to be successful when attending the JP Morgan Chase 100,000 jobs Mission the following week. Attendees were able to dialogue and interact with speakers as they gave examples, personal experiences, and knowledge regarding their topics. The presenters offered a total of twenty plus years' experience apiece regarding financial education. As a continuation of our Education Initiative, our partners at Primerica will host a free "Financial Coaching" one day seminar to attendees and their families. Attendees will be offered a personal financial coach and additional information on how to manage the income they have, future income, and build wealth. The seminar will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the Dallas Primerica office.

After the last speaker, each exhibitor shared their contact information and an overview of their services to ensure every attendee had knowledge of the resources available to them. The day closed with two attendees, the oldest and youngest Veteran, winning \$25 gift cards, provided by the Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas.

There was a total of 11 volunteers, assisting with registration, check-in, food, and general information, representing various organizations. Cedar Valley provided 5 student volunteers representing various school organizations. The volunteering Coalition Members were the following:

1. **Tarsyia Waddell:** Raytheon and the Tuskegee Airmen Organization
2. **Stanly Johnson:** Military Veteran and Parker College Representative
3. **Reggie Smith:** Military Veteran
4. **Patrick Alcorn:** Military Veteran
5. **Georgia Richey:** Green Collar Vets
6. **Laura Tshida:** CDC
7. **Barbara Jacobs:** CVC Student

8. **Rosalinda Rodriguez:** CVC Student
9. **Isamar Lupercio:** CVC Student
10. **Iran Pedrala:** CVC Student
11. **Bernadette Washington:** CVC Student

There were a total of 52 attendees for the seminar, including participating exhibitors whom were also Military Veterans. The following is a breakdown of attendees, that reported, omitting Veteran Exhibitors that participated/attended:

Army	16	OIF/OIF	8
Navy	2	Vietnam	3
Air Force	6	Desert Storm	4
Marine	4	Gulf War	1
Coast Guard	1		
Nat. Guard	1	Total reported Years Served	273.7
Unidentified	22		

A sincere thank you to our sponsors, in which all would not have been possible without your support:

1. Cedar Valley College
2. Taco Cabana
3. Mental Health America
4. Commissioner Maurine Dickey
5. Arria Inc.

*Evaluation summaries are available upon request.