



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

April 13, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will host the National Veterans Conference in Detroit from June 25-29, 2012. The three major facets of this National Conference include: the National Veterans Small Business Conference, the Veterans Open House, and a Veterans Hiring Fair. The VA for Vets program is sponsoring the Veterans Hiring Fair, which will take place on June 26-28 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event will be held at Detroit's COBO Center, One Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.

The current employment picture for Veterans is improving but we still need your help. As some of America's best and brightest young men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan they face high levels of unemployment across our county. As a member of industry, I believe that you share my concern. I invite you to partner with VA to demonstrate your commitment to Veterans who have given so much to our Nation by providing Veterans with access to job opportunities within your organization. In turn, VA will provide you with access to thousands of qualified Veterans to fill your vacancies.

VA sponsored the Department's first Hiring Fair and Expo in Washington, DC, on January 18, 2012. This VA sponsored hiring event yielded successful results with more than 600 Veterans receiving tentative job offers.


We expect the Detroit event to generate significant national media coverage as 10,000 Veterans converge on Detroit from the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania. In addition to having access to job opportunities, Veterans will be able to explore other areas of the conference, attend training courses on resume building and interviewing techniques, and meet with professional career coaches.

VA's goal is to reaffirm its commitment to Veterans by providing them with meaningful employment opportunities in the public and private sectors.

If you have any questions regarding this event or need further information, contact Mr. Dave Thomas, Special Assistant to the Secretary, at DavidJ.Thomas@va.gov or (202) 461-4873 or Ms. Mary M. Santiago, Director, Veterans Employment Service Office, at Mary.Santiago2@va.gov or (202) 461-7759. Please register no later than May 15, 2012, at vaforvets.va.gov/Detroit.

I thank you on behalf of all our Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,


John R. Gingrich
Chief of Staff

Enclosure