# NASWA 2019 Veterans Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, August 6:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Hosted Breakfast (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Penn Quarter AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Veterans Committee Meeting (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Break (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Constitution Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon to 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hosted Lunch (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Penn Quarter AB</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Constitution Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Early Registration</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
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</tbody>
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## Wednesday, August 7:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Hosted Breakfast (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Penn Quarter AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference registration</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibitor Set-Up</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Veterans Committee meeting (committee members &amp; invited guests only)</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Virtual Career Event (tentative)</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exhibit Showcase</td>
<td>Independence Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
<td>Independence Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference Opening Ceremonies</td>
<td>Independence Ballroom</td>
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- Introductions by Mike Slater*, Strategic Outreach Specialist, USDOL VETS
- Welcome to the Sixth Annual NASWA Veterans Conference by Beth Townsend*, Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development, and Chair, NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee
- Colors presented by Joint Armed Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington* (invited)
- The National Anthem sung by Dennis Wimer*, Executive Director, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
- The Pledge of Allegiance led by Ryan Thompson*, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
- Introduction of the NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee members by Beth Townsend*
- Welcome to the District of Columbia by Elliot Tommingo*, Director, DC Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs
- Remarks by Sam Shellenberger*, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor, USDOL VETS
- Remarks by Scott B. Sanders, Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

## Keynote Speaker

**Keynote speaker: Flo Groberg**, Captain, US Army, Medal of Honor recipient

Army Captain Florent “Flo” Groberg was on his second deployment to Afghanistan in August 2012 when he demonstrated
the selflessness and bravery that earned him the Medal of Honor. Tackling a suicide bomber and saving countless lives while protecting fellow soldiers, Groberg’s actions that day made him only the 10th living American to receive the nation’s top award for valor in combat since the attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, as chief of staff for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, he continues to be a powerful and prominent advocate for veterans’ issues. He will reveal how people and experiences throughout his life influenced his heroism, and share inspirational thoughts about going above and beyond the call of duty, finding positive in the negative, and summoning your best in the most adverse conditions.

3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.  
A Word from Microsoft, our Speaker Sponsor  
Indepenence Ballroom

3:10 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.  
Remarks by Colonel Prescott Farris*, Director, Soldier for Life  
Indepenence Ballroom
Soldier for Life is an official program of the United States Army created to help connect Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, Veterans and their Families, with people in the community who can aid them with access to opportunities and resources to achieve their civilian career and life goals.

3:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
A Word from Our Platinum Sponsors  
Indepenence Ballroom

3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
Networking Break  
Indepenence Foyer

3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Seeing the Signs – What You Can & Should Do to Help Prevent Suicide  
Indepenence Ballroom
Presented by: Dr. Keita Franklin LCSW, PhD, National Director, Suicide Prevention, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Dr. Franklin will cover the basics of suicide prevention and equip attendees with strategies and resources to support the Veterans in their state’s workforce. Attendees will learn how to understand the scope of suicide as a national public health issue; recognize important suicide risk factors and warning signs to know; and leverage evidence-based best practices to identify and support at-risk Veterans in the workforce.

5:00 p.m.  
Conference adjourns for the day; Dinner on your own

Thursday, August 8:

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.  
Hosted Breakfast  
Independence Ballroom

Moderator: Charlie Terrell, Director, National Labor Exchange, NASWA

Panelists:

- Carol Eggert*, Senior Vice President, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal
- Cathy Breeze**, Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Chip Hawkins*, Diversity Program Lead, Aetna
- Joe Wallis*, Director, Military Engagement, Microsoft Military Affairs
9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  A Word from Our Silver Sponsors
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  Networking Break
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon  Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions)

1. **American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans: Addressing the Challenge** (Workshop Track #1)  Franklin Square
   
   American Indians and Alaska Natives have a long and proud tradition of service in the United States military, and serve in far greater numbers than other population groups. They may return home to rural areas and tribal lands where access to employment, training and health care, are not readily available. What can state workforce agencies do to better serve this population of Veterans to improve their quality of life, educational attainment, and employment opportunities? This session is one of three workshops addressing the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans, and will feature three people with unique knowledge of these challenges.
   
   *Moderator: Ryan Thompson*, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
   
   *Presenters: Juanita Mullen*, American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans Liaison, Center for Minority Veterans, US Department of Veterans Affairs; MSG Lorena Wilson*, Regional Deputy Director, Northeast US & Europe, Soldier for Life; Christopher Key, CEO & Founder, True North Diversified; other speakers to be identified

2. **Leveraging LinkedIn for Veterans, Military Spouses & Business Engagement**  McPherson Square
   
   This session will focus on new tools and tips to make the most of your LinkedIn presence. If you aren’t using LinkedIn to connect with employers, service providers, and other Veterans, you are missing out! And now LinkedIn has partnered with the Department of Defense’s Spouse Education & Career Opportunities program to provide no-cost year-long LinkedIn Premium memberships to military spouses.
   
   *Moderator: Mike Miller*, Chief of Veterans Services, Utah Department of Workforce Services
   
   *Presenters: Sarah Roberts*, Head of Military & Veteran Programs, LinkedIn; Michael Quinn*, Senior Manager, People Advisory Services, EY

3. **Veteran Jobs Mission** – this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon  Lafayette Park
   
   It began in 2011 as the 100,000 Jobs Mission with 11 leading companies committed to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2020. Since then, the coalition has evolved to 200+ leading member companies that represent virtually every industry in the United States economy. The coalition has been renamed the Veteran Jobs Mission and has collectively hired more than 488,000 veterans. How did they do it, and what advice do they have for Veterans job seekers?
   
   *Moderator: Wayne Smith*, State Veterans Coordinator, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
   
   *Presenters: Jason Wright*, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase; Tom Downs*, Associate Director of Inclusion & Engagement Talent Acquisition, Gartner; Edward Carr*, Director, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal; Todd Karch*, Senior Regional Talent Supply Chain Leader, Amazon; Tiffany Daugherty*, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays
4. State Promising Practices
   Farragut Square
   Moderator: **David Douglass***, Veterans Program Support Specialist, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

   a. **North Carolina**: “What is Priority of Service?”
      The state of North Carolina has partnered with USDOL VETS to make sure Veterans are receiving precedence over non-covered persons in obtaining all employment and training services. Come to this session to learn what’s required, what’s not, what’s covered, what’s not, and how one state developed training to ensure everyone understands the principles of POS.
      
      **Presenters:** **Archie Barrow***, State JVSG Director, and **Lane Dyer***, North Carolina DVET.

   b. **Washington State**: “Recognizing Those Who Hire Veterans ... The Other Half of the Career Formula.”
      Washington State has three district programs for recognizing employers who recruit, hire, retain and honor Veterans in their workforce. This session will tell you about their Commissioner’s Hire-a-Veteran award, the YesVets program, and how they actively promote the USDOL Hire Vets Medallion Program – following a complimentary approach that focuses on the unique scope and intent of each award.
      
      **Presenters:** **Sam Mitchell***, WorkSource Administrator, **Monique Martin***, Program Coordinator, State Veterans Program

   c. **New York**: “Collaborative Innovation in Veterans Services and Care”
      In this session, Colonel (US Army, Retired) Jim McDonough, Director of Veterans Services for New York State, and former Managing Director for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University, will share innovative strategies and promising practices supporting the needs of the state’s military connected members and their families.
      
      **Presenter:** **Jim McDonough***, Director, New York State Division of Veterans Services

5. Microsoft Software & Systems Academy
   Independence F-G
   This Microsoft training fast tracks veterans into sweet tech careers! In partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Saint Martin’s University, Microsoft’s Software and Systems Academy prepares service members for a new career post service in the IT industry. Training is available for high-demand jobs in cloud development, cloud administration, cybersecurity administration, and database/business intelligence administration. Program graduates have the opportunity to interview for full-time jobs with Microsoft and other hiring partners.
   
   **Moderator:** **David Silcox***, Northern Regional Veteran Manager, Virginia Employment Commission
   **Presenters:** **Joe Wallis***, Director, Military Engagement, Microsoft Military Affairs; **Matt Brogdon***, Western US Base Engagement/Public Relations Manager, Microsoft Military Engagement; **Jim Beamesderfer***, Vice President, Veterans Initiatives, Prudential

6. Serving Military Caretakers – this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon
   Independence H-I
   This panel will raise the awareness to the needs, challenges and the importance of employment initiatives for military caregivers. A collaborative approach between organizations is necessary in addressing military spouse and caregiver employment issues. Panel
members will present current efforts to elevate knowledge, promote support, and increase employment initiatives for military caregivers.

Moderator: David Stonerock*, Veterans Services Administrator, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Facilitator: Dr. Tina Atherall, CEO, PsychArmor Institute
Panelists: Liz O’Brien*, Director, Military Spouse Program, Hiring Our Heroes; Steve Schwab, CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Ashley Bunce, Director of Community Partnerships & Investments, Wounded Warrior Project; Kayla Williams*, Director of Military, Veterans and Society programs, Center for New American Security; Danielle Corazza*, Vice President, VetsFirst


Bulfinch-Latrobe

The nationwide employment picture is strong, but rural areas lag far behind in recovery and employment rates. In fact, 10 years after the beginning of the great economic recession in December 2007, rural America still hadn’t recovered. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, rural counties had 770,000 fewer jobs in October 2017 than they had in 2007. Greater economic diversity, increased hiring and training opportunities can help them keep pace with their urban counterparts through limitless employment opportunities in the global, digital economy. Changes in technology, skills requirements, work relationships, and demographics threaten to leave many workers behind, but remote jobs offer ways to broaden and diversify the types of jobs and companies that these communities can benefit from. Long gone are the days when virtual admin, data entry, and writing are the only “work from home” jobs. Learn how partnerships like those with FlexJobs, Hilton and Utah’s Online Jobs Initiative can serve as a fantastic model for how access to remote jobs can benefit other rural areas impacted by high unemployment and scant locally based job opportunities.

Moderator: Rick Gully*, Veterans Services State Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
Presenters: Mika Cross*, Vice President, Employer Engagements, FlexJobs; Laurel Farrer, Strategist, Rural Online Initiative, Utah State University Extension; Lori Adams, Veterans Policy Director, NASWA; Melissa Stirling, Director, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; Mininia Hawkins*, Military Community Support Programs, Department of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy

12 noon to 1:15 p.m. Plated Lunch Independence Ballroom
12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. 50 States: Veterans + Artists United Independence Ballroom

Michigan-based nonprofit, [HAS HEART] is taking its HERO[series] on the road for a "50 States: Veterans + Artists United" working tour traveling state-to-state to partner a Veteran with a graphic designer in every state to give each Veteran a creative voice through art, design, and fashion.

Featured speaker: Tyler Way, artist/designer, [HAS HEART]

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions)

1. American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans: Becoming Culturally Competent (Workshop Track #2) Franklin Square

Get rid of any stereotypes you have about American Indians from bad Hollywood movies and television, and learn how you can grow your understanding of American Indian/Alaska Native Veteran cultures and traditions. There are over 570 tribes in the United States, and all of them have their own history, tradition, language and culture. This session – presented by three American Indians
who represent three different tribes (the Seneca, Apache and Sioux) – will give you valuable insight in how to work effectively with American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans. This session is one of three addressing the needs of American Indian/Alaska native Veterans.

Moderator: Matt Brogdon*, founder, Pathfinder Consulting  
Presenters: Juaniita Mullen*, American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans Liaison, US Department of Veterans Affairs; MSG Lorena Wilson*, Regional Deputy Director, Northeast US & Europe, Soldier for Life; Christopher Key, CEO & Founder, True North Diversified; other speakers to be identified

2. Disability Accessibility is Just an App Away  
McPherson Square
Not only is your smartphone much more powerful than the computers NASA used to send a man to the moon, but it also provides access to a number of accessible tools to help people with vision and hearing problems, learning disabilities, mental health issues, mobility limitations, and much more. These same tools – most available at no cost – also provide solutions to employers looking for reasonable accommodations under the ADA. Bring your phone with you to this hands-on session, and discover tools that are only an app away.

Moderator: Beth Townsend*, Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development  
Presenter: Jeff Farley, Windows Technical Solutions Professional, Microsoft

3. Veteran Jobs Mission – this session is a repeat from Thursday afternoon  
Lafayette Park
It began in 2011 as the 100,000 Jobs Mission with 11 leading companies committed to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2020. Since then, the coalition has evolved to 200+ leading member companies that represent virtually every industry in the United States economy. The coalition has been renamed the Veteran Jobs Mission and has collectively hired more than 488,000 veterans. How did they do it, and what advice do they have for Veterans job seekers?

Moderator: Sam Mitchell*, WorkSource Administrator, Washington State Employment and Security Department  
Presenters: Jason Wright*, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase; Tom Downs*, Associate Director of Inclusion & Engagement Talent Acquisition, Gartner; Edward Carr*, Director, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal; Todd Karch*, Senior Regional Talent Supply Chain Leader, Amazon; Tiffany Daugherty*, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays

4. What's New at NVTI?  
Farragut Square
Representatives from Management Concepts, who operate the National Veterans Training Institute, have developed several new courses and products in the past year to better equip state-funded staff to serve Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and military spouses. Come to this session to hear about the new Advanced Business Services and Career Coaching courses, tools to help track student attendance, the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Primer, and other resource products in the works.

Moderator: David Douglass*, Veterans Program Support Specialist, Indiana Department of Workforce Development  
Presenters: Roy Kyles, Program Manager, Management Concepts; Dr. Hannah Toney, Director in Learning & Technology Solutions, Management Concepts

5. How Virtual Engagement is Changing the Landscape of Veteran Recruitment – this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon
There are several challenges that limit the ability of transitioning military, veterans, and military spouses to connect and engage with civilian employers. Some challenges relate to simple resources (from employer manpower, travel budgets, and ability to get to all the transition sites to transitioning military and military spouses being unable to get to recruitment events). However, the digital landscape impacts the ability of outreach to extend beyond the barriers. Companies have already begun to implement ways to engage in the virtual space, but there is more to be done. Three employers who are committed to helping military secure meaningful civilian employment, present some of the better practices that address these challenges but also discuss where solutions are still evolving.

Moderator: Victor Glover*, Assistant Director of Veteran Employment Services, North Carolina Department of Commerce
Presenters: Elizabeth Guevara, Project Opportunity Lead, Nestlé USA; Michael Quinn*, Senior Manager, Advisory – Government & Public Sector, EY; Coral Zelachowski, Manager, Strategic Sourcing/Talent Acquisition, Sodexo USA

6. Serving Military Caretakers – this session is a repeat from Thursday morning

This panel will raise the awareness to the needs, challenges and the importance of employment initiatives for military caregivers. A collaborative approach between organizations is necessary in addressing military spouse and caregiver employment issues. Panel members will present current efforts to elevate knowledge, promote support, and increase employment initiatives for military caregivers.

Moderator: Stan Ragland*, Western Regional Veteran Manager, Virginia Employment Commission
Facilitator: Dr. Tina Atherall, CEO, PsychArmor Institute
Panelists: Liz O’Brien*, Director, Military Spouse Program, Hiring Our Heroes; Steve Schwab, CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Ashley Bunce, Director of Community Partnerships & Investments, Wounded Warrior Project; Kayla Williams*, Director of Military, Veterans and Society programs, Center for New American Security; Danielle Corazza*, Vice President, VetsFirst

7. Warm Handoffs: Connecting Transitioning Service Members with an American Job Center

Description coming soon!

Moderator: Mike Miller*, Chief of Veterans Services, Utah Department of Workforce Services
Presenters: Emily Appel-Newby, Manager, Justice, Workforce & Community Development, ICF; Ivan Denton*, Director, Office of National Programs, USDOL VETS; Linda Rouse*, District Manager, Iowa Workforce Development; additional presenters as identified

3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Networking break
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions)

1. American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans: Promising Practices (Workshop Track #3)

American Indian and Alaska Native people have a proud tradition of serving in the United States military, and at a higher rate than any other group. Unfortunately, many have not been able to access the same type and level of service as their non-Native American counterparts after they return home – but that is changing. This session – one of three devoted to the needs of American
Indian/Alaska native Veterans - will highlight efforts underway in North Carolina, Washington State and New Mexico to serve American Indian Veterans, including hiring American Indians as JVSG-funded staff, and offering cultural competency training.

* Moderator: Lori Adams, Veterans Policy Director, NASWA
* Presenters: Archie Barrow*, North Carolina JVSG Director, Lane Dyer*, North Carolina DVET, USDOL; Harvey Godwin Jr, Tribal Chair, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; Sam Mitchell*, Washington State WorkSource Administrator, Monique Martin*, Program Coordinator, Washington State Veterans Program; Christian Zafra*, Tribal Liaison and JVSG State Coordinator, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

2. **Focus on Skills for Success**

In this session, you will learn why focusing on skills leads to success – for you, for the Veteran and for employers. Why in today’s low unemployment numbers, Veterans need assistance getting careers, not jobs. You will learn why companies large and small need to also focus on skills, and how you can connect employers and Veterans more effectively. Then once connected, how you can help employers capitalize and further develop veterans for long-term retention.

* Presenter: Robyn Grable*, CEO, Veterans ASCEND

3. **Military Spouses as Assets in the Modern Workforce**

According to the 2012 American Community Survey, military spouses earn of 38% less and are 30% more likely to be unemployed than civilian counterparts. Military Spouses bring skills, adaptability, and a sense of team over self that is more valuable than ever in the constantly changing business landscape. This panel will explore best practices for advising military spouses and for companies that want to hire from this rich talent pool.

* Moderator: Mike Thompson**, State Veteran Program Director, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
* Presenters: Dr. Vivian Greentree**^, Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate Citizenship, First Data Corporation; Tiffany Daugherty*, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays; Linda Rouse**, District Manager, Iowa Workforce Development; Jennifer Vercellone^, Vice President, Corporate Counsel, Prudential Financial; Laura Schmiegel*, Lead Associate, Community Partnerships, Booz Allen Hamilton

4. **State Promising Practices**

* Moderator: Gary Westerman*, Veterans Program Manager, Kansas Department of Commerce

Women have been serving in the military since 1775 and worked alongside men to support various military campaigns. However, many women Veterans are still battling stereotypes and barriers that prevent them from being honored in the same way as male Veterans. This presentation will bring to light some of the accomplishments and facts about women Veterans. Everyone should take special interest in this growing population, since the number of women Veterans is expected to triple by the year 2040. *Presenter: Rebecca Flemming*, Employment Services Manager.

  b. **Colorado**: “Network for Success: Colorado AD Works! Veteran Networking Events.”
Monthly networking events at Arapahoe-Douglas Works! (ADW) offer not only access to job openings, but also focus on job skill development, and offer mentoring opportunities with HR professionals from companies such as the State Office of Information Technology, Northrop Grumman Corporation, FirstBank, Verizon Wireless, Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE), Concord Energy Holdings LLC., and Denver Health. This presentation will show how the ADW networking events can be easily replicated by other states using existing facilities and resources with little-to-no cost.

**Presenter:** Martin J. Bangert, * Regional Veteran Employment Representative

**c. Washington State:** “Professional Pathways – Integrating AJC Staff Across Programs.”

Professional Pathways is a program being pioneered by the Washington State Employment Security Department. This presentation will demonstrate how Washington State is ensuring staff have the knowledge needed to effectively integrate under WIOA and TAA. It will also show how Washington State takes on the mission that every AJC employee will serve Veterans - not just DVOPs and LVERs. **Presenters:** Nona Mallicoat*, Strategic Operations Manager; Tammi LeClerc, Professional Pathways Coordinator

**5. How Virtual Engagement is Changing the Landscape of Veteran Recruitment** – this session is a repeat from earlier Thursday Independence F-G

There are several challenges that limit the ability of transitioning military, veterans, and military spouses to connect and engage with civilian employers. Some challenges relate to simple resources (from employer manpower, travel budgets, and ability to get to all the transition sites to transitioning military and military spouses being unable to get to recruitment events). However, the digital landscape impacts the ability of outreach to extend beyond the barriers. Companies have already begun to implement ways to engage in the virtual space, but there is more to be done. Three employers who are committed to helping military secure meaningful civilian employment, present some of the better practices that address these challenges but also discuss where solutions are still evolving.

**Moderator:** LeRoy Thomas*, Veterans Program Manager, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

**Presenters:** Elizabeth Guevara, Project Opportunity Lead, Nestlé USA; Michael Quinn*, Senior Manager, Advisory – Government & Public Sector, EY; Coral Zelachowski, Manager, Strategic Sourcing/Talent Acquisition, Sodexo USA

**6. When Legal Issues Get in the Way** Independence H-I

This session will highlight work being done in Minnesota to remove and reduce legal barriers to employment. Some of the topics Sara Sommarstrom will cover include criminal expungement, licenses, child support, consumer debt collection and employment law. She will also discussion legal clinics, stand down courts, and how states can find and develop legal partnerships.

**Moderator:** Raymond Douha*, Veterans Employment Program, Field Operations Manager, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

**Presenter:** Sara Sommarstrom, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

**7. Veterans Return to Integrated Competitive Employment (Veterans RICE)** Bulfinch-Latrobe
Veterans Return to Integrated Competitive Employment (Veterans RICE) is an initiative of the US Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to increase competitive integrated employment for Veterans with significant disabilities, including those in Veterans Health Administration Compensated Work Therapy programs. One strategy for accomplishing this goal is through the use of Discovery and Customized Employment (CE). CE is a process through which jobs are customized for individuals based on their interests, skills, talents and other information gathered during a process called Discovery. This in-depth information guides the job search, and ultimately a position is negotiated with a business that can benefit from the contributions that the individual brings to the business. This resulting job is a win-win situation -- both for the veteran and also for the business. ODEP Senior Policy Advisor Richard Davis and Subject Matter Expert Debbie Ball will give a brief overview of Customized Employment and ODEP’s work in this area, provide information about ongoing trainings to the VHA compensated work therapy program staff, and provide examples of real-life success stories of veterans who have secured competitive, integrated employment or self-employment using Discovery and Customized Employment.

**Moderator: Christopher Tafoya**, Deputy Administrator, Arizona Department of Economic Security

**Presenter: Richard Davis**, Senior Policy Advisor, USDOL Office of Disability Employment Policy; **Debbie Ball**, Subject Matter Expert

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hosted Networking Reception with Your Colleagues

**Friday, August 9:**

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Hosted Breakfast

7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Registration/Information Desk Open

7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Exhibit Showcase

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Mark Sanders Award Presentation & Recognition of Nominees

**Moderator: Scott Sanders**, Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies

The 2019 Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Veterans, with special emphasis on Veterans with Significant Barriers to employment, recognizes the efforts of an entire one-stop career center whose efforts to serve Veterans go above and beyond the scope of mandatory service provision. This award is named in honor of Mark Sanders, who, during his distinguished career with the California Employment Development Department and in leadership positions with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, was untiring in his efforts to promote excellence in services to Disabled Veterans.

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Navigating Resources: PATRIOTLink

**Presenter: Kristy Kaufmann**, Chief Executive Officer, Code of Support Foundation

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Veteran Entrepreneurs Panel
Corporate America isn’t for everyone. This panel will feature Veteran entrepreneurs who decided owning their own business was the best fit for them. They will discuss how they got started, and how they got to where they are today. Joining the panel is a representative from Amazon, which provides support and opportunity for entrepreneurs.

Moderator: Cherylynn Sagester, Director, Virginia Veterans Outreach Center.
Panelists: Eleanor Thornton*, Visionary Consulting Partners; Michael Thornton*, Visionary Consulting Partners; Suzie Mills*, Honest Soul Yoga; Sheretha Gordon*, Strategic Steps Consulting (invited); Chelsea Mandello*, Troopster Military Care Packages

10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.  Coffee refresh  Independence Foyer
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  “UnstoppABLE” - Shaun Castle*, Deputy Executive Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Professional Athlete  Independence Ballroom

A career-ending injury, numerous surgeries and a life-threatening allergy to pain medications hasn’t stopped Army Sergeant Shaun Castle*, or even slowed him down. After discovering adaptive sports, he went on to play professional wheelchair basketball, graduate from the University of Alabama, plans to be the second person to complete a marathon in an everyday chair, and shares his optimism and pioneering spirit with others by demonstrating how to be “UnstoppABLE.”

11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  Closing remarks – Scott Sanders & Beth Townsend*  Independence Ballroom
11:30 a.m.  Conference adjourns! Safe travels everyone. Next year’s conference will be August 12-14, 2020, also at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC.

* Denotes an individual is currently serving or is a Veteran of the United States military. If they are wearing a Veteran ribbon on their name badge, please thank them for their service, and ask them what you can do for them.

^ Denotes a military spouse. If they are wearing a Military Spouse ribbon on their name badge, please thank them for their support.