SUCCESS STORY: PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

“My experience with PAVE has been wonderful! I really enjoy my job with the Pinellas County Tax Collector and you all have helped me stay positive and motivated not to give up on myself”

When Katie-Leigh began working with PAVE Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg in January 2019, she was stuck. The 100% service-connected disabled Coast Guard veteran had been through a series of layoffs, moves, and “last cuts” after multiple-rounds of interviews. Like many veterans, she found short-term and part-time employment, but struggled to find meaningful, fulfilling employment.

Genia and Katie-Leigh worked on her resume, networking, and, most importantly, exploring the type of work and type of employer where she could thrive. To make ends meet along the way, Katie-Leigh took evening and part-time work to fill gaps and continue her professional development.

After several months and several unsuccessful interviews with large employers, Genia and Katie-Leigh shifted to exploring opportunities with the local county government, which they thought would be a better fit for Katie-Leigh. Katie-Leigh identified several positions that appealed to her and applied online.

Katie-Leigh’s hard work paid-off in September, when she accepted a position as a Customer Service Technician with Pinellas County, in the Office of Charles Thomas, County Tax Collector.

Read Katie-Leigh’s full story here.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

16 Client Placements
• 13 Paid Employment Opportunities
• 2 Training Opportunities
• 1 Volunteer Opportunity

194 Total Placements through September

CLIENT PROFILE

14 Veterans
2 Family Members
1 PVA Member

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

"Without PAVE, I fear I would have developed depression from lack of social interaction and life purpose. I see it often in my less involved peers. I can only hope for them to get the same assistance from a program like PAVE, as I did."

- Kate, USAF Veteran, PVA member

This month marks the 75th observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. NDEAM is a time when we celebrate America’s workers with disabilities and remind employers of the importance of inclusive practices. Since 2007, PVA and PAVE have been fierce advocates for veterans with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities, assisting nearly 5,000 veterans and family members with career opportunities where they will thrive.