PAVE PROGRAM UPDATE

March 2020

PVA AND COVID-19

Respiratory complications are the leading cause of death for people with spinal cord injuries. The spinal cord control muscles that make lungs work and assists with the ability to produce a productive cough - and a productive cough is critical for lung clearance.

Due to this and other risk factors, COVID-19 is a particularly high-threat for many PVA members. Check out how PVA is taking care of our members and advocating on behalf of all people with disabilities during this pandemic on our website: pva.org/covid-19.

SUCCESS STORY - PRESTON CURRY

PVA member and US Army veteran Preston Curry has long been committed to serving other veterans. This commitment includes leadership positions with PVA’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the Chesterfield County’s Disability Services Board, and advocating on behalf of veterans with disabilities on Capitol Hill.

In May 2019, Preston started working with PAVE Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Allison Borden to determine what kind of paid employment would be best for him and his family. Given his volunteer leadership roles, he was not sure if full time or part time employment would be the best option. Preston also wasn’t sure which industry or type of opportunities would be a good fit. He had held several jobs since his injury in 1995, but did not find them to be fulfilling.

Preston spent time working with Allison refining his resume, interview skills, and other aspects of the employment process. They worked together to identify opportunities that fit his interests and would be meaningful. Ultimately they determined that a part-time position would be best for now.

In January, Preston applied for a position as an Administrative Assistant with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education. In early March he interviewed for the position and received an offer shortly thereafter with a start date in March. DVS transitioned to “work from home” but onboarded Preston and another new employee on the promised start date.

“I’m empowered knowing I’m ABLE to do anything I want”

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IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

28 Client Placements
• 22 Paid Employment Opportunities
• 6 Educational Opportunities

85 Total Placements through March

CLIENT PROFILE

23 Veterans/ Transitioning Service Members
6 Caregivers and Families
2 PVA Members

PAVE CONNECT

PAVE Connect, our virtual employment initiative, provides timely and relevant career information when and where veterans and their families need it. Veterans, military spouses and veteran caregivers can engage experts on a variety of different topics including resumes, interview techniques, and going back to school. The program has pivoted to address the COVID-19 pandemic—learn more at www.pva.org/paveconnect

“PAVE does an amazing job of helping ALL veterans with their job search and career advice. They helped me immensely through a recent transition and I encourage anyone who is looking to move in, move out, or move up in their dream organization to attend a PAVE Connect session. Even those of us who have long since transitioned out of the military will find these sessions invaluable.

Invest in yourself with knowledge and advice from PAVE experts and have your battle buddies, shipmates, and Air Force buddies join you in this quest to better yourself and one another.”

- Randy, USAF Veteran, PAVE Client

Read more about Preston here.