

PAVE PROGRAM UPDATE

August 2020

ACCESSIBLE VOTING

Voting is one of our most important civil rights, but paralyzed veterans and other people with disabilities often face accessibility challenges at the polls.



As part of our disability rights advocacy, PVA created a guide to accessible voting that includes tips for creating a voting plan and a state-by-state early voting guide.

This information and other voting resources are online: PVA.org/vote.

SUCCESS STORY: BRANDON SOLONKA

U.S. Air Force veteran Brandon Solonka reached out to the PAVE program shortly before the Fall 2020 semester of school started. He has a B.A. in History and was working as an environmental geologist, but his service-connected disability made it necessary for him to transition to a new career.



Brandon wanted to pursue a Master's in Computer Science. Not only does the field appeal to him and present a viable career path with his disability, but he could also combine his passion for geology with computer science to build computer programs to search for things in the earth.

PAVE counselor Joel Hoots worked with Brandon to prepare a plan to apply for VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) financing to support this career shift. They gathered a great amount of information for the VR&E proposal including employment statistics, paid-internship opportunities, and labor market statistics which showed that Brandon's plan was workable and would improve his quality of life. Because he was so well prepared for his first meeting with the VR&E counselor, he was able to attain financing for school.

Brandon has been accepted to Arizona State University and is currently taking several undergraduate classes to satisfy prerequisites on the path to his Master's degree. PAVE staff will stay in touch with Brandon to support future career goals.

Read Brandon's full story [here](#).

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

31 Client Placements

- 24 Paid Employment Opportunities
- 6 Training Opportunities
- 1 Volunteer Opportunity



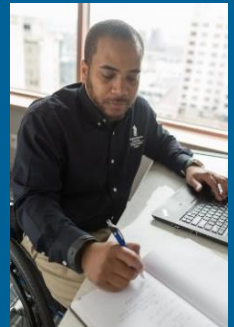
183 Total Placements through August

CLIENT PROFILE

26 Veterans/Transitioning Service Members

5 Family Members

2 PVA Members and 1 Member- Eligible



ON LABOR DAY, TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

The current economic recession has disrupted the work lives of millions of people, including veterans with disabilities. Employment statistics show that employment of veterans with disabilities often lags behind those of veterans without disabilities. PVA has been steadfast in advocating for the employment rights of these veterans and providing guided employment support through PAVE.

In a Labor Day blog, PAVE Director Lauren Lobrano and Associate Legislative Director Maureen Elias wrote about the many benefits of employing veterans with disabilities and how we are assisting them. Read the full blog [here](#).



PAVE
Paving Access for Veterans Employment

Powered by

