

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2020

SUCCESS STORY: SEAN FERRY



PVA Keystone Chapter member and U.S. Air Force veteran Sean Ferry was six months into a trying job search when he reached out to PVA's PAVE program. Sean, who is paralyzed from the neck down (C4 – quadriplegic), wanted to be an engaged and contributing member of society but was having problems finding a position where he could work from home and use necessary adaptive equipment.

VCP Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg, M.S., CRC, and Sean spent time discussing Sean's passions, including computers, and also discussing adaptive equipment that he needed to accommodate employment. They explored employers who value disabled veterans and are willing to integrate adaptive equipment into their systems.

One of Genia's colleagues shared information about JLodge, a quality assurance company that focuses on hiring Americans with disabilities. Sean applied for a position, had three interviews, passed their assessments, and was put into a pool of qualified candidates for the next employment class. Genia advocated for Sean with JLodge, working with them on the necessary accommodations and making sure their equipment would be compatible with Sean's online keyboard and other equipment.

Sean was hired as a Quality Analyst and started working four hours a day, five days a week from home. Sean was empowered through employment while also having a schedule that lets him successfully manage his health.

Unfortunately, due to the economic recession and the loss of a contract, Sean's position was eliminated. Genia and Sean worked together to find a variety of different opportunities. In the meantime, Genia learned that J. Lodge, Sean's previous employer, had been acquired by Cognosante and they intended to open several quality analyst positions. Genia reached out on behalf of Sean to share his previous experience and advocate for him to be an early candidate when they started hiring again. This outreach and Sean's exemplary performance paid off and in December Sean accepted a new position with Cognosante as a quality analyst.

Sean was also selected to work with GovernmentCIO and the Kessler Foundation as part of their research and program evaluation initiatives.

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

18 Client Placements

- 15 Paid Employment
- 3 Training/Education

4 PVA Members

14 Veterans

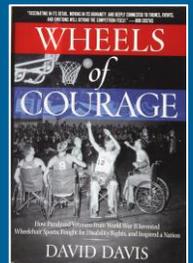
4 Family Members

223 Total Placements through December



WHEELS OF COURAGE: AUTHOR DISCUSSION

Join PVA for a live book club webinar on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 1 p.m. EST, as we host author David Davis to discuss his new book *Wheels of Courage: How Paralyzed Veterans from World War II Invented Wheelchair Sports, Fought for Disability Rights, and Inspired a Nation*.



Out of the carnage of World War II comes an unforgettable tale about defying the odds and finding hope in the most harrowing circumstances. Register for the event [here](#).

OUT WITH PAVE, IN WITH PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM

As PVA approaches its 75th year of advocating for and supporting veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, as well as all people with disabilities, we are updating the name of our employment program.

The change from Paving Access to Veterans Employment (PAVE) to **PVA Veterans Career Program** highlights our commitment to a holistic support for veterans and their family members. We felt it is important to incorporate "career" in our name as it demonstrates our focus on assisting members of the veteran community with long-term employment, volunteer and educational opportunities and adds more clarity and uniformity to PVA programming.



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