

Exploring Opportunities

I had the opportunity to speak this morning at an “Onward to Opportunity” event. Whether during a cohort orientation or one of the separate events that they sponsor, this is an unstructured chat about whatever questions the participants raise. These questions can be about resume writing, benefits offered by employers, building a business, and on-and-on. This is a chance to give a perspective on job search and employment outside of the gate.

Onward to Opportunity or “O2O” is a program within the University of Syracuse’s D’Aniello Institute for Military and Veteran Families. Through this program, transitioning active, veterans, retirees and spouses have a wide variety of programs geared to employment in the civilian workforce. The participants have access to a library of certification programs that are key to many job opportunities.

This is just one of the many resources that are available to those transitioning. For those on active duty, the post or base transition office is a great jumping off point to learn about what FREE resources and opportunities are available to you. Whether you use Skillbridge, an internship or another program, you get firsthand experience working with a civilian employer while on active duty – Uncle Sam’s dime.

There are other programs out there as well. Check with the local schools and nonprofits for insights into what is available. Here in San Antonio, we also have a program called “Ready To Work”. This was created through a bond initiative voted on by the residents of Bexar County that provides work training in a variety of fields. The crucial requirement is that participants must be a resident of Bexar County. It is open to military and spouses.

I am constantly encouraging folks to research and explore. Open the aperture to what is available. Success comes from not limiting the possibilities. You might find a new passion that will enrich your life. Best of luck.

Kitty

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