

VSACT 21 June 2017 Meeting Notes

****Notes are condensed as the presentation has also been provided****

Guest Speaker: Michael Bianchi, Senior Director, Education and Career Training,
for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) through Syracuse University

- IVMF is housed on the Syracuse campus but is not actually through Syracuse University
 - Currently serves 5,000 Veterans and family members, but wants to expand to 12,000 a year
 - This transition/workforce program is non-profit and sponsored through JP Morgan Chase
 - The only criteria is Post-9/11 Veterans, Spouses, Active Duty with only 180 days left of service, and National Guard/Reserves
 - Veterans must have an Honorable Discharge at this point in time
- Onward to Opportunity (<http://onward2opportunity-vctp.org/>) has been available for 15 months now
 - 4 different tracks are available including:
 - Customer Service Excellence
 - Information Technology
 - Business Management
 - If users previously attempted to enroll within the online Veteran Career Transition Program (VCTP) and had difficulty signing up, please have them try again with this new platform: it's much easier to enroll as they fill spots 3 months in advance instead of on-the-spot to avoid lag time and frustration
- Onward to Opportunity has over 300 partners: Hired Heroes USA, Goodwill Industries International, etc. Participants that complete the program will then obtain one of these partners to assist in resume prep, job search, etc.
 - Have distance learning: every month there's an online registration
- VCTP In-person Training
 - Blending learning model
 - Attempting to get on Fort Hood
 - Would be two days in-person and the rest online
- Also utilizes LinkedIn learning platforms to distribute trainings and information
- There was a large concern by the audience regarding the fact that only Honorably Discharged Veterans are currently allotted to participate within Onward to Opportunity; however, it is important to note that 1) Veterans with other discharges may petition and write an explanation regarding the situation, and 2) Onward to Opportunity is strictly a non-profit, grant-funded program. They must comply with the parameters that JP Morgan Chase has set into place, however Mr. Bianchi is absolutely bringing