

Governor Rell Urges Employers to "Hire a Veteran"

Governor M. Jodi Rell has proclaimed the last week of January 2007 to be "Hire a Veteran Week" in the State of Connecticut and urged all businesses and organizations to give priority consideration to hiring Connecticut veterans.

"Many of the brave men and women who have served the United States so gallantly and selflessly in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world are beginning to return home to be reunited with their loved ones and will be re-entering the workforce or searching for their first jobs after military service," Governor Rell said. "Veterans possess special qualities, training and skills that make them ideal candidates for all types of careers, but many veterans still encounter difficulties in securing employment."

On January 30 from 12 PM to 4 PM, Connecticut will hold its first dedicated state Veterans "Heroes 4 Hire" Job Fair at Rentschler Field in East Hartford with over 70 companies. No registration is required and admission is free. The Fair is a sell-out for employers.

Corporations, businesses, and government employers to be represented include AGC Corporation, Allstate Insurance, DST Output, Home Depot, ING, Johnson Controls, FEDEX, Lane Construction, Mohegan Sun, New England Financial, Rockville Bank, Schick-Wilkinson, Subway World Headquarters, Webster Bank, Westinghouse Electric, Yarde Metals, Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, Connecticut State Police and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Positions range from managerial, professional (including engineers, accountants, IT, medical workers), sales, administrative personnel, to production and construction workers. On-site resume critique and development assistance will be available, as well as internet access to additional employers and resources through the Connecticut Department of Labor's "Career Express" bus, which will be on-site. For more information, visit www.ctjobfairs.com.

"Connecticut's defense and advanced technical industries consistently require talented and dedicated employees to effectively maintain their workforces," Governor Rell said. "We want Connecticut to continue to be an attractive, permanent home to currently serving and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces so that we maintain their experience, skills and positive role models in our communities."

Governor Rell noted that the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, as well as many other state agencies, municipalities and private agencies, administer veterans employment and assistance programs throughout the year to ensure that veterans receive services they are entitled to and to promote employer interest in hiring veterans. Veterans currently make up 12 percent of the state's population.

Last week, Governor Rell announced that \$446,532 in state funds for electrical upgrades and roof replacements at the State Veterans' Affairs Home in Rocky Hill are expected to be approved when the State Bond Commission meets on January 26th. The upgrade will increase the reliability of the electrical system and allow for increased capacity, including the future installation of air conditioning.

In August, Governor Rell helped break ground for the new state veterans' health care facility and home in Rocky Hill – marking the first new construction on the campus in over 66 years. Construction is already underway on the \$33.8 million, 125-bed residential health care facility that will replace the outdated veterans' health care facility built between 1937 and 1940. The new facility is expected to be completed in January 2008.