

VETERANS INDUSTRY EDUCATION (VIE-25)

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"We would like to see our transitioning service members hired from day one. Instead of leaving the service and then looking at colleges, we want service members to earn a credential and become immediately employable."

JBLM commander Col. Daniel S. Morgan

A quick path to a new career

Transitioning from the military to a civilian job can be a tough challenge. A new program called "VIE-25" seeks to change that.

The VIE-25 program — which stands for Veterans Industry Education — connects service members with career credentials during their last six months of military service so they qualify for in-demand jobs right away.

The program is a unique collaboration between the community and technical college system, state agencies and the armed forces. It is thought to be the first of its kind in the nation. The number 25 refers to community and technical colleges within 25 miles of JBLM.

Through VIE-25, service members can visit wacareerpaths.com to explore high-demand careers and access industry-recognized credentials at community and technical colleges within a 25-mile radius of JBLM. The colleges are Pierce, Bates, Clover Park, Green River, Highline, South Puget Sound and Tacoma.

Initial training is aimed at programs that take six months or less to complete and lead to jobs with growth potential. Examples include homeland security and emergency management, emergency medical technician, IT technical support, corrections officer and computer-aided drafting.

With approval from their commanding officers, service members may participate in programs featured on the website as their official military duty in the last six months of service.



Career counselors will help service members access ways to pay for tuition through federal, state and local funding.

VIE-25 is a partnership between JBLM, Washington's community and technical college system and public workforce systems. The public workforce systems have been working through Camo2Commerce, a federal grant-funded project that integrates workforce systems with transition services at JBLM. Public workforce systems are publicly funded agencies and offices that provide employment services, support services and, in some cases, financial assistance for career training.

JBLM is the starting point for VIE-25, which the partners hope will grow to include other military bases in Washington, including Olympic College in Bremerton.

VIE-25 equips service members with valuable skills for their next assignment in life.

Seven colleges participate in VIE-25

Programs at seven community and technical colleges within a 25 mile radius of Joint Base Lewis McChord help transitioning service members as they enter the civilian workforce. The colleges and campus locations are:

- Bates Technical College (Tacoma)
- Clover Park Technical College (Tacoma, Puyallup)
- Green River College (Auburn, Enumclaw, Kent)
- Highline College (Des Moines, Kent)
- Pierce College (Lakewood, Puyallup)
- South Puget Sound Community College (Olympia)
- Tacoma Community College (Tacoma, Gig Harbor)

