News Release

CHARLESTON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston County Steps up to Help Disabled Veterans Return to the Workforce
County's Veterans Affairs Office offers Non-Paid Work Experience Program

At last count there are three million veterans in the U.S. with a service related disability, according to a 2012 study by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Statistics. That same study revealed 6.5% of those same veterans were unemployed. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to change that through its new Non-Paid Work Experience Program (NPWE), and Charleston County is helping.

"Charleston County is providing local veterans with the chance to get back to normal and back into the workforce," said Charleston County Veterans Affairs Director Donald Morillo. "We've worked very closely with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to get this program up and running and it's been a success so far."

Charleston County's Veterans Affairs Office and Human Resources Department have worked with the national organization to set up a local NPWE. The program's three goals are training for disabled vets, real world work experience and job placement.

So far, 11 veterans have been placed in various County departments. The first was hired in November 2013 and another veteran has already been hired to a full-time position. "This program has been a win-win situation for all parties involved," said Director of Human Resources Fagan Stackhouse. "Veterans get hands-on job training and a chance to learn about public service and the County receives talented and experienced individuals to help our citizens on a daily basis."

Department	
Human Resources	Records Assistant
Veteran Affairs	Emergency Management Specialist
Technology Services – Records Management	IT Specialist – EMS
Emergency Management	
Emergency Medical Services	Assessor's Office
	Assessor's Office
	Administrator's Office
Job Title	Auditor's Office
Human Resources Trainer	Building Services
Program Assistant	Telecommunications

Data Coordinator

Imaging Clerk   Buildings Codes Inspector

Imaging Clerk   Telecommunications Technician

Administrative Assistant

Despite the program's early success, many challenges remain going forward. Several departments are interested in hiring some of the veterans full-time but currently don't have vacancies. The County is encouraging participants to update resumes and explore other opportunities within Charleston County Government.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov
- Like us on Facebook (main County site): http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753
  - *Board of Elections and Voter Registration*: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986
  - *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program*: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227
  - *Economic Development:* https://www.facebook.com/CharlestonCountyED
  - *Emergency Management Department*: http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo
    - *Awendaw District Fire Department:* http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCohttps://www.facebook.com/pages/Awendaw-District-Fire-Department/505429932850932
  - *Zoning and Planning Department*: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Zoning-Planning-Department/549596221765813
  - *Sheriff's Office:* https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Sheriffs-Office/557956290949818
- See us on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov
- Watch County Council meetings online http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government

.

- written by Jennie Flinn -