



Business and
Professional
Women's
Foundation

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Business and Professional Women's Foundation Announces Scholarships to Help Women Veterans Train for and Obtain Civilian Jobs

Scholarships, Career Development Workshops, and Other Tools Aim to Help Women Vets Overcome Transition Challenges

Washington, DC – The Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation today announced a new, national campaign, [Joining Forces for Women Veterans](#), to support women veterans in their transition from military to civilian life. As part of the initiative, the organization is offering \$46,000 in scholarships to help women veterans receive the specialized training or certification they need to obtain meaningful civilian jobs. The [campaign](#) will also connect women veterans with resources, mentors and support systems through a web based Career Center and resource center, Facebook and Twitter.

“Job instability is just one of many challenges women veterans can face upon their return to civilian life. Our nation's ‘sheroes’ deserve better,” said Deborah Frett, CEO of the BPW Foundation. “We're helping women veterans translate their talents by linking them to scholarships and professional development opportunities that can open doors to a rewarding career.”

\$40,000 in Scholarships for Medicine-Related Jobs

The BPW Foundation, in conjunction with INOVA Health Systems, is offering 10 \$4,000 [Military to Medicine](#) scholarships, which help veterans and military spouses obtain transferrable, medicine-related jobs – such as medical record-keeping, hospital administration, or nursing.

The first Military to Medicine recipient, Joyce Leneave, is a veteran from Springdale, Ohio, who returned to the United States in 1993 with limited job prospects, despite having significant experience operating and maintaining complex communications systems and holding a top secret military clearance. At the time, an employment center staffer told her the best she could hope for was a clerical or restaurant job. She's now going to nursing school.

In October 2010, Leneave was surprised with news of her scholarship while serving as a panelist at a summit of 80 leaders from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors convened by the BPW Foundation in Washington to discuss the challenges facing women veterans and plot a course for action.

“I was overwhelmed and totally speechless to be presented this scholarship during the summit. Not only does it provide training, but I also got a computer, internet access, and mentor support,” said Leneave, recalling the announcement.

\$6,000 in Scholarships for Online Certification and Training

The BPW Foundation is also offering three \$2,000 scholarships through [ed2go/Cengage](#), which offers online certification and training courses on a wide range of subjects, from real estate brokerage to human resources law. The courses can help veterans leaving military service who may have years of experience, but lack the certification for a specific civilian job.

Career Development Workshops

The BPW Foundation is also establishing partnerships with organizations around the country to provide career development opportunities for women veterans. For example, working with the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service and Education Center, BPW Foundation is conducting a series of career and self-development workshops for women veterans in transitional housing at the Coatsville Veterans Center in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

A Network of Support at WomenJoiningForces.org

In addition, the BPW Foundation is reaching out to women veterans to help them find and utilize benefits due them and help them make connections with other women veterans through a revitalized Facebook page, a Twitter feed, a career center and Connect-A-Vet resources page at <http://www.womenjoiningforces.org>.

The campaign includes an online [Career Center](#), which provides recruiting tips for employers and information about the benefits of hiring women veterans. Job seekers can also post their profiles and resumes for free. [Connect-a-Vet](#) includes a list of resources especially designed for veterans, from financial help for small business owners to housing services and facilities.

For More Information

Women veterans interested in information about these scholarships, or employers interested in getting involved with the campaign should send an email to foundation@bpwfoundation.org.

To learn about the Joining Forces for Women Veterans campaign and its scope, read the [Inaugural Summit Report](#), which shares among its key findings that: "Many women veterans do not access transition programs, services, and benefits that address their distinct needs," primarily because they often are not aware of these resources, and because policies and practices related to benefits and service delivery often do not fit the distinct needs of women veterans.

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Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation is a 501(c) (3) research and education organization that is transforming the workplace for women and employers. Through groundbreaking research and as a convener of employers and employees, BPW Foundation leads the way in developing and advocating for policies and programs that "work" for both women and businesses. www.bpwfoundation.org.