



For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2010

Contact: Ayoka Blandford  
202-293-1100 Ex 8933  
[ablandford@bpwfoundation.org](mailto:ablandford@bpwfoundation.org)

**Training and Employment Scholarships Announced at Women Veteran Summit**  
*Military to Medicine and BPW Foundation Partner to Make Women Veterans Job Ready*

Washington, DC – A commitment of 10 scholarships was made to women veterans by executive director for INOVA Health System's *Military to Medicine* program, Daniel Nichols, at a Summit addressing the unique challenges they face after separating from the military. The commitment is the result of a partnership with Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation, host of *Joining Forces for Women Veterans: An Inaugural Summit*, held yesterday to convene employers and policy makers to learn and hear from women veterans and experts on challenges including homelessness, reintegration and employment.

"We are so thrilled that this commitment was announced at our Inaugural Summit," said Roslyn Ridgeway, chair of the Board of Trustees of BPW Foundation. "It is fitting that the announcement was made during the Summit Outcomes and Solutions segment."

The full scholarships will cover the *Military to Medicine* training program which through partnerships includes employment after completion. In addition, one of the scholarships was promised to Joyce Leneave, one of the woman veterans who shared her difficulty securing civilian employment to establish a household and provide for her children upon exiting the military.

A former Army-enlisted soldier and single parent, Leneave was trained to operate and maintain complex communications systems; she also maintained a Top Secret clearance. When she sought job placement assistance, Leneave was told that her military experience was irrelevant in the civilian workforce and she "was only qualified to be a waitress or a mail clerk."

"This scholarship program proves *Military to Medicine's* commitment to supporting women veterans and their families," said Deborah L. Frett, CEO of BPW Foundation. "We are hopeful that a Summit outcome will be other employers and agencies collaborating to offer solutions. Our Summit emphasizes the importance of public-private partnerships to ensure that these veterans leverage their skills and talent for leadership," Frett concluded.

"If you'll accept...you *will* have a job," said Nichols as he shook Leneave's hand.

For information on women veterans and the Summit, visit [www.womenjoiningforces.org](http://www.womenjoiningforces.org)

*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](http://www.bpwfoundation.org)*

*Military to Medicine is a training and career program of INOVA Health System. It is a mutually beneficial program for employers and the members of the military community who participate as students and employees. Partnerships include agreements with the US Army, Reserves and military spouses around the nation. For more information, visit [www.militarytomedicine.org](http://www.militarytomedicine.org)*

###