

NOTHING BUT 'BLUE SKY' FOR VETERANS IN THE CLOUD

VETERANS 360'S INNOVATIVE PROGRAM PROVIDES RETURNING VETS WITH A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT—AND VIABLE CLOUD IT SKILLS

Sixteen percent unemployment for returning vets aged 18 to 34 is unacceptable.

Each year, more than 30,000 troops return to civilian life after serving the country. It is crucial to help retrain them in skills that will ensure long-term success in the future job market.

With eyes on that future, and after extensive research, Veterans 360 decided that cloud technology was a perfect venue for veterans looking for meaningful employment and a long-term career.

Currently, 42 percent of businesses have to hire outside IT professionals for cloud computing needs—yet, 43 percent of those companies are finding it difficult to find IT professionals with cloud skills. Therefore, as cloud technology becomes the next big innovation, seasoned IT specialists will need to be replaced or retrained in this technology.

Who better to address these challenges than highly motivated, certified and skilled veterans?

Curriculum

Innovation in cloud computing was one of the primary reasons Microsoft chose Satya Nadella as its new CEO. Similarly, Veterans 360 also believes training in this realm is an important vehicle for future high-paying careers for returning service men and women.



Kevin L. Jackson

Kevin L. Jackson, a highly seasoned, recognized expert in technology and training, is leading the Veterans 360 effort in creating a curriculum that offers both basic and professional certification in cloud computing. Jackson is well known from his contributions to the industry and his innovative "Cloud Musings" blog, recognized as one of the world's 30 most influential cloud blogs. A U.S. Navy veteran, Mr. Jackson brings stellar credentials, insight and influence to the Veterans 360 training program, located in San Diego, California. Veterans 360—Cloud, Sylvan Learning and the Workforce Investment Board will be providing training for veterans.



About Veterans 360

Veterans 360 invites young, transitioning veterans into an ongoing program of engagement, education, employment and healing. Upon graduation, this organization places them on the path to a productive future with continued health, wellness, education and placement support.

The organization advocates an education-versus-cure approach to these problems. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness or an inability to cope; it is a sign of strength. Veterans are much more formidable when they are better educated and trained in how to deal with adversity.

Veterans 360 is also making a real difference in how vets deal with common PTSD issues.

Executive Director Rick Collins says, "We give 90 percent of funding to provide a safe place, training and a future for these troops. Our mission is critical ..."

Veterans 360 is looking farther down the road than do a lot of similar organizations. Its program provides a 24/7 environment in which troops returning home can learn to manage post-combat stress in a mutually supportive group. Because many veterans are trained in a "squad" mentality, Veterans 360 provides housing, training and other support within a group environment that allows each vet to support others with mutual experience.

Learn more about Veterans 360 at <http://vets360.org/cloud>; 858-925-7476. Veterans 360 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.