



American Corporate Partners (ACP) A Mentorship that Matters

By Amy Meehan

Mission

American Corporate Partners (ACP) is a national nonprofit organization focused on helping returning veterans, veterans who have transitioned out of the military and active-duty spouses find their next careers through one-on-one mentoring, networking and online career advice.

According to the Department of Labor, approximately 200,000 men and women leave U.S. military service every year. ACP believes the biggest issue facing those transitioning service members is not unemployment – it's underemployment. ACP focuses on helping veterans and active-duty spouses find meaningful employment opportunities and develop long-term careers and professional goals. To date, ACP has helped more than 20,000 veterans and active duty spouses through its mentoring program.

Post-9/11 veterans, active-duty spouses and eligible military spouses are referred to as Protégés, and the professionals that participate through their organization's partnership with ACP are known as Mentors.

Program Guidelines

ACP focuses primarily on three groups: Post 9/11 veterans, women veterans and active duty spouses. An ACP mentorship is a yearlong commitment, which encourages Mentors and Protégés to connect for monthly discussions. ACP staff support the program with customized resources, training and suggestions, and helps the pair build a successful mentorship. It begins through a pairing process where ACP's staff carefully selects a Mentor for each Protégé based on career compatibility, experience level, location and personal interests. Every Mentor and Protégé has a phone call with an ACP staff member to communicate and consider preferences. Most mentoring pairs are long-distance and communicate primarily through phone, videoconference and email exchanges.



Post-9/11 Veteran Mentoring Program

ACP's Veteran Protégés are post-9/11 service members and veterans at various stages of the transition process:

- Service members who are still serving on active duty and planning for an upcoming transition or retirement
- Recently separated veterans in the midst of a transition
- Veterans who separated years ago and are currently employed, but are looking to advance in a current civilian career
- Student veterans who are seeking advice from successful business leaders in the private sector

ACP Veteran Protégé Alum and JP Morgan Chase Software Engineer, Yang Zhou, said "ACP definitely helped me get the job I have now. I was lost and confused on how to start and didn't have any prior experience in IT.

My Mentor really encouraged me and gave me detailed steps on how to get started and approach people with similar backgrounds. His personal experiences in the corporate world made a difference and I also appreciated my ACP contact who stayed on top of our partnership, always sending me resources and touching base with me."

Whether a veteran is actively searching for a new career or newly employed and looking for advice about how to be successful in their new role and advance, ACP's customized program is designed to assist a veteran or active duty spouse on their path toward rewarding, meaningful employment.

Typical mentorship topics include:

- Résumé review and interview preparation
- Career exploration
- Work-life balance
- Networking
- Small business development
- Leadership and professional communication

With eight months to go before his official retirement, Army Sergeant Major (E-9) Bryan B applied to ACP in August of 2020. Soon after, he was paired with ACP Mentor James Wise, PMP from Amentum. After getting to know one another, Jim and Bryan rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

They explored careers in project management, discussed best PMP study practices, conducted countless mock interviews, overhauled Bryan's resumé, and so much more. Their hard work paid off when Bryan accepted his "dream position" at Airbus Defence and Space and Bryan and Jim continue to meet and conquer workplace challenges as they arise.

ACP has more than 20,000 success stories like the ones Yang and Bryan experienced in their mentorships. You can see the impact by visiting www.acp-usa.org

For more information, please visit us at www.acp-usa.org

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Find Your Next Career With ACP

Post 9/11 Veteran & Active Duty Spouse Mentoring Program

Typical mentorship goals include:

- Résumé review and interview preparation.
- Career exploration and understanding job opportunities.
- Career advancement once a position is obtained.
- Work-life balance.
- Networking.
- Small business development.
- Leadership and professional communication.

Our staff is ready and waiting to pair you in a year-long, customizable and one-to-one mentorship with one of our dynamic ACP Mentors.

Why wait? Apply today!

