



**Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair
presented by St. Petersburg Times
Tampa, FL – July 19, 2010
Event Report**

Attendee: Emily Burton



Emily Burton, MSCCN and Donna Buckley, candidate

The Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair, presented by the St. Petersburg Times, was an open event to the general public. Mr. Dave LaBell and his team were on hand throughout the day to assist and act as a support to the more than 50 businesses and organizations that were represented. Before the official start of the event, we were able to introduce MSCCN to several organizations, discussing job posting and other opportunities that MSCCN could provide them. Some of these companies included TZ Insurance Solutions LLC, Panera Bread, Aflac, 2020 Companies, and the International Academy of Design and Technology.

Once the doors opened for the candidates to put their networking skills to good use, the crowds quickly swelled to fill up the room. It wasn't long before the MSCCN table was full of people interested to learn more about the services MSCCN provides. Even though some of the individuals had no military affiliation, many knew someone that could benefit from MSCCN, and took the information sheet to pass on. However, there were many veterans, spouses, and dependents that could benefit from MSCCN and they took away valuable information to assist them in their job search.

Donna Buckley, an MSCCN candidate, took advantage of a virtual training that was presented the previous week on how to make the most of a job fair, and then did just

that. Prior to attending this job fair, she took the time to research the companies and had a networking plan of action when she arrived. Later, she stopped by the MSCCN table to share her day, informing us that her plan had worked and that she had made a connection with another job fair participant that might turn into a lead for a job. As the crowds continued, Donna also lent support to the MSCCN table by taking the time to inform others about the services MSCCN provides as more people continued to gather.

As the day continued, I spoke with Valerie Wilcox, a spouse who will soon be facing another relocation. She was happy to learn that MSCCN could assist her with her job search beyond the boundaries of the Tampa Bay area. In addition, when learning about the job postings with MSCCN, she left her business card and added the contact information for her human resources manager at Goodwill Industries, so that they could begin posting jobs with MSCCN. Many other great examples of networking and educating the military-affiliated population on how MSCCN could assist them happened throughout the day. Ernilyn Bosco, another spouse, explained that she just moved to the Tampa Bay area about a month ago and was happy to discover such a resource as MSCCN.

Overall, the day was a great success for outreach to those affiliated with the military in the Tampa Bay area and beyond. Speaking to well over one hundred candidates, more than sixty of them left their contact information at the MSCCN table to learn more and to get assistance with their job search. It was also a great event to make direct connections with recruiters, explaining to them the benefits of connecting with MSCCN and their candidates. Thanks to Mr. LaBell for allowing MSCCN to participate in such a great event.