



**MSCCN Job Club – Tampa Region
July Club Activity
Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance, Tampa, FL
July 12, 2010
Event Report**

Attendees: Emily Burton (MSCCN) and Pat Thorp

During the June meeting, the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club – Tampa Region, decided to attend the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance (TBWA) “Professional Networking Group” meeting on Monday, July 12th as a group activity. The group contacted TBWA about the networking event and was also invited to the “Veterans Employment Orientation” being held on the same day. Ms. Pat Thorp and Emily Burton first met at the CivilianJobs.com Job Fair on June 3rd, then attended both TBWA events.



Candidate Pat Thorp (on left) and MSCCN Outreach Coordinator, Emily Burton (on right)

The “Professional Networking Group” meeting began with a general session for introductions. Pat was introduced to Mr. Bill Farnand, previously employed with TBWA. Bill shared an employment opportunity with Pat that he thought would suit her. Once the meeting was in session, everyone introduced themselves and gave an “elevator speech.” Mr. Freddy Barton, president of IntellTrain, provided the group with information on free training opportunities through Microsoft’s Elevate America program for Florida residents. From Grow Financial Federal Credit Union, Ms. Suzanne Skiratko (AVP of Human Resources and Professional Development) shared employment opportunities at her company and answered general application questions. TBWA shared the “Hot Jobs List” for the week, then participants were able to speak individually with Ms. Skiratko about positions available.

That afternoon, Pat and Emily attended the “Veteran Employment Orientation” at the TBWA Brandon, FL office. Ms. Dorothy Dunlap, Local Veteran Employment Rep II, from the TBWA and Mr. Mark Elliott, CWT PSR Benefits Advocate, from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presented information to the group. Mark began the presentation by covering VA services, benefits and programs that many veterans are unaware of as they transition. Dorothy presented next and discussed TBWA services available to veterans/family members, including veterans’ priority of service and staff referrals. She provided handouts and information on resume styles, informational interviews/calls, and a list of resource and job board websites.

Overall, the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance events were a great value to the individuals who attended. The “Professional Networking Group” provided a nice way to network in a comfortable setting, learn about employment opportunities, and speak with employers directly. The “Veteran Employment Orientation” was a wonderful introduction to the services provided by TBWA, and to make a personal connection with Ms. Dunlap. Hopefully job club participants unable to attend the activity, after an update to the one on June 12th, will participate in TBWA events in the future. MSCCN looks forward to attending similar events with the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club – Tampa Region participants.