# KRA@Work ve 're so glad you're here.



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#### **KRA Leader Spotlight!**

#### A Message from Timothy Wright, Corporate Quality Assurance Manager

Celebrating **National Veterans and Military Families Month** in November, and especially **Veterans Day** on the 11th, has always been special to me. For 6 years, I served in the Navy as a Lead Petty Officer on the USS Crommelin, Pearl Harbor, HI, and 17 years in the Navy Reserves as an Integrated Training Team Evaluator with the Naval Maritime Expeditionary Security Group, Portsmouth, VA.

I'm always humbled when an older Veteran thanks me for my service. I think, "Hey Sir/Madam, you were there before me!" Therefore, not only in November, but year-long, I celebrate all those---past, present, and future, including valued KRA-veteran employees and customers---who serve to protect the freedoms we enjoy.

After retiring from active duty, the thank-you's from "Mr/Ms Customer" at my new retail job weren't cutting it for me; I missed the satisfaction I used to derive from making a real difference in people's lives.

In 2007, I regained that sense of satisfaction at KRA, developing corporate-wide tracking and reporting procedures to monitor the operational performance and quality of our contractual agreements, and providing related staff training and development.

I take immense pride in actively participating in every program, supporting KRA's vision to engage businesses, develop workers, and nurturer stronger communities. Each case file and milestone achievement represents a transformed life that is one-step closer to achieving economic mobility. Moreover, I am privileged to assist our Leadership team in identifying strategic solutions that promote participation and engagement within our communities.

There is still much work ahead, ensuring Workforce Development Programs with real-life impact into 2024 and beyond. With its 40+-year workforce-services history nationwide, KRA is positioned ideally to continue its leadership role in the future of the industry, and I am grateful to work for a company that values its most important customers---its employees.

God Bless you all and God Bless America,

Tim Wright

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### Workforce Wednesday

#### 2023 VETERAN OPPORTUNITY REPORT - UNDERSTANDING VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE U.S.

As the world's largest professional network, LinkedIn is committed to promoting equitable hiring practices and connecting veterans to economic opportunities. In line with this mission, the 2023 Veteran Opportunity Report provides valuable insights and actionable information for veterans and other workforce-development stakeholders such as employers, nonprofits, and policymakers. The report sheds light on the current state of veteran employment, the potential within the veteran talent pool, and the challenges that veterans face in the workforce.

Some key findings of the report:

- Education Veterans are an educated talent pool, with 60.5% attaining a bachelor's degree or higher. Veterans are also 3X more likely to have a graduate degree than nonveterans.
- Skills 61% of veterans' first civilian jobs are high skilled, and eight of LinkedIn's top 10 most in-demand skills are top veteran skills.
- Underemployment Despite veterans having leadership as a top skill, and nearly 2X more work experience than nonveterans, they are half as likely to reach director or vice president leadership roles in the civilian workforce.
- **Retention** Veterans are 27% less likely than nonveterans to leave their first jobs within 6 months.

For a comprehensive understanding of the veteran-employment landscape, and to explore the full range of findings, we encourage you to read <u>the entire report</u>. By doing so, we hope to foster a greater appreciation for veterans' abilities, promote the utilization of their skills, and ultimately create more opportunities for them in the workforce



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### Programs

INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE PROGRAMS AT THE SPEED OF BUSINESS



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#### KRA Energizes and Engages at NAWDP Youth Symposium

This month, KRA was proud to attend, and exhibit at, the 2023 NAWDP Youth Symposium in Las Vegas, Nevada, with more than 900 attendees from across the country!

After the Symposium, Alyssa Elliott, KRA Operations Manager, stated "By addressing topics such as youth unemployment, skills gaps, and career pathways, in my opinion conferences like this help shape policies and initiatives that support the growth and potential of the next generation. Overall, the NAWDP Youth Symposium played a vital role in fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and creating a better future for youth in the workforce."

When asked to reflect on her experience, Rosal Chavira, KRA Operations Manager, commented "After attending the NAWDP Youth conference, my passion for training staff on how to properly service WIOA career-seekers in under-resourced communities was refueled/ignited...by building strong community networks we have a greater collective impact where resources and partnerships can be leveraged to provide services to any participant seeking WIOA services."

We all recognize that our youth represent the future of work; the knowledge we possess now informs the decisions we make, having a profound influence on our communities and our nation's prosperity for decades to come.



#### Latest News

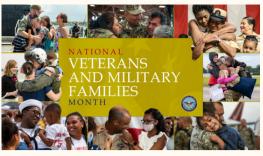
### KRA CELEBRATES NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

"In 1996, the <u>Armed Services YMCA</u> organization designated November as National Veterans and Military Families Month, with the U.S. Government commemorating the occasion every year since. This November, the Defense Department launched a new National Veterans and Military Families Month landing page, <u>Military OneSource</u>, celebrating the sacrifices and contributions of service members, veterans, and military families..." *Read More*: <u>Honoring America's Veterans and Families</u>

"KRA is pleased to announce its partnership with the Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) to lead participants of the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) toward sustainable employment. KRA's Work Activities and Career Pathways Program supports jobseekers in meeting FITAP-participation..." *Read More: <u>KRA Brings</u> Innovative Solutions to the State of Louisiana* 

"Education is a critical component in empowering these young adults. Scholarships, grants, and vocational training programs can provide the tools necessary to pursue their educational goals and secure stable employment....According to Melody Daniel, KRA's Maryland Program Director, 'Collaboration between local governments and community organizations is essential in creating a comprehensive support system for these young adults...'"*Read More*: <u>Navigating Challenges and Creating</u> <u>Solutions for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care</u>

Check out this month's Latest News Articles in our Newsroom!





Building a Stronger Louisiana



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## Connect with us!

Join us on LinkedIn today and stay connected! We invite you to check out our community events, and visit our Jobs and Life page for a glance at KRA's workforce culture.

> #KRAatWork #KRAlife #workforcedevelopment #reallifeimpact

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## Tune into our podcast!

This episode features a conversation with Kevin Williams from the Spokane Workforce Council about the opportunities and challenges facing workforce development today. Topics covered include adopting a customer-centered approach, the need to diversify funding sources, childcare as a workforce issue, and advice for navigating turbulent times. Tune in for an insightful discussion about workforce trends and innovative solutions being implemented in the Spokane region and beyond.

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KRA'S THE HUB ON SPOTIFY
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