



Start STRONG: Supporting Colorado's Military

Paul Hamel, University of Phoenix

As of 2012, there are nearly 400,000 military veterans living in Colorado. And as of 2012, more than 860,000 veterans across the country have returned to school, thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. But many of these men and women are at a loss on how to best proceed with their education, or how to leverage their work in the military into meaningful careers.

On May 3rd, the University of Phoenix hosted Start STRONG, at the Colorado Springs Learning Center, designed to support military members transitioning to the civilian community. "This event focused on a group of men and women who have dedicated their lives to the defense of our country. It's time we take care of them," said Paul Hamel, Community Relations Manager at University of Phoenix Colorado Campus.

The event featured over 120 registrants, and in addition to networking opportunities, featured a career fair with 15 currently-hiring employers. Many veterans face difficulties translating their military service to civilian positions, and submit resumes that suffer from being too specific to military culture, or utilize military jargon. To assist, Start STRONG hosted a resume workshop, a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities service members face when transitioning to civilian life, and a resume review by University of Phoenix faculty who are also retired military members.