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| OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIPBULLETIN | **NO.**2023-59 |
| **DATE**February 22, 2023 |

**TO:** NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

 OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STAFF

 STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES

**FROM:** JOHN V. LADD /s/

 Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship

**SUBJECT:** Announcement of U.S. Department of Labor accepting applications for the 2023 HIRE VETS Medallion Award until April 30, 2023.

1. **Purpose.** To inform the staff of the Office of Apprenticeship (OA), State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, Registered Apprenticeship partners, and other interested parties that the U.S. Department of Labor will be accepting applications for the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award.
2. **Action Requested.** This bulletin is being provided to RAP sponsors, RAP partners, and SAA staff to provide awareness for staff of valuable information regarding the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award. Sponsors, potential sponsors, RAP partners, and SAA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin and the linked resources to ensure appropriate information and responses are provided to sponsors, potential sponsors, employers, RAP partners, and other relevant stakeholders. Staff are encouraged to share this information with sponsors and encourage eligible employers to apply.
3. **Background and Summary.**
	1. Background – [The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017](https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ31/PLAW-115publ31.htm) (HIRE Vets Act or the Act), requires the Secretary of Labor to establish a program, by rule, that recognizes employer efforts to recruit, employ, and retain veterans. Employer-applicants meeting criteria established in the rule will receive a “HIRE Vets Medallion Award.” As described in the Act, there are different awards for large employers (500-plus employees), medium employers (51-499 employees), and small employers (50 or fewer employees). Additionally, there are two award tiers: platinum and gold. For each award, the employer must satisfy a set of criteria. Verification of these criteria includes a self-attestation by the applicant and a check for violations of veteran-related DOL labor laws by the U.S. Department of Labor. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level veterans’ employment award that recognizes a company or organization’s commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development. Over 1,650 employers have earned a HIRE Vets Medallion Award to date and they are highlighted at [www.hirevets.gov/awardees](https://www.hirevets.gov/awardees).

Summary – The U.S. Department of Labor is [accepting applications for the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/vets/vets20230131), which recognizes employers that meet standards for excellence in the recruitment, hiring and retention of America’s military veterans. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is based on a number of criteria, ranging from veteran hiring and retention to providing veteran-specific resources, leadership programming, dedicated human resources, and compensation and tuition assistance programs – with requirements varying for large, medium, and small employers. Over 1,650 employers have been recognized to date, and in the past year, 28 of the Awardees were also sponsors or employer partners of Registered Apprenticeship programs! To learn more, and see a map of the 2022 awardees, please visit [HireVets.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hirevets.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7CMclean.Hughes.C%40dol.gov%7Ce352ed250bfa4ac32ca308db088cd8c9%7C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca%7C0%7C0%7C638113173245551834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5YvsN6wuvpzLM19KY55srD0slyuv4K%2FprNPF7wx%2BUw0%3D&reserved=0).

* 1. “The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level veterans’ employment award that recognizes a proven commitment to veteran hiring,” said Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. “The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is a meaningful and important recognition. Veterans and their families benefit from careers with real growth potential and employers gain dedicated, qualified employees who can make a significant contribution to the bottom line.” The HIRE Vets Medallion Award was earned by 429 employers in the 2019 cycle, 675 in the 2020 cycle, 849 in the 2021 cycle, and 835 in the 2022 cycle.
1. **Inquiries.**

If you have any question, please contact Randy Smith, VETS, at smith.randall.e@dol.gov or at HIREVets@dol.gov, or Hughes C. McLean at mclean.hughes.c@dol.gov.