



Wall Street Banks Unite to Support Veterans of the United States Armed Forces

Leading Financial Services Institutions Launch Inaugural Veterans on Wall Street (VOWS) Conference, Scheduled for June 23, 2011 on the Intrepid in New York City

New York, May 12, 2011 - The world's largest financial institutions today announced the launch of the first annual Veterans on Wall Street (VOWS) conference. The conference, representing an unprecedented collaborative effort among the participating institutions, seeks to bring the very best of Wall Street together to support and honor our service members of the United States Armed Forces. The focus of the conference is to raise awareness of the value of veterans in the workforce.

The consortium of banks, also recognized as founding members sponsoring the effort includes Bank of America, Citi, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs.

The one-day conference will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2011, on the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City, convening Wall Street firms, industry participants, transitioning service members, recent veterans and their families, military and government leaders, military support organizations and others who have a shared interest in veterans employment opportunities. The conference seeks to raise the profile of veterans on Wall Street and highlight the financial services industry as a veteran-friendly employer.

As part of the VOWS conference on June 23, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will hold a hiring fair on Pier 86 alongside the Intrepid from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The hiring fair is part of the Chamber's recent launch of Hiring our Heroes, a nationwide public-private partnership to help veterans and their spouses find employment in their local communities, and it will be just one of 100 such hiring fairs across the country. The event will be co-hosted by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce.

"The U.S. Department of Labor's VETS is transforming many of its current programs and launching new initiatives to address the veterans' unemployment rate," said Raymond Jefferson, Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor. "Veterans have an ideal combination of training, skills and qualities that prepares them to be peak performers. However, the Gulf War Era II veterans' unemployment rate of 10.9% in March 2011 remains higher than the US unemployment rate of 9.0%. We're excited about working with the Veterans on Wall Street consortium to raise awareness of this issue and help increase the number of veterans in the workforce."

"I'm excited to see that some of the world's largest financial institutions have taken a key leadership role on this critical issue," said James G Rebolz, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve National Chairman. "Their significant presence in local communities throughout the United States, as well as the vital scope of their business relationships across multiple sectors of the US economy, make these institutions extremely well positioned to not only promote and provide our service men and women with career opportunities in financial services, but to be exemplary champions of the benefits to our Nation's overall economic strength of addressing the employment challenges many of our veterans are facing when they return home."

The conference agenda will include breakout sessions for industry-wide sharing of best practices, information sessions for recent military veterans, and an evening reception and fundraising dinner event.

The conference is sponsored entirely by the participating banks; attendance is free of charge, and contributions above conference cost will be allocated across a handful of established, national veterans-

focused charitable organizations. Seating is limited. For more information, or to register for the conference, please visit www.veteransonwallstreet.com.

For additional information, or to register for the Hiring our Heroes event in New York City, please visit www.regonline.com/vows or e-mail HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com.

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