



Community Leaders' Forum

February 28, 2024

WE ARE THE ARMY'S HOME



*COL Joseph V. Messina
CSM Garth D. Newell
DGC Dr. John M. Moeller
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir*





- **Garrison Commander Opening Remarks**
- **Community Partner Spotlight**
 - Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Board of Supervisors- Franconia District
- **Community Partner Updates**
 - Mr. Victor Hoskins, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
 - Ms. Krysti Pereira, Blue Star Families
 - Ms. Holly Dougherty, Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- **Installation Updates**
 - Ms. Kiersty Duncan, Transition Assistance Program
 - Ms. Lauren DuPree, Employee Readiness Program
- **Open Discussion – Q & A**
- **Closing Remarks**

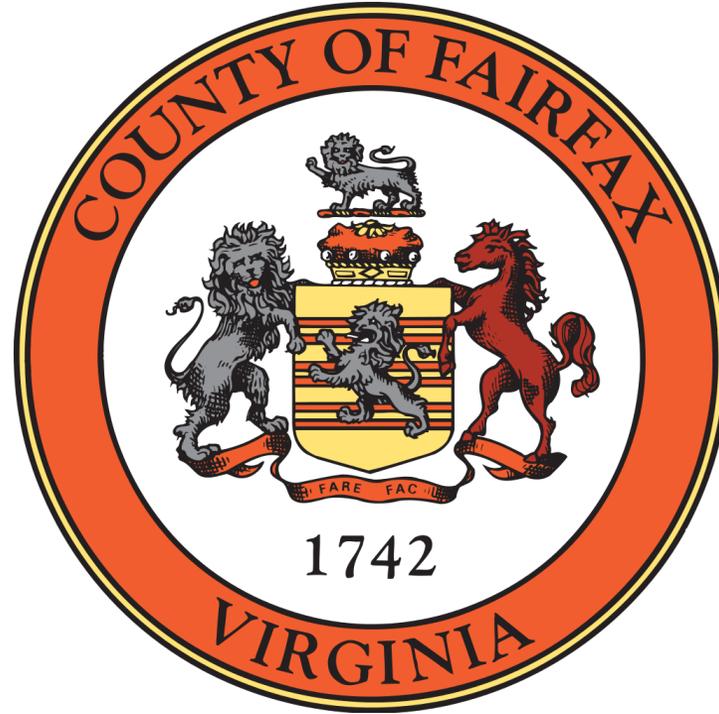


Opening Remarks



COL Joseph Messina
Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir





Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk
Board of Supervisors- Franconia District



A Better Future



WORKFORCE INNOVATION SKILLS HUB

A Long-Term Strategy for Ending Generational Poverty



First of its kind workforce training and job placement



Hands on exposure to trades and cutting-edge technology



Wrap around services to remove barriers to success



Support and tracking for one year after placement



Priorities

- **Help residents obtain the skills and certificates for in-demand jobs. (Building Trades, Tech, ESL)**
- **Connect newly qualified residents directly with employers ready to hire.**
- **Provide residents the opportunities to earn a middle-class income.**

Program Investment

- **\$2.4 Million in County funding**
- **\$400k in Federal Funding**
- **\$400k in State Funding**
- **8,500 square foot space at the Hybla Valley Community Center**



Operators



Partners



Programs



Patient Navigator Program



Fiber Splicing Program



Carpentry Apprenticeship

U.S. ARMY FORT BELVOIR

W.I.S.H Services and Resources for:

Transitioning Servicemen and Women

Military Spouses

Veterans

W.I.S.H Programs:

Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Pre-Apprenticeship/Apprenticeship Training

Childcare Provider Facilitation

And more...



Thank you and Questions



WORKFORCE INNOVATION SKILLS HUB



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Mr. Victor Hoskins
Fairfax County Economic Development Authority





Blue Star Families





Why Blue Star Families?

We know military families!

We are the largest grassroots organization serving military-connected families.



1,500,000

Military family members served annually



244,000

Members



**Military Spouse
Employment Support**

> \$72M in economic impact since program inception



70M

National Media Reach



\$136M

Value provided back to members



\$5M

Earned Media Publicity Value



Blue Star Families' Theory of Change

Building strong communities of support around military families, to improve our military readiness

Listen

We identify the challenges our military families face through our national survey

Share

We translate data into understanding and action by sharing with military and civilian communities

Partner

We partner at the national and local level to support military-connected families

Act

We deliver programming, events, and resources to address the challenges identified

Blue Star Families **Improves Military Readiness**

**The largest and fastest growing
chapter-based nonprofit serving
military- and Veteran-connected
families**

- ★ ***FREE*** Programs & membership
- ★ ~250,000 members
- ★ Reach 1.5M families per year

★ **Blue Star Books**

Connecting communities through a love of reading, with over 280,000 books donated to military children. 94% net promoter score.



★ **Blue Star Museums**

Providing 1.2+ million free museum visits in partnership with the National Endowment of the Arts.



Strengthening families through educational and fun activities during summer break.



★ **Blue Star Caregivers**

Providing peer-to-peer and wellness support for 5,300+ caregivers last year.



★ **BLUE STAR OUTDOORS**

Boosting physical and mental well-being by connecting military families to the outdoors.



★ **Blue Star Volunteers**

Supporting Blue Star Families' mission by connecting with military families and empowering them to thrive.



Fighting to prevent and end food insecurity among military families through 57 food distribution events last year.



Supporting the support. An innovative model, funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to aid in the prevention of Veteran suicide through education, training, and peer support for Veterans' family members and friends.



**Blue Star Welcome Programs
Make Military Life Awesome**



 **BLUE STAR CAREERS**
Delivers Data-Backed Solutions

Leveraging research to support
spouses who need it most and
raising awareness to **close the military
spouse employment gap**

Substantive Impact

\$72.6M

Total economic impact

817

Bilingual spouses in pipeline

495

Coursera enrollments

100

Grow with Google scholarship
applicants

Direct Support

- Upskilling
- Networking
- Career Placement

Innovative Research

- Identifying root causes and upstream solutions
- Longitudinal study to identify & scale solutions that work*



BLUE STAR

Welcme Week 2023

Blue Star Welcome Week: The Why

Every year, 600,000 military-connected families move.

This places massive stress on the entire family unit. And when there is stress on service members, it jeopardizes their readiness and the military as a whole.

Blue Star Families annual survey has identified that “lack of a sense of belonging to their community” is a major challenge for military families—but those who *do* have a sense of belonging are much more likely to thrive.

Our survey identified the problem. **Blue Star Welcome Week is the solution.**



Blue Star Welcome Week

When: September 21 -29, 2024

Blue Star Welcome Week is designed to alleviate relocation challenges and support military families with opportunities to participate in events, including receiving messages and actions of welcome and appreciation from communities across the country.

Join us to raise awareness among Americans and build grassroots support for our military families.





BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Questions?

Connect with us: www.bluestarfam.org

jriggs@bluestarfam.org/

kpereira@bluestarfam.org



Ms. Holly Dougherty
Mount Vernon - Springfield Chamber of
Commerce





Ms. Kiersty Duncan
Transition Services Manager



Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

Who We Serve

TAP is a congressionally mandated program designed to **prepare** Service Members (SM) for separation or retirement and **connect** them to employment, education, or entrepreneurial opportunities. Spouses of transitioning SM, Veterans, and DA Civilians may also utilize TAP.

What We Provide

- Core Curriculum to include courses taught by the Department of Labor (DOL), the Veterans Administration (VA), and Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Additive courses covering federal resume, dress for success, interview techniques, and more
- Access to job fairs, hiring events, partner resources, and training opportunities through CSP/Skillbridge

2023 In Review

- 910 new clients/ 4208 total visits
- 3 major hiring events
- 570+ job seeker attendance at hiring events
- 330 interviews conducted
- 78% employers anticipate hires from events
- 64 CSP/Skillbridge enrolled participants

Ways to Partner

- Employer Days
- Job Fairs/Hiring Events
- Career Skills Program/ Skillbridge
- Professional Attire Donations





Ms. Lauren DuPree
Employment Readiness Program



Military Spouse Education & Employment Services, Army Community Service

Career Events 2024

MAR 6 2024 *Bridges to Success: Career Pathways for Military-Connected Families*

MAY 8 2024 *Fort Belvoir Job Fair*

SEP 12 2024 *Military Spouse Job Fair*

NOV 14 2024 *Fort Belvoir Job Fair*

Military Spouse Career and Job Search Preparation Services

Individual appointments (in-person and virtual) with Certified Career Services

Provider

Bimonthly Spouse Career Readiness Classes

Weekly job referrals



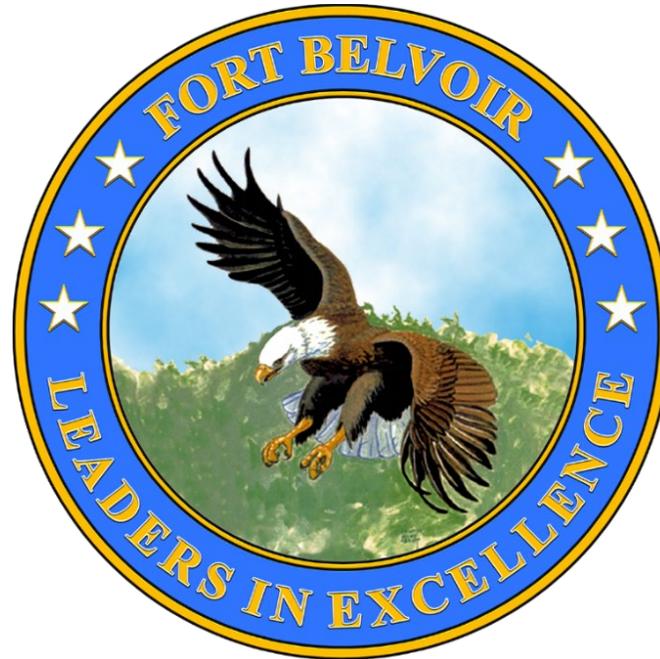
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Discussion / Closing Remarks



COL Joseph Messina
Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir

