Military Spouses & Children: A Talent Pipeline for America

Financial issues of military pay, spouse employment, and saving for retirement and children’s college are among the top concerns for military families*.

21% of military spouses are unemployed (actively seeking work).

Military families are 27% less likely to have dual incomes than civilian families.

51% of military families list spouse under/unemployment as top obstacle to financial security.

78% of active-duty families plan to transfer the post-9/11 GI Bill to their spouse or child.

79% do not believe military compensation is keeping up with civilian compensation.

57% of active-duty military families are unlikely to recommend service to their own children.

There are 560,000 service member families claiming 1.1 million children as dependents in active-duty households across the country.

With 700,000 military spouses and more than 105,000 children aged 17–22, college affordability has become one of the greatest burdens facing military families.

Education benefits were the top reason for joining the military among active-duty and veteran millennials.

The post-9/11 G.I. Bill simply isn’t enough for hundreds of thousands of families with multiple children and only one source of income.

Over a 20-year career, enlisted service members earn on average less than $46,000 annually plus variable allowances for housing and cost of living.

Military children at DoD schools have consistently outperformed the national average in all tested grades and subjects, as well as high school graduation and college-going rates.

MILITARY SPOUSE UNEMPLOYMENT IS COSTING THE U.S. ECONOMY UP TO $1 BILLION ANNUALLY.

(Social Cost Analysis of the Unemployment and Under-employment of Military Spouses, 2016)

“Thank you for your continued support in assisting military families in achieving their dreams of a brighter future!”

ThanksUSA Scholar, Army Spouse Stacey Fleurijean

*Blue Star Families 2016 Military Family Lifestyle Survey • www.bluestarfam.org/survey
Skills Gap in America

U.S. ECONOMY
“America has people without jobs, but it also has jobs without people — about 5.6 million of them. Why can’t those jobs be filled? Because job candidates lack the required skills. We call this situation the skills gap.”


73% of CEOs surveyed in Pricewaterhouse-Cooper’s “2015 Global CEO Survey” said that the skills gap is a “threat” impacting future growth of their business.

PUBLIC SERVICE
Demand for teachers in America will continue to increase over the next decade in line with the growing K-12 population. By 2018, the annual shortfall is forecasted to grow to 112,000 teachers.

Employment of social workers is projected to grow 12% during 2014-2024, faster than the average for all occupations.

STEM
Only 4% of U.S. workers are scientists or engineers.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that over 8.6 million STEM related jobs will exist by 2018.

Only 42% of employers believe that recent college graduates are adequately prepared to enter the workforce.

MANUFACTURING
“The United States faces a need for nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs over the next decade and two million of those jobs are likely to go unfilled due to the skills gap, according to new research from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute.”
February 2015 Skills Gap Report

67% of manufacturing companies are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers; more than half of these expect the shortage to increase in the next five years.

ENERGY
1.5 million new energy jobs will be created in the U.S. by 2030.

38% of current employees in the energy sector are expected to retire by 2023.

75% of energy companies report difficulty in hiring qualified candidates.

HEALTHCARE
The BLS estimates that over 300,000 physicians and surgeons and over 1.2 million registered nurses will be needed between 2012 and 2022.

HOSPITALITY
It is estimated that the travel and tourism industry will face a global shortfall of 14 million jobs over the next 10 years.