



A CAREER PIPELINE FOR VETERANS

- Developing essential STEM skills for critical defense positions
- Providing a gateway to living-wage jobs

Vets2Tech

@ DOE National Labs

Still serving the nation... at our national laboratories

Vets2Tech is a planned educational program crafted specially for military veterans. Since formation by LLNL in 2014, Vets2Tech has spread to community colleges and national laboratories in five states, serving a critical need for technologists in the American workforce.

Working with Growth Sector, a California nonprofit, other national labs and community colleges, LLNL developed a core STEM curriculum tailored to prepare veterans for living-wage jobs in mechanical or electrical technology.

The cohort-based program includes wraparound support to help students succeed, stay on track, and complete in two years.

Students build connections with laboratory mentors immediately upon starting their first quarter in school.

Each participant develops an individual plan to prepare for future employment alongside engineers and scientists.



Of Students Who Started

- 80% of grads hired full-time
- 80% persisted in community college
- 65% completed program in one year (vs. statewide 4% in three years)
- 20% enrolled in four-year programs

Since 2014

- 60+ students enrolled, 37 gained two-year STEM degrees
- 30 veterans hired by LLNL

An A.S. in mechanical or engineering technology provides future employment opportunities transferable to any technical employer in the country.

"This program provides veterans with a clear correlation between academics and employment, teaching them applicable skills through a series of well thought-out, contextualized courses."

—John Ruiz, Vets2Tech program graduate

"Being in the military, you have a sense of responsibility for national security. LLNL is based on the same principle. If I can be here helping, that's something I'd like to do"

—Dan Hempsmeyer, Vets2Tech student

CURRICULAR MODEL

- Coursework contextualized for science and engineering careers
- Accelerated math curriculum from remedial to calculus completed in one year
- Communication and technical-writing coursework
- Applied learning during internships

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Vets2Tech program leverages technical skills gained in the military, coupled with proven commitment to service, teamwork, and respect for peers. The 24-month program guides veterans to a two-year degree and prepares students for optional transfer to a four-year degree program.

A broad range of support is offered by **specialists** at the community colleges who meet one-on-one with students—setting goals, identifying challenges, and drawing a roadmap to successful completion. Elements include:

- Cohort-based learning communities of up to 30 students—an environment where students build connections with other vets
- Paid internships with local STEM employers after completion of the first year
- Technical-skills training and mentoring during internships
- Soft-skills coaching: interpersonal skills, problem solving, time management
- Career workshops on job seeking and interview strategies
- Workplace tours where students connect with veterans in the workforce
- Career fairs to meet local STEM employers
- Academic advising for two-year undergraduate degrees



*Vets2Tech student
recaps his internship
at LLNL.*



WHO WE SERVE

Vets2Tech is for veterans and their spouses who are looking to gain a degree that will provide an opportunity to make a difference in science and technology.

WHY DOE LABS?

Veterans are usually not aware that with just two years' training, they can qualify to serve the country as technologists in the national laboratory system. DOE labs have come together to reach out to raise awareness of STEM opportunities at DOE national labs. DOE labs provide the training and support needed for careers in defense and energy.

Mission: Continue expanding outreach to veterans and active military; establish additional STEM pipelines from local colleges into national labs across the country.

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*Vets2Tech graduate,
Las Positas College*

Vets2Tech Partner Roles

National Labs & Industry Partners

- Mentor students, advise on curriculum development, host interns, conduct site tours, and hire graduates

Growth Sector

- Provides STEM curriculum to colleges, supervises support specialists, coordinates proposals for grant funding and coordinates grant funding for community colleges.

Community Colleges

- Develop and teach courses, provide student support, recruit students, and engage local employers. Provide accelerated math curricula and matriculation agreements, where appropriate, with four year universities. May provide college credit for internships.

Community Colleges

California

Cañada (San Mateo)
City College San Francisco & Skyline (San Bruno)
Evergreen Valley (San Jose) & Ohlone (Fremont)
Foothill (Los Gatos)
Grossmont (El Cajon)
Laney (Oakland)
Las Positas (Livermore)
Merritt (Oakland)
Mesa (San Diego)
Mission (Santa Clara)
Monterey Peninsula
Palomar (San Diego County)
Saddleback (Orange County)
San Jose City
Santa Ana
Valley HS (Santa Ana)
West Valley (Saratoga)

Colorado

Pikes Peak
Red Rocks

New Mexico

Northern New Mexico
Santa Fe

Maryland

Baltimore City
Baltimore County

Washington

Highline (King County) & Tacoma
Seattle Central
South Seattle

Major Science/Tech Employers

Caltrans • Exelon • Jabil • Lockheed Martin • Malware
Bytes • Northrop Grumman • Raytheon • Salesforce • SAP •
Symantec • TRC Solutions

National Labs

Army Research Laboratory
Idaho National Laboratory
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Los Alamos National Laboratory
NASA AMES
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Sandia National Laboratories
SLAC National Laboratory

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