

Government and Community Relations

The Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce

GCE is proud to announce that we have partnered with four other AbilityOne® non-profit organizations to form the Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce (AEAW). Forming an alliance means we are working with others to try to achieve the same outcome or goal. The founding members are GCE, Melwood, ServiceSource, Didlake and TVS/Transylvania Vocational Services. AEAW is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities by modernizing the federal government's procurement process (how the government gets goods and services it needs), direct hiring practices and policies. The Alliance seeks to protect, promote and evolve the U.S AbilityOne program. We will build on the strengths of this program while preserving its historical purpose to employ people with disabilities.



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Employees' career goals should not be limited by anything but their imaginations. We enable people with disabilities to have access to and choice in the type of career they want to pursue. This Alliance will continue to empower the disability community with opportunities for their career goals.



AEAW founding members GCE, Melwood, ServiceSource, Didlake and TVS/Transylvania Vocational Services kicked off a conversation and soft launch on Expanding America's Workforce in May at SourceAmerica's XForce Conference in Anaheim, California. Dwight Davis, GCE president, and Jamie Brandenburg, TVS president, made the official announcement in front of more than 700 conference participants.

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Legislative advocacy and GCE – How do we do it?

GCE recognizes that everyone has abilities to contribute in the workplace. We know that our jobs are important to each and every one of us. Legislative advocacy is about making your voice heard and taking action that involves acting on behalf of an organization such as GCE and our team members. We personally meet with congressional leaders, which includes their staff located across the country, numerous times a year both in-person and using Zoom or Teams meetings online. This is what we do to stay up-to-date on key issues and advocate for our team members.

- 1). We identify, monitor and stay informed of trends that impact disability employment.
- 2). We track and monitor key legislation, regulatory activities and policies.

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A note from Dwight

The Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award for food service excellence is given to U.S. Navy galleys, ashore and afloat, that receive a five-star rating from a Navy evaluation team.

This year, both our Naval Air Station Pensacola Florida and Naval Station Newport Rhode Island food service contracts were recognized as five-star galleys. I am happy to announce that Naval Station Newport is taking home the Ney Award.



Dwight Davis
GCE President

I highlight this to recognize the hard work and pride shown by the Newport team, but also to recognize the quality work done by the whole GCE team. From the accolades heaped on the Eglin Air Force Base custodial services team to the accomplishments of our Mirador information technology team, our customers acknowledge that GCE team members are second to none.

I hope all of you get to take some time off this summer, and no matter how you do it, come back refreshed and ready to continue the great work you do every day!

- 3). We work with the disability community where we have contract sites.
- 4). We participate on a monthly basis in the National Council of SourceAmerica Employers (NCSE), SourceAmerica Public Policy Committee, Government Affairs Coffee Breaks and more.

The year 2023 marked the beginning of the 118th Congress. GCE will continue to promote policy to advance job opportunities and training for people with disabilities. It is our mission to advance employment equity for people with disabilities across the country.

In May, while on Capitol Hill for congressional meetings, GCE made a special presentation after working with a congresswoman who completed the requirements to become an AbilityOne Champion for the program! Congratulations to Senator Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee on becoming the newest AbilityOne Congressional Champion. The program, established by SourceAmerica® and National Industries for the Blind, honors members of Congress who have demonstrated a commitment to their constituents with disabilities or blindness and to the AbilityOne Program. GCE has two contracts at Fort Campbell in Tennessee, and we are proud of the work we do with Senator Blackburn and her team to advocate for the AbilityOne program and jobs for people with disabilities.



In attendance at the presentation and pictured (left to right): Congressman (Ret.) Jon Porter; Lori Kain, GCE Director of Government and Community Relations; Robert P. (Bob) Daniels, SourceAmerica Board of Directors; Sen. Marsha Blackburn; Dwight Davis, GCE President; and Rick Terrazas, SourceAmerica Vice President of Government Affairs.

Team member news and recognition

Congratulations to Scott Temple on his new role with GCE.

Scott retired from the Air Force with 24 years of active duty service in Administration, Personnel, and Training. Scott applied for a position with GCE at Eglin AFB Official Mail Center and was hired by Brad Jackson in January 2015 as an official mail clerk, which he did until January 2018. In the beginning of January 2018, he took on a new role and worked in custodial services at Eglin as the quality control inspector until the end of April 2023. In the beginning of May 2023, Scott applied for a position as a quality specialist working in Pensacola and was hired by Jeremiah White, the quality program manager. As a quality specialist, Scott will be responsible for implementing industry-best practices and providing oversight in the area of quality for our contract sites.



MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida news:

Mercy Miller, GCE Director of Operations, received two special notes of thanks from special operations command (SOCOM). Mercy and her team are consistently recognized for their exceptional work and customer service.



Fort Knox News from Kentucky

The third time is the charm for Monique Colgan. She started working at GCE for the third time on November 11, 2022, and on April 4, 2023 was promoted to shift lead I at the U.S. Army Human Resource Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

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Heather Hodge and Breeanna Currence were promoted to shift lead II positions advancing from the shift I position. Heather has been a GCE team member since July of 2022 and Breeanna started with GCE in October of 2019.

Kayla Young was promoted to barracks team supervisor and Jennifer Howard to quality control inspector. Both team members started at GCE in 2022. Kayla started out as a shift lead I and fill-in shift lead II, while Jennifer was a shift lead II.



Safety with Jonathan Broussard

Using carts safely

Many GCE team members use carts every day to perform their job duties. Carts are essential to carrying food, supplies and equipment from one place to another. However, carts can also cause injury. In the past year, several team members have been injured by a cart, either by someone else or through using it themselves.

Carts need to be in good operating condition. Carts in poor condition, with cracks in the structure or damaged wheels, can be a hazard to the team member using the cart and those around them. All equipment should be inspected before each use, including all carts. If damage is noted during the inspection, let your supervisor or manager know. If no one reports damage, repairs can't be made. All broken equipment should be removed from service and tagged so that others are aware.

While pushing carts, be aware of your surroundings. If the cart is taller than you, and you cannot see over the top, step to the side so that you are able to see around it, or enlist the aid of another team member to lead the cart and ensure a clear path.

Hallway intersections and passageways should be treated just like roads. When you approach the intersection, remain cautious to the presence of others. Lack of caution in the intersection can result in running into or over other team members and causing injury to their feet, ankles, legs or back. If you cannot see a clear path in front of you, do not proceed. Stop and investigate the area first.

Carts are an important tool to be used by GCE team members, but we must use them with care to avoid injury to ourselves or others.



Jonathan Broussard
Safety professional

Team member support with Lisa Bloodworth

Managing mental health in the workplace

Nationwide, awareness has been growing around mental health, support available and the importance of fighting stigma. Advocacy is growing for policies that support the millions of people in the U.S. affected by mental illness. As an employer, GCE recognizes the impact mental illness can have in the workplace.

We encourage team members who are struggling at work to reach out. Having an initial and ongoing conversation can help determine what the team member needs to manage their mental health while at work.

Not everyone is comfortable sharing with their employer that they are experiencing mental health challenges. This is a personal decision that is made by the team member and often is not disclosed until the person is experiencing a mental health crisis. If team members do choose to disclose a mental health challenge, it often leads to the following benefits:

- The team member and employer can discuss accommodations and supports that could diminish or eliminate workplace stress associated with their mental health.
- It can help change people's attitudes and reduce stigma.
- It can lead to improved performance and productivity when others are aware that extra support and understanding might be needed.



Lisa Bloodworth
GCE director of transition and support services

Tips for team members who are dealing with mental health stress at work include:

- Avoid things that trigger mental health symptoms.
- Monitor stress levels.
- Take time at work, when you can, to step away to relax and recharge.
- Exercise during lunch or designated breaks.
- Take medication as prescribed.
- Maintain a routine even when feeling unwell.
- Develop a healthy way to release anger, such as an off-site walk, quiet time or phoning a family member/friend during breaks.
- Learn and use relaxation techniques.

Remember, if you feel like you need help, many options are available through GCE and our parent organization, LifeView Group. Reach out to your project manager at your site or Team Member Relations. They are more than happy to assist you.

Living our values (value coin recognition)

Ownership: accountable, engaged, stewardship, responsive, committed

Integrity: honest, principled, trustworthy, transparent

Compassion: empathetic, merciful, sensitive, kind, giving, forgiving, hopeful

Excellence: safety, quality, distinguished, learning, improving

Service: welcoming, attentive, humble, respectful, exceeds expectations, collaborative

GCE Value coins are given out by managers and supervisors to recognize team members for consistently living one of our Values every day. When a team member earns all five Value coins, he or she will receive a Value pin, coin holder and plaque with certificate.



Five Coin Recipient Value Plaques (March, April, May)

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington – Food Services: Jesse Landon, Kace Larson

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C. – Felix Vasquez, Roderick Bunch, Vernon Bailey

U.S. Army Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana – Food Services: Christopher Bailey

Value coin recipients (March, April, May)

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington – Food Services:

Jim Beasley, Jeff Becker, Jeremy Bryant, Ed Clark, Jan Cotton, Damon Dodge, Howard Goodman, Isabella Hays, Charlie Johnson, Jesse Landon, Kace Larson, Bhum Pant, Tess Propeack, Zach Slotnick, Lana Tagaloa, Ryan Viray, Howard Goodman, Kevin Law, Tulse Pant

Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida – Custodial Services:

Michael Garrett, David Boswell, Bobby Hollingsworth, Kenny McGruder

U.S. Army Fort Campbell, Fort Campbell, Tennessee – Custodial Services:

David Sarnecki, Elizabeth Sarnecki, Rhonda Bryant, Patrick Rose, Teddy Blake, Dexter Young, Nelly Rivera, Michael Hammonds,

Irma Candelario, Vernon Babb, Carson Nanney, Victoria Loveless, Ashley Ferranti, Gladinel Saez, Mark Rushing, Eli Winans, Deonte Northington, Linda Easily, Justin Harmon, Chris Gillette

Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier, Louisiana – Food Services:

Song Su McNeese, Rollieta Ingledew, Monterrance Harris, Jesse Seago, Felecia Victor

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C. – Custodial Services :

Darrin Henry

U.S. Army Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana – Food Services:

Heatherlee Martin, Mikala January, Angelica Squires, Jonathan Falke, Isaiah Vallaire, Pearl Lott, Stephen Bass, Tariq Haymon Hunter, Christy Summer