



Truman VA BULLETIN

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Volume 2008, Issue 21

Take Note:

- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Welcome Home Event — Saturday, November 1, 3:00 — 6:00 PM
- The new Smoking Policy went into effect on October 1.
- The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from campaigning for any political party or candidate at their workplace.

EEO and Office of Resolution Management Training, Nov. 5 and Nov. 6

To learn about Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Office of Resolution Management (ORM) discrimination complaint processes, training for all employees will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 5 or Thursday, Nov. 6. The training sessions will include the following topics:

What is Equal Employment Opportunity? What is Mediation? What Should You Know About Hostile Work Environments and/or Anti-Harassment? – presented by **Sara Hake**, EEO Program Manager.

and will be available for evening/night shift employees as well as CBOC personnel.

Everything You Need to Know About the Office of Resolution Management Discrimination Complaint Process – presented by **W. Gregg Buckner**, EEO Intake Specialist.

Employees are invited to attend either session with prior supervisory approval. The Nov. 5 session is scheduled from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium and the Nov. 6 session is scheduled from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The training will be videotaped



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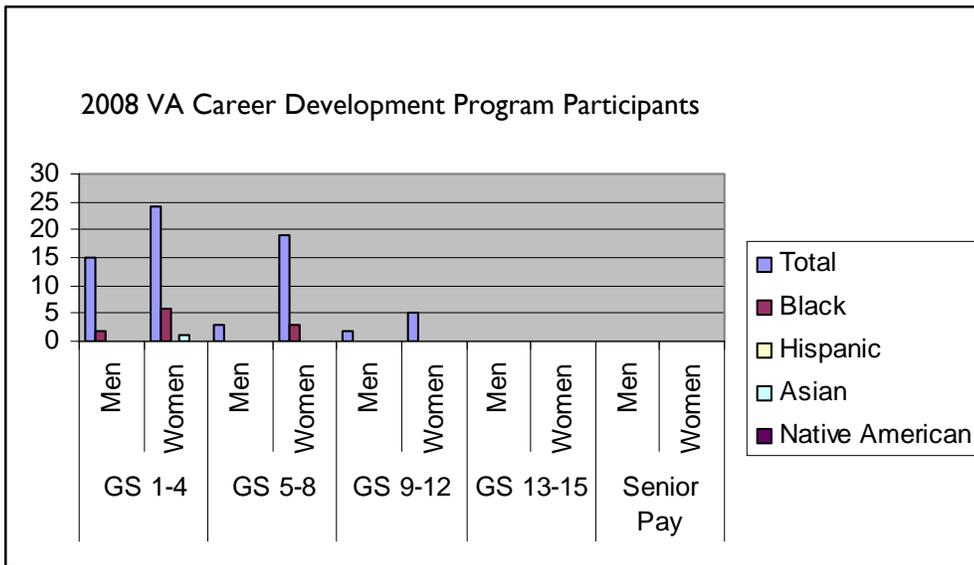
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Two events, sponsored by the hospital's EEO Committee, are planned. On Monday, Oct. 20, a number of educational/interactive displays and booths will be available for all employees, volunteers and visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. On Thursday, Oct. 23, the National Disability Employment

Awareness Month program is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. **Gene Wheat**, former DAV state commander, will be the guest speaker. In addition, the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Employee with Disability award will be named. On Friday, Oct. 24, watch for a Cancer Awareness display in the lobby.

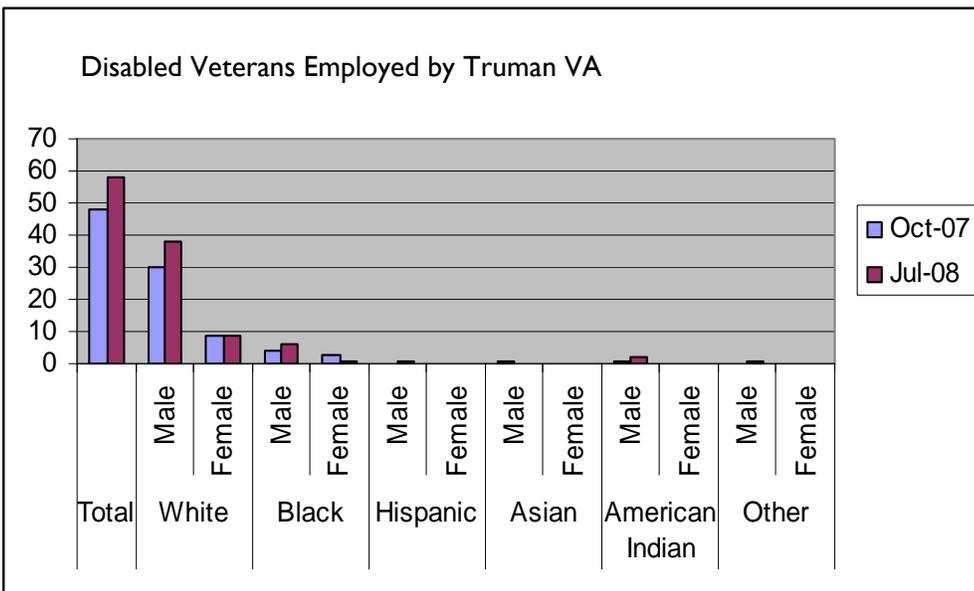


2008 Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program Report



The annual Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program report focuses on our facility's accomplishments in identifying and removing barriers to recruitment and employment and career development opportunities for women and minorities. The graph shows a synopsis of Truman VA employees that participated in career development programs in FY 2008. To view the entire report, visit the Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity link on the hospital home page.

2008 Annual Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Report



As of July 2008, veterans represented 27.34 percent of the facility's workforce, which is a 4.93 percent increase from last year. The total number of veterans increased from 202 to 279. The total number of disabled veterans on staff increased from 48 to 58 in FY 2008. Disabled veterans represent 5.7 percent of the local workforce. The numbers of recently returning service members claiming veteran preference and the numbers of disabled veterans seeking employment are anticipated to continue to increase. Hiring veterans and disabled veterans is a continuing priority with ongoing efforts to increase the representation of disabled veterans.



Consider a donation to the Combined Federal Campaign. The campaign is going on right now! Ask your supervisor for the name of your CFC Canvasser and give. Your donation will be appreciated.

To view the 2008 Annual Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Report, visit the Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity link on the hospital home page.

VA Diversity News

Are you interested in ongoing information about diversity news, studies, surveys, special emphasis issues, event and activities? The VISN 15 Diversity Committee invites you to tune in to *Diversity News*, a monthly video program produced by the VA Central Office Broadcasting Center for the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity (DM&EEO). Recent broadcasts have included topics such as best practices in diversity management, the different generations in today's workforce and workplace stress and aggression.

Diversity News airs on VA Communications Channel 2, is available on the VA Knowledge Network or at www.va.gov/dmeeo/ca/diversitynews.htm.

Employees may download the *Diversity@Work* newsletter on the DM&EEO Web site and sign up to receive NewsLink, a free weekly electronic news service with summaries and links to recent diversity-related articles or other publications gathered from a variety of online sources.



Suicide Prevention Training Offered Weekly

Kathryn Crews, RN, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, is presenting Operation S.A.V.E. Guide training every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in room D240A. Participants will learn about the importance of suicide prevention, how to identify a veteran than may be at risk, how to gain information to help the veteran and how to refer a veteran for evaluation and treatment. This training is of interest to all staff members but is required for the following personnel:

- laboratory and x-ray personnel
- audiologists
- occupational therapists
- dental hygienists
- physical therapists
- nursing assistants
- clinic and ward clerks
- LPNs
- food service workers
- registration clerks
- police
- volunteers.

Training is to be completed by Dec. 30 and documented in LMS. Plans are underway to include this training in new employee orientation. This training is not intended for psychologists, clinical social workers, nurses, physicians, dentists or physician assistants. For more information, contact **Kathryn Crews** at extension 53402 or **Lea Foster** at extension 54071.

“The potential to save lives rests in the hands of those who learn to recognize the signs of veterans at risk.”

Welcome Home Event – Saturday, Nov. 1, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Please remember the Welcome Home event for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans and their families at Truman VA from 3:00

p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. Employees interested in helping with the event should contact **Nathan Witt** (Voluntary Service) at extension 56405.





Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital

WELCOME

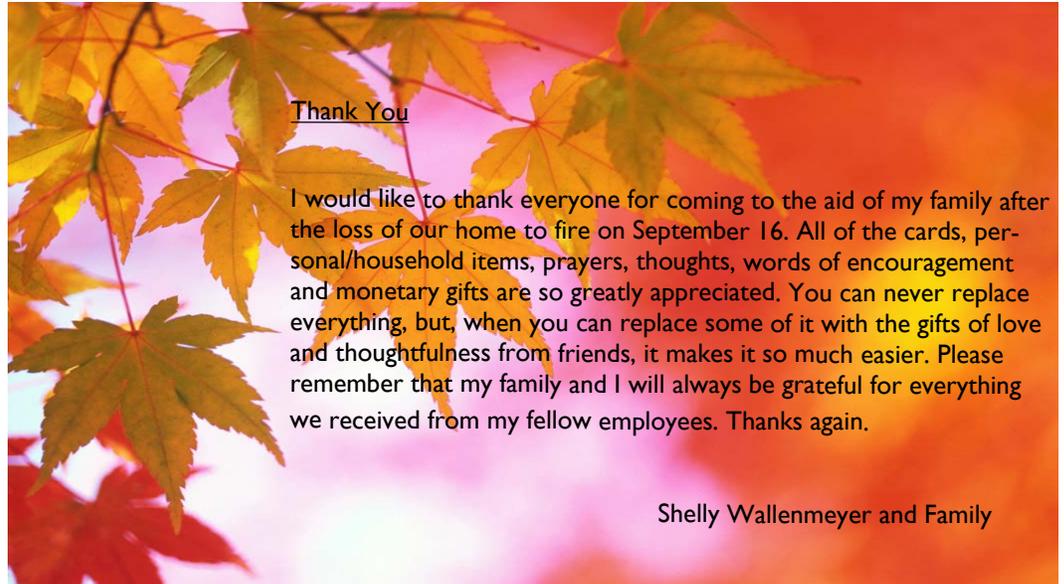
Richard Burns, MD, Primary Care Provider (PC)
Jennifer Nold, Telephone Operator (HAS)
Blake Witter, LCSW, Social Worker (BH)

FAREWELL

Brian Blumhagen, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
James Burks, Physician Assistant (SC)
Pamela Creech, CRNA, Nurse Anesthetist (SC)
Madrian Gibson, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201
Phone: 573-814-6000



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for coming to the aid of my family after the loss of our home to fire on September 16. All of the cards, personal/household items, prayers, thoughts, words of encouragement and monetary gifts are so greatly appreciated. You can never replace everything, but, when you can replace some of it with the gifts of love and thoughtfulness from friends, it makes it so much easier. Please remember that my family and I will always be grateful for everything we received from my fellow employees. Thanks again.

Shelly Wallenmeyer and Family

Odds and Ends



VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Kathryn Carlyle (FIN) has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren (HR)** at extension 56397 for information.

FLU SHOTS HAVE BEGUN!

Flu shots for patients have begun! They will be provided in the following clinics at the time of a scheduled appointment:

- Primary Care
- GI Laboratory
- Chemotherapy Clinic
- Mental Health Clinic.

Walk-ins are welcome in the Flu Clinic, located in the hospital cafeteria. Flu shots are provided there Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., except 2:00 p.m.

on Wednesdays. **Flu shots for employees will begin on Oct. 31.** Watch for more information in the near future.

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!