

Truman VA Bulletin

Columbia, Missouri

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- SPRING FLING (MAY 5)
- AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL COMPETENCY WORKSHOP (MAY 13)
- CAREER DAY FESTIVITIES (MAY 17-21)



2010 ALL EMPLOYEE SURVEY, APRIL 15-MAY 10

YOU SPOKE UP - WE HEARD YOU!

Based on what you told us in the FY 2009 All Employee Survey, we used your feedback to develop action plans to improve. Your feedback helps guide us in making changes and developing new programs that are meaningful to you - changes that will help improve your satisfaction and in turn, improve the satisfaction of the men and women we are honored to serve. Here are some of the initiatives that have been accomplished due to your feedback on the All Employee Survey:

- An Employee Satisfaction Committee was chartered to champion employee satisfaction through employee recognition, wellness, praise, career development, supporting diversity, training/education, survey support and other opportunities.
- An Employee Satisfaction Suggestion link was established on the hospital's home page.
- Monthly Lunch and Learn seminars were developed including topics such as Smoking Cessation, Health Insurance Benefits and Stress Management.

- Annual Employee Health Fairs are conducted.
- Weight Watchers At Work Program was implemented.
- The second Annual Employee Career Development Fair is scheduled May 21.
- Training was provided on Performance Based Interviewing, Dressing for Success and Resume Writing.
- Diversity Learning Map Training was provided.
- A Coaching/Mentoring Program was initiated.
- All Employee Survey results were used to identify employee development and upward mobility opportunities.

bility opportunities.

The 2010 All Employee Survey is underway now through May 10. Please take a moment to complete the survey and let us know how we're doing. You should have received a 7-digit code from your supervisor to identify your work group. If not, please contact your supervisor.

You may access the survey by going to the Truman VA home page. Under Hospital News, click on the [2010 All Employee Survey Link](#) to complete the survey. If you do not have a computer in your work area or prefer not to complete the sur-

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VA UNDERSECRETARY FOR HEALTH

Robert A. Petzel, MD, was sworn in as VA's Under Secretary for Health on April 23. In that capacity, Dr. Petzel is head of the Veterans Health Administration, the VA's health care system. He previously served as the Director of VISN 23 as well as Chief of Staff at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.



ALL EMPLOYEE SURVEY—CONTINUED

vey at the worksite, (1) you may use the computers in the Library located in the third floor Learning Center, (2) call the toll-free phone number 1-877-671-6843 or (3) we have a small amount of paper copy surveys that can be obtained from the survey coordinators.

Our goal is for all employees to take the survey so that we can truly address the needs of all employees. Your participation will make a difference. There are three drawings for \$25 cash

throughout the survey period. At the conclusion of the survey, there will be a drawing for the three “grand” prizes. The drawing will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 21 at the second Annual Employee Career Development Fair.

Take the All Employee Survey... Today!



“The VA Program is the largest volunteer program in the federal government.”

TRUMAN VA VOLUNTEERS HONORED

On April 23, 152 community volunteers that served 100 hours or more during 2009 were honored at Truman VA’s volunteer recognition awards ceremony at Peachtree Banquet Center.

Cindy Mustard, executive director of Columbia’s Voluntary Action Center, was the featured speaker. The local VA program includes 567 volunteers that provided more than 54,000 hours

of service to Veterans receiving clinical care from Truman VA and its CBOCs. The nationwide VA program is the largest volunteer program in the federal government.

**54,000 HOURS
OF SERVICE
TO VETERANS**

EEO COMMITTEE VACANCY

Truman VA’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee is seeking applications from interested employees to serve as a committee member. The mission of the EEO Committee, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., is to assist the Director in establishing, implementing and maintain-

ing an effective EEO program. The committee strives to maintain EEO applications and diversity awareness in the facility through proactive program planning and appropriate representation of all minority groups, women, people with disabilities and disabled Veterans.

This is a three-year collateral duty assignment that requires a maximum of 20 percent of an employee’s duty time to provide leadership and participate in EEO program activities including Diversity Day, recruitment fairs, career development programs

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OI&T CORNER: FEDERAL RELAY SERVICE (FRS)



The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) is a federal government service that provides equal communication access for federal employees that are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf/blind or have speech disabilities. Using FedRelay enables these federal employees to conduct their official duties. FedRelay also allows the general public to conduct business with the federal government and its agencies.

Access numbers:

All local calls for RelayMO: 711
 Non-domestic locations: (605) 331-4923

Toll free numbers:

(800) 877-8339 TTY (Text Telephone) / ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)

Calls are relayed using specially trained Communications Assistants (CAs). The CA acts as a transparent conduit for the transmittal of information. FedRelay is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year including federal holidays in all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of conversations are maintained.

(877) 877-6280 VCO (Voice Carry Over)
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 (800) 877-0996 Customer Service (Voice/TTY, ASCII and Spanish)
 (866) 377-8642 Voice
 (866) 893-8340 TeleBraille

NATIONAL VA RESEARCH WEEK, APRIL 26–30

Today marks the culmination of a weeklong celebration of VA Research across the nation. National VA Research Week recognized 85 years of enriching the lives of Veterans and all Americans through top-notch medical research. Did you know?

The VA Research program began in 1925, five years before the Veterans Bureau became the Veterans Administration and 64 years before we became the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The very first VA research centers started at VA hospitals in Cincinnati, Ohio, Washington, DC and Palo Alto, Calif.

The first VA Research journal was called the *United States Veterans' Bureau Medical Bulletin* and it began publishing articles in 1925 reflecting clinical experience, review articles and statistical studies at VA hospitals as well as reports of original research by VA physicians.

VA's first three research laboratories studied cancer, psychiatric issues and heart and circulation problems.

Because 40 percent of VA's first patients had tuberculosis, VA researchers made the eradication of this often fatal disease a major priority.

A physician (George Lyon, MD) who helped develop the atomic bomb founded VA's groundbreaking nuclear medicine program.

VA research changed the way high blood pressure is treated throughout the world.

The connection between smoking and disease first emerged from the work of a VA researcher.

VA's award-winning efforts to use computer technology in health care began at the dawn of the computer age.

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“VA research changed the way high blood pressure is treated throughout the world.”

Dept. of Veteran Affairs

HARRY S. TRUMAN MEMORIAL
VETERANS' HOSPITAL
800 HOSPITAL DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
65201

Phone: 573-814-6000

We're on the web!
columbiamo.va.gov

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER
Tim Carter (PS), Tiffany Colvin (CS), Kim Dickey (PS), Marion Mitchell (Canteen), Angela Obrian (Pharmacy), Carla Spring (PC) and Jennifer Wyrick (SC) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact Lena Warren (HR) for information.



WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES! Patricia Bernhard, Food Service Worker (Canteen), Larry Evans, Medical Supply Technician (PS), Deborah Grgurich, Medical Supply Technician (PS), Nichole Harper, RN, Nurse Manager (PS), Louie Markovitz, Medical Support Assistant (PS-NOT PICTURED), Lynn Mitchell, MD, Staff Physician (PC), Ralda Richards, Medical Supply Technician (PS), Emmalee Sanders, Medical Support Assistant (PC), John Victor, Medical Technician (CS- NOT PICTURED), Carol Westbury, Medical Supply Technician (PS)

FAREWELL

Linda Benny, Supervisory Medical Administration Specialist (HAS)

Susan Connell, Physical Therapy Assistant (CS)

Laura Devenney, RN, Staff Nurse (PC)

Rajiv Dhand, MD, Staff Physician (SC)

Rita Jones, Program Support Assistant (FIN)

Mary Korman, Program Support Assistant (FM)

Lisa Lacey, MD, Staff Psychiatrist (BH)

Deborah Leps, Medical Technologist (CS)

Kelly Lopez, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

Dillana Stoimenova, Medical Technician (CS)

Samuel Whitsel, Physical Therapy Trainee (CS)

EEO COMMITTEE— CONTINUED

and special emphasis awareness month activities. Responsibilities may include travel and participation in regional or national conferences.

Applications are available on the hospital home page and will be accepted until May 14. Questions should be referred to either **Veronica Ramnarine**, EEO Committee Chairperson, at extension 56638 or **Sara Hake**, EEO Program Manager, at extension 56316.

RESEARCH WEEK— CONTINUED

A VA researcher built the prototype of the first computed tomography (CT) scanner.

The term *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)* was not officially recognized until 1983 and came about as the result of VA research.

For more information about VA research, visit www.research.va.gov.