

Quarterly Newsletter For Veterans and Stakeholders

SUMMER 2021

Upcoming Events

July

- July 3: CurveFest at Curve Stadium
- July 8: VA Night at the Altoona Curve Stadium
- July 21: Arts Altoona Pop-Up Event at Main Campus
- July 26: Huntingdon County Food Share at VFW Memorial Field

August

- August 3: Somerset County Rural Veteran Outreach at VFW Post 7457
- August 3: National Night Out Against Crime in Downtown Altoona
- August 17: Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at Curve Stadium
- August 30: Huntingdon County Food Share at VFW Memorial Field

September

- September 23: Somerset Senior Expo 2021 at Somerset County Fairgrounds
- September 27: Huntingdon County Food Share at VFW Memorial Field

James E. Van Zandt VAMC Awarded Best in Experience Award

By: Evan Hinkley

The James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center was awarded the Department of Veterans Affairs 2021 Best in Patient Experience Award. The award recognized the facility's dedication to exceptional Veteran experience.

The facility scored the highest in the nation for patient experience, trust, best place to work, with a top overall combined experience score.

"We're proud to receive this award," said Sigrid Andrew, VA Medical Center Director. "It's just a testament that our team knows how to take care of Veterans, and has done an exemplary job of doing that."

All 152 VA Medical Centers are ranked by complexity levels, with one facility from each of the three complexity levels being selected.

Ms. Andrew attributed this award to providing strong support to employees, focusing on Veterans needs rather than metrics, and growing resources where Veterans requested.

The VA Medical Center, along with its five community-based



Photo by: Evan Hinkley

outpatient clinics serve 14 counties and more than 26,000 Veterans. During the last three years, the facility has grown more than 50 services, added 300 personnel and expanded its infrastructure foot print by adding 60,000 sq foot of additional clinical and administrative space.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd | Altoona, PA 16602

Toll Free: 877-626-2500

VA Hosts Education Fair—Goal of Teaching Veterans/Staff about Career Advancement

By: Evan Hinkley

The James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center is hosted an outdoor Education Fair to teach Veterans, employees, and community members about opportunities to advance their careers.

The fair was held on Tuesday, August, 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. out the Main Entrance of the Altoona Medical Center.

Veterans, through various GI Bills, the Yellow Ribbon Program, & other Education Assistance Programs, can

have their entire tuition paid for at public in-state schools.

Some of these programs have an expiration date after a Veteran's tour of duty—so it's important to use education funding while it's available. The fair showed Veterans all the funding they



Photo By: Evan Hinkley

The education fair saw a strong turn out of Veterans, employees, and community members. Some came to learn more about educational opportunities for their children—others used the fair to learn about continuing their education.

can receive when pursuing a degree.

The fair featured representatives from eight local colleges and technical schools, including: Penn State University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Juniata College, Mount Aloysius College, Penn Highlands Community College, Conemaugh School of Nursing, the South Hills School of Business & Technology, and the Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center.

Holding this fair is a demonstration of how the VA is dedicated to the professional growth of Veterans, staff, and the community.

“It's vital that we give our Veterans, staff, and community members every opportunity to advance their careers,” said Medical Center Director Sigrid Andrew.

The fair also featured multiple food trucks from Snyder's Concessions.