

BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

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UMass-Lowell workshop to help vets get life science jobs

Feb 27, 2014, 1:54pm EST

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Local companies like Covidien, [Vertex Pharmaceuticals](#), [Fresenius Medical Care](#) and [Haemonetics](#) will help student veterans to translate their military experience into a job in the state's fast-growing life science field at a workshop at UMass-Lowell on Friday.

[Tom Murphy](#), founder of the Human Resiliency Institute at [Fordham University](#), developed a program called Edge4Vets to help veterans to assess their strengths, develop confidence and make connections to help them launch their careers after graduation.

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Tom Murphy founded the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University in 2011, and...
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"We provide what's missing in between vets coming home and the jobs fair," said Murphy, who worked for 25 years developing customer service programs for the airlines industry until the events of Sept. 11, 2001, changed that industry forever.

Murphy went on to write "Reclaiming the Sky: 9/11 and the Untold Story of the Men and Women who Kept America Flying," and helped train 4,000 employees at Logan Airport.

In his work with veterans, Murphy said he's helped "several hundred" people in the New York City area, plus another 50 or so in Florida, helping veterans get jobs in a variety of industries. The focus on life science for tomorrow's workshop was the idea of [Michael Dunford](#), Covidien's senior vice president of human resources, Murphy said. Dunford enlisted the help of the other three companies, each of which will send mentors to work with about 25 veterans expected to take part in the program.

UMass-Lowell has 1,450 students who are also veterans and is ranked among the most military-friendly schools in the nation by G.I. Jobs magazine. Murphy said he hopes to expand the program beyond life sciences, as well as beyond UMass-Lowell, in coming years.

"This is just to get started," he said. "We're just planting the seed."

Don Seiffert writes about the life sciences industry, including biotech, the drug industry, medical devices and diagnostics.