



# Vocational Acceleration for Veterans Grant

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## “EDGE4VETS” Receives Funding From the Walmart Foundation To Prepare Veterans for Jobs at Airports

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**EDGE4VETS**

(NOV 11, 2013) – The [Walmart Foundation](#) today announced that the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University in New York, is a recipient of grant funding to adapt its nationally successful Edge4Vets resiliency training program to prepare veterans for jobs at airports in a new program called, “Edge4Vets at Airports.” The [Institute for Veterans and Military Families \(IVMF\) at Syracuse University](#) received the initial \$1 million grant. The Human Resiliency Institute, housed in the Graduate School of Education at Fordham, is one of 11 community and technical colleges and universities selected throughout California, New York, Texas, and North Carolina to receive a portion of the funding from the Walmart Foundation. Across the nation, these grants will seed, cultivate and provide technical assistance to a network of workforce development-focused programs at colleges that will leverage skills, training, credentialing, and other efforts to advance the employment situation of veterans and transitioning service members.

In Phase I of the project, the Human Resiliency Institute which developed Edge4Vets in 2011 to teach veterans how to translate their military skills into tools for civilian success will convene a Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee to plan and conduct a SUMMIT. The Summit will give aviation leaders nationally an opportunity to identify skills needed for success in an airport workplace, including jobs with the airport authority, airline carriers, security companies, concessions, ground transportation and more. In Phase II, Edge4Vets will plan and implement a pilot to teach veterans in NY how to match their military skills to jobs at LaGuardia and JFK airports. Veterans who complete the Edge4Vets at Airports training will be connected with airport employers who agree to provide guaranteed interviews for front line, supervisory and management jobs in customer service, security, operations, administration and more. Once up and running in NY the program will be expanded to airports nationally.

The program is part of the Walmart Foundation’s \$20 million dollar commitment to address veteran issues. In addition to this funding commitment from the Walmart Foundation, Walmart pledged that over the next five years, it will hire 100,000 veterans who honorably left the military in the last year. Walmart is already the largest private employer of veterans in the country. The program, which kicked off on Memorial Day, will include jobs mostly in Walmart stores or Sam's Club locations.

“For two years, Edge4Vets has been helping veterans in colleges in NY, Boston and Florida apply their military strengths to prepare for managerial careers in banking, pharma, hospitality and other industries,” says Tom Murphy, Director of the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham, who in his other capacity as an aviation consultant has trained 35,000 airport employees in customer service since 1990. “Now thanks to the WalMart Foundation we’ll have a chance to enlist the aviation industry as a partner to prepare veterans living in communities around airports for jobs at those facilities. We hope to work with Syracuse IVMF and our network of aviation contacts to prep thousands of talented veterans and connect them to operational and managerial jobs at hundreds of airports throughout the US over the next few years.”



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The complete list of colleges and universities who have received funding from the Walmart Foundation for veterans vocational training programs include:

California	North Carolina	New York	Texas
<b>Goodwill Industries of Orange County – Veterans Vocational Accelerator Consortium</b>	<b>Wake Tech CC – Accelerated Career Transformation Services</b>	<b>Cayuga CC – Commissioned for Success (C4S)</b>	<b>Tarrant County College – Vocational Acceleration for Military Veterans of Tarrant County Project</b>
<b>Workshops for Warriors – Workshops for Warriors (WFW)</b>	<b>Fayetteville State University – Service Source Warrior Bridge</b>	<b>Jefferson CC – Health Information Technology</b>	<b>Del Mar College – Pathways With a Purpose</b>
		<b>Fordham University – Edge4Vets at Airports</b>	<b>Austin CC – Two Paths To Work (2P2W)</b>
		<b>LaGuardia CC – Career Ladders for Veterans</b>	

### About Edge4Vets

Edge4Vets provides resiliency workshops for veterans in NY, Boston and South Florida. The program teaches veterans how to identify their military strengths, including strong core values and skills, and translate them for success in America’s civilian workplace. The resiliency principles in the program come from the stories of aviation heroes profiled in the book, “Reclaiming the Sky,” by Tom Murphy, Director of the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham. All profits from the book, a story of aviation courage on 9/11, go to aviation charities. For more information visit [Edge4Vets.org](http://Edge4Vets.org).

### About the IVMF

As the first institute of its kind in the nation, the IVMF leverages the intellectual, programmatic and human capital resources of higher education in support of the post-service life course of the nation’s veterans and military families. The IVMF focuses on developing impactful programming, cultivating actionable research, conducting policy analysis and providing technical assistance positioned to address the social, economic and public policy challenges facing the veterans’ community. The IVMF team approaches this mission as a collaboration, forging enduring partnerships with government, private industry, institutions of higher education, philanthropic organizations and stakeholders committed to supporting transitioning service members, veterans and their families. Visit [vets.syr.edu](http://vets.syr.edu) for more information. Follow the IVMF on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#), [VetNet](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### About the Walmart Foundation

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women’s Economic Empowerment. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States with a \$2 billion commitment through 2015. Walmart has donated more than one billion meals to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart’s giving, visit [foundation.walmart.com](http://foundation.walmart.com).