

Specialist Gabriel Carrillo



Sometimes lightning strikes and it is pure magic. That's how it was for Gabriel Carrillo. During a recent Saturday, Gabriel was participating in drill weekend at the 56th IBCT Sandage Armory and complaining to his Section Staff Sergeant Michael Gonzalez that he did not have a job. Gonzalez responded to Gabriel's complaint by saying, "Go see JCEP".

Just like magic, everything came together for Gabriel on that fateful day. Members of the Job Connection Education Program just happened to be in the office working on a Saturday, Gabriel just happened to walk down that hall and knock on the door, and the JCEP team just happened to rally around Gabriel Carrillo to provide assistance in overcoming his unemployed status.

When asked what were your thoughts when Gonzalez told you to go see JCEP Gabriel replied, "All I could think of was why not? I wasn't having success any other way, so why not try these people." In truth, Gabriel hadn't even heard of JCEP so how could they help? But, magic was about to happen!

Efren Villanueva, a Business Advisor, and Karen Royal, a Case Manager explained to Gabriel the process JCEP uses to assist job seekers. Gabriel registered online and provided information that would help his Employment Counselor identify his experience and abilities to help create a strong resume and to match him with employers seeking those skill sets.

Once he registered online at the JCEP office, the team provided him with information about resumes, mock interviews, and job search hints to enhance Gabriel's ability to look for employment. Thanks to the JCEP team on that drill weekend, Gabriel had a basic template for his resume and was encouraged to "Fill in the blanks," and return to his Counselor, as soon as possible.

Mary Weaver, a Training and Development Specialist for JCEP, was assigned as Gabriel's Counselor. She immediately began to send out job blasts to Gabriel for consideration and requesting his resume to review. Gabriel laughingly stated, "Mary just kept pushing me for a resume, so I got it back to her right away!"

On the Monday after drill weekend, lightning struck once again for Gabriel. A job blast that was sent out caught Gabriel's eye and he applied. A few days later, Time Warner Cable, an employer partner with JCEP, called Gabriel in for an interview for a Cable Installation Tech. Within one week of coming into the office and registering for assistance with JCEP, Gabriel had a job offer that he couldn't refuse. Magic happened for Gabriel Carrillo and he credits JCEP for his success. "They actually pushed me to get this job. I wouldn't have known about it or applied to it without their help." He went on to share that when an opportunity is right before your eyes, you grab it with both hands and go for it.

Gabriel goes on to say, "Just the environment that JCEP has, they clearly motivate you and want to help you. I was really surprised at how quickly they responded to my needs and made things happen."