



Ryan Adams, a twenty-three year old Texas Army National Guard Soldier, was running out of options and hope of employment, until meeting with Mary Weaver, a Training and Development Specialist from the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP).

JCEP is a partnership with the Army National Guard assisting in job readiness skills including: resume reviews, mock interviews, targeted training, and matching participants with employers.

On May 11, 2010, while attending a JCEP Orientation, Ryan was quoted in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, "I'm just grasping for programs like this but I'm not sure how promising this is," two days later he was employed as a Shipping Specialist.

A twenty year Veteran of the Air Force, Mark Williams, the Carrollton Hub Operations Manager for HAAS Group International, a Chemical Freight Company, shared his delight at finding an employee like Ryan Adams. Williams stated, "Ryan has a bright future with HAAS. He stepped up and took control of the Overnight Shipments area and became proactive." Williams further stated, "All of the candidates sent from JCEP have been excellent and good employees to work with."

A recent visit with Ryan and his supervisor Mark Williams provided insight into the struggles of applicants and potential employers. Ryan stated he had been unemployed since returning from an overseas Deployment in September. "I sent out so many resumes and applied for tons of jobs, with no results," provided Ryan. When asked how things were going with his new job, Ryan stated, "Great!"

Yet, he almost lost the position due to a "glitch with his application." Because Ryan is an excellent worker, Williams argued for him to become a direct employee with the company, instead of a contracted worker. "I'm a firm believer of promoting within," stated Williams. He

went on to say, “No one can teach an employee to be on time or work hard, that comes from within. Those are the ones we want to hire.”



Since his employment in May, Ryan has become lead in the Shipping department and obtained a Hazmat Certification for ground and air shipping. When asked what the best thing about his job, Ryan stated, “The people I work with including Veterans, staying physically fit, and work that I enjoy.” Laughingly Ryan exclaimed, “Oh yeah, the pay is great and there’s lots of overtime.”

Ryan would like other Guardsmen to know that JCEP teaches the do’s and don’ts of resumes and how to create them, and the art of selling yourself to employers. He went on to say, “JCEP has lots of resources available, but you have to use them.” Ryan further states, “Apply yourself, follow through with the commitments you make to utilizing JCEP.”

When Ryan came to the Orientation, he was contemplating joining the Army full time. When asked if he was still thinking of doing that Ryan stated, “The plans have changed. There are many opportunities to move up within HAAS International and I am going to take advantage of them.”