

# GCE·Xpress

HELPING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT LIFE'S JOURNEY

SUMM.  
2019

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### GCE self-advocates Make a Difference in Washington, D.C.

In June of each year, GCE participates in the SourceAmerica Grassroots conference in Washington, D.C. We are joined by self-advocates who really make this trip a success. This year we were delighted to have Matthew (Matt) Amendt the GCE Employee of the Year from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington, and Sungho Ahn from our IT business line in Lorton, Virginia. The two men traveled to Capitol Hill to help educate Senate and House representatives on the importance of work opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Each team member relayed his struggles and successes long life's journey to finding work as members of the GCE family. The theme of this year's conference was "Power of Inclusion Every Job. Every Story. Everyone."



*Pictured left to right: Sungho Ahn; Matt Amendt; Florida House Representative, Kathy Castor; Lori Kain GCE Director of Governmental and Community Relations; and Katrina Simpkins; GCE Director of Employment and Support Service*



## OPERATIONS SPOTLIGHT

### Employment and Support Services Team

Under the leadership of Katrina Simpkins, the Employment and Support Services (ESS) is the GCE vocational services line of business. The ESS team ▶

## A NOTE FROM RICH

*I want to welcome our newest GCE team members who are responsible for performing vitally important training and support services. They are on the Program Integration Lifecycle Support or PILS team for the Defense Health Agency (DHA). Under the direction of **Mark Kessler**, this team will quickly grow and have multiple locations across the country. Welcome to GCE!*



Rich Gilmartin, GCE President

*Also on the subject of growth, GCE's footprint in Colombia, South America continues to expand with two new contract signings aimed at supporting people with disabilities in their search for meaningful employment. **Lance Height** and his team are working diligently to assist our friends in Colombia in meeting the needs of people with disabilities.*

*Allison Hill, President/CEO of Lakeview, and I recently traveled to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington to visit with **Don Chandler** and the GCE team that provides dining facility attendant services to our U.S. Army and Air Force customers. We also presented **Matt Amendt** with his GCE Employee of the Year recognition. Matt's story is fantastic and his accomplishments many. We are proud of you, Matt!*

*Our GCE administrative alignment is changing. The growing complexity and volume of contract and subcontract compliance activities led us to the decision of removing Contract Compliance from **Carol Duke** who also provides leadership for GCE Quality, Training and Safety). We moved it under the leadership of **Gagan Grewal** who will report directly to me as president of GCE.*

*As we head into summer, please remember to exercise caution in and around the water. Our organization was started to serve persons with spinal cord injuries, many of those injuries occurred as a result of diving incidents. Remember, **feet first** when jumping into waters you might not be familiar with. ●*

## OPERATIONS SPOTLIGHT -cont'd

helps people with disabilities prepare, secure, and retain employment. The team works primarily with individuals referred to GCE by Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The services provided include: vocational evaluation and career assessment, pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS) for youth, on-the-job training (OJT), pre-placement training, and job placement.

Katrina and the team were just awarded a fifth, consecutive three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or CARF International. They are proud to have been accredited for a period of three years for the following vocational programs:

- Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation Services
- Community Employment Services

ESS recently received a one-year contract from Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide year-round pre-ETS career camps to youth in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The career camp sessions will be offered to youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Participants will receive a combination of the following services: job exploration counseling, work readiness training, self-advocacy, and work-based learning experiences. ●



*Pictured (left to right): Candace Crossman, administrative assistant  
Katrina Simpkins, director of GCE Employment and Support Services  
Cheyenne Robinson, employment consultant – GCE Job Placement Services  
Belinda "Sue" Kasic, employment consultant – GCE OJT Services  
Nikki Thomas, employment consultant – GCE Job Placement Services*

## GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Did you know that the AbilityOne® Program is the largest source of employment for people who have significant disabilities? Across the country, hundreds of nonprofit organizations just like GCE help employ more than 40,000 people through the AbilityOne Program, and many of these individuals provide mission-critical products and services to our U.S. military. This is why it is so important to be involved in your community. Share your stories about the importance of work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Your voice does matter and can make a difference.

One way to share your story and be able to tell people about GCE is to participate in community events such as annual walks. Consider forming a GCE team and showing up as a group. Enjoy the fresh air. Have some fun. Meet new people and get in a little exercise. Do an online search for annual observances and you will likely see activities for Cancer, Autism and Epilepsy Awareness months. There are others too. Just imagine how we could spread awareness and education if every GCE site formed a team and walked for one of these observances. If you need help making this happen, contact Lori Kain at [lori.kain@gce.org](mailto:lori.kain@gce.org) or 850.429.6969, or speak to your site project manager.



On the morning of May 4 GCE team members from Naval Air Station Pensacola food and custodial services, along with members from the corporate office, participated in the Epilepsy Walk in downtown Pensacola, Florida. ●

## UPCOMING EVENTS / WHO KNEW?

### National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Time flies and we are beginning to look at what we need to do to make this year's NDEAM event even better than last year. Festivities will be planned during October at all GCE sites in 14 states. We will share the news in plenty of time for team members to make plans so you don't miss all the fun.

#### **Welcome New Team Members!**

**Robert Hardie**, Defense Health Agency Program Manager (Arlington, Va.)

**Kamal Hanjan**, Defense Health Agency Project Manager (Arlington, Va.)

**Stephen Carter**, Veteran Employment Program Manager (Front Royal, Va.)

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) team is part of a joint, integrated combat support agency that enables the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force medical services to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to combatant commands in both peacetime and wartime. This is a new contract for GCE, and we are excited to share the news with you. ●

## SAFETY, QUALITY AND FSO SECURITY

### Safety with Jonathan Broussard - Eye Protection

Eye protection comes in many forms. Hundreds of types of safety glasses and goggles are available and designed to do one thing: protect your eyes. Some types are better at performing certain functions and fully protecting your eyes.

Wraparound safety glasses are good at preventing flying debris from entering your eye. However, because they do not fit tightly to your forehead or cheek, gaps exist and could potentially allow things like liquids to pass around the protection and enter your eye. When using concentrated corrosive chemicals, chemical-resistant goggles are needed to ensure these potentially damaging chemicals do not enter your eye. Employees with prescription glasses should opt for side shield protection or wear the over-the-glasses style eye protection.

Frequent tasks performed at GCE requiring the use of eye protection include:

- Spraying chemicals on vertical surfaces above the waist, to prevent the substance from blowing back into the eyes.
- High dusting, to prevent debris/dust from falling in the eyes.
- Mixing chemicals or loading the dispenser with chemicals, to prevent the chemicals from splashing into the eyes.
- Using a buffer, pressure washer, many types of lawn equipment, dishwashing, and activities in the pots/pans area (for example), to prevent debris or liquids from flying into the eyes.

Carefully evaluate all work situations to determine if eye protection is necessary. If you are unsure, contact your supervisor immediately. GCE provides eye protection at no cost to team members. It is your responsibility to ensure proper care of the eye protection equipment. Damaged or broken equipment will be replaced by your supervisor. If the protection you are provided does not properly fit, tell your supervisor.

Eye protection only works if you wear it! ●

## QUALITY WITH STEPHANIE COOPER

### Operational Excellence – A State of Readiness

At the GCE Senior Leadership Summit in February, we discussed our leadership competencies: communication, decision making, team member development, change management and operational excellence. These competencies, along with the maturity characteristics (trusting, courageous, vulnerable, and authentic) are part of our new system-wide leadership profile. Adopting this leadership profile allows our leaders to fulfill our Mission and helps our system to become a high-reliability organization. ►

### Operational Excellence – A State of Readiness

I would like to share a recent experience at one of our contract sites that epitomizes several of these competencies and maturity characteristics. We recently visited our Fort Campbell, Kentucky custodial site to participate in a SourceAmerica® quality assessment for one of our subcontractors. Upon arrival, it was determined that GCE should be the contract under review rather than the subcontractor. The SourceAmerica assessor decided to shift the focus of the assessment to our Fort Campbell operations. Nick Andruszka, project manager, and Teresa Patterson, operations executive, immediately shifted gears to move into the roles of auditees. Their commitment to operational excellence and living in a state of readiness allowed us to smoothly transition and successfully progress through the assessment. As a result of this commitment, the assessor had no findings or nonconformance. Kudos to Teresa, Nick and the team for the dedication to living our values and embodying the leadership competencies. ●

## SECURITY WITH JOHNNIE ZIMMERMAN

### Social Networking Safety Tips

Social networking sites allow people who have similar interests to connect. These sites are wildly popular and understanding the potential risks while using them is paramount. Online activities may expose excessive information about identity, location, relationships and affiliations. This knowledge can create increased risk of identity theft, stalking, or even targeted violence.

A safer social networking experience is available by accepting some basic assumptions and following a few recommendations.

#### **Assumptions:**

- Once something is posted on a social networking site, it can quickly spread. No amount of effort will erase it. The internet does not forget.
- You are not anonymous on the internet.
- There are people on the internet who are not who they say they are and will take advantage of you if you let them.
- Everyone on the internet can see what you post, where you posted it, who are your friends, and the comments your friends make and your “witty” replies.
- An embarrassing comment or image will likely come back to haunt you one day when you least expect it and at the worst time.
- A complete record of your online activity exists somewhere.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Do not post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the evening news.
- Do not accept friend/follower requests from anyone you do not know.
- Avoid using third-party applications; if needed, do not allow them to access your social networking accounts, friends list or address books.
- Do not post personally identifiable information.
- Be cautious about the images you post. What is in them may be more revealing than who is in them. **Images posted over time may form a complete mosaic (collage) of you and your family.**
- Do not allow others to tag you in images they post. Doing so makes it easier for someone to locate and accurately construct your network of friends, relatives and associates.
- Configure your social networking accounts to minimize who can see your information.

Social networking sites can be a great way to keep up with family and friends while sharing all the good things that happen in your life. Remembering a few safety rules can help ensure that it remains a fun experience. ●

## WE SALUTE YOU

The Naval Air Station Pensacola (NAS) Food Services team received the 5-Star accreditation award from the U.S. Navy. The NAS team has received the award since 2001. The Five-star accreditation is the highest level in Navy food service evaluation. The award for food service excellence is centered on the review and evaluation of the strict standards set in place regarding the overall quality of food service including records, inventory, training, sanitation and food preparation. To be awarded the Five-star accreditation a facility must receive at least 790 points out of a possible 820. Dawn Rupert GCE Project Manager at the galley said, “the Five-star accreditation represents why patrons keep coming back to the galley. Customer service and the quality of the food served is the most important aspect of the Five-star accreditation because you’re only as good as your last meal. One of the coolest things about this team is that we really are a family – a big family.”●



### ***Hitting 40 never looked so good!***

Mi Strickland, shift leader of the GCE Food Services Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington, was presented a 40-year service certificate and lapel pin by Don Chandler, GCE Project Manager, during a monthly training event. Don said, “Mi’s tireless dedication to her fellow team members and our military men and women on the base is evident each and every day.” Congratulations and thank you Mi for being a member of the GCE family! ●



## LIVING OUR VALUES (value coin recognition)

***Ownership:*** accountable, engaged, stewardship, responsive, committed

***Integrity:*** honest, principled, trustworthy, transparent

***Compassion:*** empathetic, merciful, sensitive, kind, giving, forgiving, hopeful

***Excellence:*** safety, quality, distinguished, learning, improving

***Service:*** welcoming, attentive, humble, respectful, exceeds expectations, collaborative

GCE “Value” coins are given out by managers and supervisors to recognize team members for consistently living one of our Values every day. When a team member earns all five Value coins he or she will receive a Value pin, coin holder and plaque with certificate.



### **FIVE COIN RECIPIENTS (February - April 2019)**

***Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA - Food Service:*** Yi Navas-Algarin

***U.S. Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL. – Food Service:*** Scott Williams

***Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, FL – Food Service:*** Sherry Grimes, Eddie Williams, Gil Morales, Trinh Nguyen, Melissa Mims, Eddie Williams, Deniece Costa, Joanna Dwyer

***Gulf Breeze Hospital, Gulf Breeze, FL – Food Service:*** Connie Edler

## Value coin recipients February - April 2019

### ***Naval Station Newport, Newport, RI - Food Service:***

Dolca Cruz, Shannon Carter, Antanika Cole, Joshua Hogan, Sarah Smith, Jonathan Hurley, Ian Kelly, Ryan Valentino, Adam Halpern, Donna Meunier

### ***Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL - Custodial:***

Fred Frome, Domick Ellis, Alex Carroll, Angila Bowers

### ***U.S. Army Fort Polk, Fort Polk, LA - Food Service:***

Linda Foster, Cala Williams

### ***Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, AK - Food Service:***

Caleb Cheney, Celia Cheney, Dona Rule, Jackie Watson, Shawnee Monroe, Jeremy McFaul, Rene Stropich

### ***Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, FL - Custodial:***

Daniel Fairley, Amy Noble, Jennifer Maupin, Terry Snyder, Zakeya Dortch, Rebecca Barrineau, Jason Shaffer

### ***Lakeview Center, Pensacola, FL - Food Service:***

Michael Preyer, Mark Tilley

### ***Fort Campbell, Fort Campbell, KY - Custodial:***

Adam Moss, Alex Icheke, Cody Whitfield, Dexter Young, Emmanuel Roman, Frances (Marie) Chester, John Sagun, Mark Rushing, Patrick Rose, Paula Martin, Robert Brooks, Vernon Babb

### ***Lakeview Center, Pensacola, FL - Facilities Maintenance:***

Wayne Schmelzle

### ***Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, FL - Food Service:***

Norma Kelly, Felicia Pressley, Yen Vu, Jeffrey Walker, Barbara Hilburn, Katail Watts, Hason Shaeffer, Terry Walker, Annette Brandenburg, Henrietta Brooks, Blake Watts, Anthony Bookhart, Eva Mekoll, Ashley Pressley, Jason Shaffer

### ***Fort Knox, Fort Knox, KY - Custodial and Facilities Maintenance:***

Chris Butler, Heidi Cook, Harry Newby, Dustin Clinkenbeard, Chad Cheek, Roger Duggins, Jerry Blackburn, Danny Pfluger, Lisa Robinson, Deborah Ahee, Laura Winn

### ***U.S. Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL - Food Service:***

Amber Limes, James Johnson, Justin Kelley, James Woods, Sonya Watts

### ***Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport, MS - Food Service:***

Kayla Steuart, Al Hampton, Virginia Johnson, Jessica Newsome, Sherika McNair, Cheyenne Fraser, Bridget Carter, Rechello Dupar, Daniel Lott, Logan Washburn, Omar Hemmings, Kyle Wilson, Ramon Alford, Bridget Carter, Jerry Moore, Stephan Jones, Mildred Byrd, Stephanie Livermore, Cemon Mack, Charity Custis, Artaz Stanely, Edward Nash

### ***Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, FL - Custodial:***

Judy Brahier

### ***GCE Administration and Building T (including Lakeview Center team members):***

Russ Schreiner, Lorrie Davis, Lynn Hare, Tracy Johnson, Cristine Landau, Stephanie Cooper, Robin Bivins, Francine King, Richard Waters, Jonathan Broussard, Teresa Patterson, Mike Bailey ●