

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In 2010, GCE was awarded the food service contract at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Army Base in Tacoma, Washington. The McChord portion of the contract was subcontracted and GCE ran the Fort Lewis food service galleys. In September of 2021, GCE added the Camp Murray portion of the base and recently, in April 2022, our subcontractor operating the McChord portion ended their services and GCE now operates the entire contract.

Services required include a seven-day operation providing three meals each day, 365 days each year. Our duties at McChord AFB include operating the salad bar, cashiering and cleaning the entire building, on top of the dining and kitchen areas, pot washing and dish room. We also provide cook support services to work alongside the military cooks assisting in meal preparation.

There are 28 new employees working at McChord AFB who joined GCE in April of this year and a one-month celebration event was held May 18, 2022, to acknowledge our great team and the smooth transition. A huge shout out to Project Manager Natasha Hall, assistant Project Manager Doreen Weed, and the rest of the management team who were instrumental in the transition.

We now have 109 team members at this site!



Left to right: Jan Cotton, Isabella Hays, Eden McCarty, Terisita Propeack, Zackary Slotnick, Nicole Boatner, Cynthia Ventura, James Beasley (Area Manager) Carol Moore, Nam Wajerski, Christopher Williams, James Holt, Shane San Nicolas, Jeffery Becker, Lucesita Sud-Martinez, Jessie Loren, Ryan Viray, Jason Lira, Robert Johnson, Ed Clark, and Gertrud Springs.

A NOTE FROM DWIGHT

Well, here I am, a little over six months into the role of GCE President and CEO. What can I say – this organization and the team that makes it work continue to fill me with pride in what you do and the fact that I have been afforded the opportunity to serve you on this journey.



Dwight Davis, GCE President

Though I have not been to visit as many sites as I would have liked by now, that will be changing. What I have seen is a pride in work, loyalty to the team and a camaraderie that reminds me of my days in the service. These actions were necessary to the successful execution of combat and training missions and are what kept me going when things got rough. Seeing this here now is a tonic for the soul, and I feel the need to meet more GCE team members in the coming months.

Across the enterprise, exciting change is coming. We are on the cusp of releasing the new logo and name for our parent corporation. Many of you provided your thoughts and they were greatly appreciated by Allison and the executive VP team. Our new GCE logo will also be introduced. It will not be a drastic change, but more of a modernized look. Stay tuned! Our Business Development team continues to place us in competitive positions for new work, so I expect some good news in the coming months to pass along.

Thank you again for what you do and who you are.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

KRISTOPHER BOWYER - ACE HARDWARE, GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

During Kris' senior year in high school, he learned of GCE through a teacher. Kris was referred to GCE's Community Employment Services by Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office in Pensacola, Florida. He was placed in a three-month On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunity at Ace Hardware in Gulf Breeze, Florida, in March 2019 during the end of his senior year. This was the first OJT opportunity GCE placed with Ace Hardware. During Kris' training, he consistently received positive critiques from his supervisor. The goal of OJT is for the participant to receive hands-on employment training, but because of Kris' hard work, they offered him a permanent job before his training ended.

He has been working for Ace Hardware now for three years as a cashier. Kris told us that his training with GCE and Ace Hardware, though OJT, helped him overcome his timid nature and communication fears. He works Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, eight hours each day. He is also working toward an associate's degree in science. Kris' goal is to get a job in electronics. His favorite classes so far are anything to do with schematics. Classes vary from day-to-day, but currently, his classes are Monday through Thursday, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Pensacola State college.

When asked what Kris would share with seniors in high school with differing abilities he said: "You'll face many hardships in life. The key point is to always keep trying your best. There are times when you'll have difficulties with things in life, emotional things, but never give up."

Kris loves working at Ace Hardware and told us how kind and encouraging everyone is at work. He said: "This place is awesome to work at!"

Ryan Bucek, assistant store manager, shared the following: "Kris is goal- and detail-oriented. He holds down the fort at the cashier station up front. He is very patient, which is great when at the front counter. You can't help but like Kris, and he leaves a wonderful impression with our customers. We have never had one complaint about Kris at the store. He truly cares about everyone on the team at Ace hardware, he doesn't want to see anyone struggle. He jumps right in to help without being asked. I consider Kris a friend and enjoy working with him."



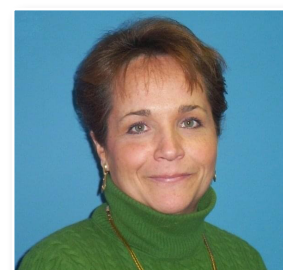
Left to Right: Ryan Bucek and Kris Bowyer

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Personal goals and employment can only be achieved when there are opportunities. If employment options are few and far between, goals are hard to reach and financial independence is all but a dream – never a reality. Self-esteem is greatly impacted by your peers and co-workers and very important when at work. That's why GCE makes it a priority to support people with great abilities and not focus on a person's disability. It's important for everyone to share their ideas, experiences, and collective understanding of inclusion and how it relates to their personal accomplishments. A team is successful when the needs of everyone are taken into consideration and understood.

When people with disabilities have jobs, the entire state benefits. Behind every number noting how many people have a job in this country there is someone with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, PTSD/traumatic brain injury, or a mental health issue. Because of your job at GCE, you earn a living, live a fuller life, and contribute to our communities and your neighborhoods.

We continue to share GCE team member stories on GCE social media, in meetings with congressional leaders, with businesses in our local communities in states across the country. GCE knows the importance of work for people with disabilities and the positive impact it makes. A job can change everything, and everyone deserves a chance to share their abilities in the workplace.



Lori Kain, Director of Government and Community Relations

WHO KNEW

30 years ago

GCE was awarded the Armed Forces Retirement Home contract in Gulfport, Mississippi.

25 years ago

GCE was awarded CNET (NETC) administrative service contract and the Baptist Hospital Towers contract in Pensacola, Florida.

20 years ago

GCE was awarded the Veterans Affairs custodial contract in Montgomery, Alabama.

10 years ago

GCE was awarded the Fort Polk contract in Louisiana and launched the Lakeview Center food services contract in Pensacola, Florida.

SUCCESS STORIES

Receiving a U.S. military challenge coin is a big deal. These medallions of various shapes and styles are typically awarded by offices of top military leaders and even smaller military units to honor significant achievements or mark special occasions. Sara Rodriguez, who works for GCE as a custodial team member at Fort Knox — a sprawling Army installation in Kentucky — has earned four coins from this military base during the last two years. The coins were given to her in recognition of her work and dedication.

“We have truly been blessed and honored to have her (Sara) maintain and clean our office. She is extremely professional, diligent, and caring, as well as she always goes above and beyond.”

Sara’s project manager received the following note: The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) wanted to inform you that Sara is an amazing employee and does her job with the utmost professionalism. We have truly been blessed and honored to have her maintain and clean our office. She is extremely professional, diligent, and caring, as well as she always goes above and beyond. Today we awarded her with one of our office coins. These coins are considered an award in the military and are ONLY given for excellence. Sara is definitely full of excellence and deserves much more.



Very Respectfully,

CW2 tian M.

Legal Administrator

SAFETY WITH JONATHAN BROUSSARD

Safe handling of chemicals

Many team members use chemicals every day on the job. GCE strives to use the most effective and least hazardous chemicals available. A majority of these chemicals are very mild. However, this does not preclude us from acting safely when handling the product. All necessary protective equipment must be worn at all times. Just because you have not had a reaction to the chemical before does not mean you will not have a reaction tomorrow. In fact, the more you handle a chemical improperly, the higher the likelihood is that you will develop a reaction in the future.



JONATHAN BROUSSARD

Tips for avoiding exposure or reactions to chemicals:

- Wear all required personal protective equipment when handling every chemical.
- Gloves or protective clothing will assist in keeping the chemicals off your skin.
- If you get chemicals on your skin or clothing, remove clothing and wash the area with soap and water as quickly as possible.
- Wear eye protection or a face shield any time there is a potential for chemicals to splash in your face or eyes.
- If you get chemicals splashed in your eye, consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and perform the recommended treatment.

If you begin to have any type of reaction to a chemical, notify your supervisor or manager immediately. Types of reactions include:

- Redness
- Itching
- Rash
- Burning
- Blistering
- Hives

Any of the above reactions require immediate treatment. If anyone has questions about ordering footwear for their site or getting information about approved footwear, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 337-519-9191 or email jonathan.broussard@gce.org.

SECURITY WITH JOHNNIE ZIMMERMAN

Fake job recruiting

The FBI's Internet Crime Center (IC3) is warning that scammers are posting fake job ads on networking sites to steal your money and identity. Scammers replicate legitimate job postings, change the contact information, and then post the now-fraudulent job ad on other networking sites.

Fake job scams are an old trick, but online recruitment has made it more lucrative and easy to create false interviews. Victims are often offered work-from-home jobs and are sent a bogus employment contract to sign, and then asked to submit driver's licenses, Social Security numbers, direct deposit information, and credit card information. In some cases, the scammers use the names and positions of actual company employees to improve online impersonation and then use those borrowed identities during the interview and hiring process. Additionally, victims are sometimes asked to pay upfront for background checks, job training, and startup supplies, and told they will be reimbursed in their first paycheck. After victims pay, the scammers vanish. Stolen personal information is used to take over a victim's financial accounts, open new accounts, or to obtain fake driver's licenses or passports.



JOHNNIE ZIMMERMAN

SECURITY WITH JOHNNIE ZIMMERMAN [CONTINUED]...

Here are a few ways to spot fake postings and scammers:

1. Beware of abnormally high salaries.

One of the ways criminals entice people is by advertising unusually generous pay. If the salary being offered in a job ad is way above what you see in other ads for similar positions, be wary.

2. Don't accept jobs for which you didn't apply.

Sometimes cybercriminals obtain the contact information of people who have submitted their résumés to job-seeking websites and then email them to say they are preapproved for a job. These are bogus messages whose main purpose is to get people to share additional information. The emails may also include malware that can infect your computer. Ignore such messages and don't open any attachments.

3. Be wary of job ads touting the need to verify your identity at the outset.

Ads that demand you share your driver's license or Social Security number as part of an initial application, or very soon after, are a significant red flag. Legitimate employers rarely request such information until much later in the hiring process.

4. Take the text of the job ad and put it in Google.

Cybercriminals sometimes reuse the same job ads over and over, posting them on LinkedIn, Facebook and other online platforms with only slight modifications. If you spot an ad that features virtually identical language to that used by various employers all over the country, it could be a scam.

5. Check the spelling and domains of company names.

When you vet companies, be aware that cybercriminals sometimes steer potential applicants to fake websites they've created, which mimic the sites of real companies — except that, say, an extra letter has been added to the company's name.

6. Avoid text-only interviews.

The pandemic has made it necessary for many employers to conduct job interviews remotely, via services like Zoom. But be cautious of hiring managers who insist on communicating only by email or text or using messaging platforms such as telegram to conduct interviews. Sooner or later, a real employer will want to see and interact with a recruit, whether through a video call or in person. Cybercriminals typically don't want you to hear their voices or see their faces, since it raises the chance you'll realize they're not who they say they are.

7. Don't give out your credit card or phone account login.

A real employer doesn't need to know your credit card number, credit score or phone account login to process your job application. Cybercriminals sometimes ask for such information up front to commandeer your phone and finances, often under the pretense of needing to set you up with a company phone plan or purchase equipment you'll need to do your job.

8. If something feels suspicious, investigate — or walk away.

If at any point in the job application or interview stage something feels wrong to you, don't ignore the feeling. Ask yourself if you see any of the warning signs outlined above. Or pause and ask a trusted friend or relative for a reality check.

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 Recipient Value Plaques (March - May 2022)

Fort Campbell Schools/Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), Fort Campbell, TN – Custodial Services: Stephon Gardiner

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL – Custodial Services: Michael Worthly

Fort Polk, Vernon Parish, LA – Food Services: Jerry Williams, Delaney Borges

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C. – Custodial Services: Bryce Chisley, Carols Melenwick

Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL – Custodial Services: Joseph Drake, Monroe Dykes, Virginia Fuller, Yun Hoskinson, Katie Leifermann, Pablo Lopez, John Miller, Jenes (Paige) Singletary, Jorge Siri, Steve Anderson

IT Services, Seaside, CA: Marybelle Pimentel, Shetal Yanez

Value coin recipients (March - May 2022)

MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL – Custodial Services

Shirley Carey

Fort Knox, Fort Knox, KY – Custodial Services

Chad Cheek

Transition and Support Services/Targeted Employment Navigator, Denver, CO

Cheyenne Robinson

Transition and Support Services/Targeted Employment Navigator, Pensacola, FL

Robin Bivens

IT Services, Seaside, CA

Courtney Blake, Sylvia Calderon, Mathew Smith

Business Operations Management – VA/remote

Julie Chancy

Mirador – IT Services, Seaside, CA

David Santa

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport, MS – Food Services

Lynn Ferrill

Fort Polk, Vernon Parish, LA – Food Services

Cala Williams, Pearl Lott, Jonathan Falke

Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, D.C. – Custodial Services

Calos Melenwick, Bryce Chisley

Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, FL – Custodial Services

Willie Thomas, Daphne Houston

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL – Custodial Services

Samantha Polk, Jeanette Henderson, Brandon Jones

Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, FL – Food Services

Garcia Carlota, Gregory Enyeart, Jacqueline Hegwood, Maricel Carreon, Jon-Tres Wingate, Byron Williams, Mike Ayson, Barbara Hilburn, Jason Shaeffer

Lakeview Center, Pensacola, FL – Custodial Services

Sharon Cunningham, Louis Jones, Carrie Miller, Deborah Long, Jonathan Gardner, Wille Holiday

7th Special Forces Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL – Food Services

Michelle McLemore, Nicole Schwinn

Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, FL – Custodial Services

Sherry Donofrio