

# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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## Free event offers active-duty veterans, spouses a starting point to build new careers

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – An all-day event at Point Park University is offering active-duty veterans and their spouses an opportunity to sharpen critical job-finding skills while networking with prominent industry professionals.

The Rowland School of Business at Point Park University is presenting “The Starting Point to a New Career” in partnership with Pittsburgh Hires Veterans. Guest check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, and the event runs through 3:30 p.m. The event is free for military veterans and their spouses.

“I have seen first-hand the need to help veterans and their families gain a better understanding of career transition and personal finance,” said Steve Tanzilli, dean of the Rowland School of Business. “We are proud to partner with Pittsburgh Hires Veterans on the development of curriculum and industry connections to further the mission.”

This kind of event is important because of the difficulty veterans have reintegrating into society, said Jack Wagner, director of Pittsburgh Hires Veterans, and a Purple Heart recipient for his service in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Wagner also has served as president of the Pittsburgh City Council, state senator and state auditor general.

“Veterans in Allegheny County have a higher unemployment rate than civilians, and to us, that is simply not acceptable,” he said. “We understand the struggles faced after returning home. It is not always easy to adjust to a new lifestyle as a civilian.”

The day includes:

- **Career prep/transition to civilian workforce seminar**, led by Erin Howard, career counselor in Point Park’s School of Arts and Sciences, and Dayna Brown, director of operations at Pittsburgh Hires Veterans.
- **Networking lunch** with speaker Mark Nave, senior vice president, Individual and Small Group Markets, at Highmark Inc.
- **Personal finance seminar**, led by Stephen Tanzilli, dean of the Rowland School of Business.

- **GI Bill and disability benefits seminar**, led by Lee Wagner, veterans outreach program specialist, White Oak Vet Center.

“It’s unconscionable that a veteran is guaranteed a burial site, but not a job,” Wagner said. “Hire a leader – hire a veteran.”

Employers taking part in the daylong event, include:

- Highmark Health
- City of Pittsburgh
- PNC Bank
- First National Bank
- 84 Lumber
- Target Freight Management
- Pitt Ohio
- GeNon Energy
- ADP
- Diamond Technical Services
- PA Career Link

To register for the event, go to [veteransexcellence.eventbrite.com](http://veteransexcellence.eventbrite.com). Participants will enter through the University’s Academic Hall, located at the corner of Third Avenue and Wood Street.

***Note to media: Steve Tanzilli and Jack Wagner are available for interviews.***

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*Point Park University, immersed in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, focuses on student success through innovative experiential learning opportunities. Point Park enrolls more than 4,000 students in over 100 undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs offered through its Conservatory of Performing Arts, Rowland School of Business, and schools of Arts and Sciences, Communication, and Education. The University’s alumni and students represent all 50 states and 34 countries around the world. Visit [PointPark.edu](http://PointPark.edu) to learn more.*