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In an effort to help U.S. military veterans transition from active duty service to the civilian job market, the White House invited leaders from the private sector, the military, industry trade associations, unions, educational institutions, state legislatures, veteran service organizations and state licensing boards for a forum on military credentialing and licensing.

During the event, the IT Training and Certification Partnership was launched. The partnership is a new public-private program that addresses an issue that can prevent our troops from gaining employment in the private sector: Active military personnel typically do not have the industry-recognized certifications that reflect the IT skills and expertise they gained through their military service.

Today's announcement is the second major partnership developed through the Military Credentialing and Licensing Task Force, which was established last June by the Department of Defense at President Obama's direction.

The new Partnership will provide opportunities for up to 161,000 service members to gain industry-recognized, nationally portable certifications necessary for 12 high-demand technology professions, including computer programmers, quality assurance engineers, and IT security analysts.

The targeted professions are expected to generate more than 1.8 million job opportunities by 2020, and have an average annual salary of more than \$81,000. Their high-quality military training assures that our veterans have the skill sets that employers demand to fill these positions

In remarks at the event, First Lady Michelle Obama praised the leaders who created the Partnership, saying their efforts will "make the world of difference to hundreds of thousands of veterans and military families across this country."

She also explained that hiring exiting servicemen and women isn't just the right

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discover that the credits that they've earned in military courses don't actually transfer when they enroll in college, so they're turned away from jobs that they're more than qualified to do. Or they wind up paying to do the same coursework over again, and all that training, all that education, all that expertise that they have devoted their lives to attain, it all goes to waste.

"And this is unfair to the men and women who have served this country so bravely. They deserve a fair shot at a good job when they come home. But it's also unfair to their families who have sacrificed probably more in some instances so that these men and women can do their job. And they deserve some financial security once they return to civilian life."

"It is also unfair to this country, because when we don't take advantage of the skills and talents of our veterans and military spouses, jobs go unfilled and, far worse, human potential goes untapped. And that's bad for our economy, as we all know."

Today's event also featured four roundtables where plans were discussed to launch additional public-private initiatives that will streamline the ability of service members and veterans to earn the civilian certifications and licenses required for high-demand jobs in emergency medical services, healthcare, and transportation sectors as well as streamline the ability for service members and veterans to translate military experience into academic credit.

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