



Career transition is inevitable. Whether the transition is from active service, a change in a current position or industry, or even a transition from the workforce entirely, career changes are something we must all face at one point or another. With an Army drawdown looming, the need for career services is growing. To respond to growing requests from our graduates, the West Point Association of Graduates is investing in expanding and enhancing the **Career Services Program** it offers our graduates.

West Point graduates' education, skills, and experience are unique in the civilian world. Who better than your alumni association and fellow members of the Long Gray Line to assist in leveraging your expertise into the next stage of your career? WPAOG is in the unique position to offer what traditional career counselors or search firms cannot: a targeted network of mentors, employers, and contacts who recognize the value and experience of our graduates. Successful career transitions are built on a foundation of knowledge and planning, provided through an effective Career Services Program.

## WPAOG Seeks Funding for Enhanced Graduate Career Services

### Service Academy Career (SAC) Central

Launched in May 2016, the SAC Central portal offers a robust networking system exclusively for graduates of federal service academies. Leveraging the Symplicity platform, a tool also used by other top-tier universities, SAC Central enables resume posting, job searches, online applications, and networking. SAC Central includes graduates from all five service academies, thereby encouraging more employer job postings, yet keeping the focus on employees with military



backgrounds. Graduates can search listings and opportunities based on industry, location, and skill set. A WPAOG priority is to actively market this tool to a larger number of organizations and ensure that graduates have the best and most relevant opportunities available.

For more than 20 years, Joint Service Academy Career Conferences have assisted graduates by providing opportunities to meet face-to-face with regional, national, and international companies, and firms and agencies looking for proven leadership at all levels of seniority. In addition, top-tier universities offering graduates programs attend, looking for service academy alumni for their programs that are tailored to veterans. Currently, WPAOG offers four annual conferences (San Antonio, Savannah, Washington DC, and San Diego), but in order to better serve the needs of our graduates, it seeks to expand the regions covered and offer virtual conferences for those who cannot travel to the onsite locations. Together, the online portal and regional conferences offer a comprehensive approach to a career transition.

### **Networking Corps**

By creating a network of graduates, who are available to offer advice, meet for informational interviews, and answer questions, WPAOG will expand the level of service it offers to graduates who are considering a career transition. Graduates in this network will volunteer to assist fellow West Pointers based on professional industry and/or region, offering alumni the chance to learn more about a specific area of interest and designed to enhance professional success. This Advisory Corps of trusted peers helps graduates discover inside connections and build professional networks.

### **Corporate Connections**

There are many corporations and organizations that recognize and value military experience. By strengthening our relationships with these organizations, many of which are led by members of the Long Gray Line, WPAOG will connect you with those employers committed to hiring veterans. In addition to ensuring that these organizations are participating in SAC Central online and at regional conferences, WPAOG's Corporate Connections Program develops and maintains the necessary network with key corporate West Point leaders for active recruiting and aid in navigating the application process.

### **Career Services Advisory Group**

Select graduates in the fields of human resources, search firms, and career services will provide guidance to WPAOG leadership about career services trends, tools, and best practices to ensure WPAOG services are relevant and effective for our graduates.

### **Annual Funding**

Annual Funding (personnel, travel, software licensing)	\$285,000
Three years of start-up funding	\$852,000

### **Career Services Endowment**

\$8.1 million