From Military Service to Life Sciences Careers: MOVE Boots to Biotech Reaches 100 Hires

MOVE Boots To Biotech



Military service develops leadership skills, technical discipline, adaptability and the ability to perform under pressure. It also provides relevant experience in operations, quality assurance, supply chain, maintenance, engineering and project management.

North Carolina life sciences companies value those skills and experience, and are hiring veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses through the North Carolina Biotechnology Center's **Military Outreach and Veteran Engagement (MOVE) Boots to Biotech** program.

NCBiotech launched its first military training initiative in 2019, to harness the state's dual strengths as a large active-duty military location and its leadership position in biomanufacturing.

The MOVE program expanded through an $825,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration awarded in February 2024. Now, MOVE is a self-sustaining, employer-supported model, with 16 employer partners committed to strengthening North Carolina's life sciences talent pipeline.

For Jacob Key, NCBiotech's Director of Workforce Solutions and a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant, the mission is personal. "MOVE is not just about helping folks find a job. It's about helping them find a new purpose. Our intent is to provide meaningful, sustainable employment and lifelong careers for the military population."

Celebrating the 100 Hires Milestone

In September 2026, MOVE reached a significant milestone: 100 hires by North Carolina's life sciences companies. This is a win for both the individuals who launched meaningful new careers and for life sciences companies seeking skilled workers for their operations. Behind each hire is an individual who navigated an uncertain career transition.



"MOVE was essential in helping me build a strong foundation for a thriving civilian career."
—D'AISHA EXHEM

D'Aisha Exhem found her path from the military into life sciences manufacturing, now working as a Manufacturing Associate III at FUJIFILM Biotechnologies in Holly Springs. MOVE helped her with resume writing, interviewing techniques and ongoing encouragement.



"I enjoy engaging with vendors and negotiating agreements for Novo. It's rewarding, meaningful work serving people with chronic diseases."
—TRAVIS BEAMON

Travis Beamon, a military veteran and commissioned officer, brought his skills to Novo as a Strategic Area Sourcing Specialist. MOVE helped by making introductions to hiring teams and smoothing the path to the life sciences.

MOVE has three career pathways to the life sciences. Training is dependent upon an individual's background, qualifications and career goals.

On-the-Job Training	Industry-Specific Training	Direct Employment



Planning for the Future

With 16 employer partners and more to come, access to 15 BioWork community colleges, and established relationships across North Carolina's major military installations, MOVE will continue to expand its reach and impact.

To learn more, visit: ***ncbiotech.org/military***

North Carolina Biotechnology Center®

MOVE - 26-152_CC