



Global Connections to Employment, Inc.

An Affiliate of Lakeview Center, Inc.

GCE Names Cruz Cruz Veteran of the Year

Pensacola, Fla. (December 13, 2021) – Global Connections to Employment (GCE) selected Ediberto “Eddy” Cruz Cruz as the 2021 Veteran of the Year. He is the first recipient of this new, prestigious recognition.

Eddy was serving as an infantryman in the United States Marine Corps, while deployed to Afghanistan. His armored military vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED). He walked away with hearing loss, back pain, tinnitus and depression. Eddy made the difficult transition to civilian life and graduated from California State University Monterey Bay with a degree in computer science with a concentration in computer networking. He later graduated from the GCE Information Technology Training Program (ITTP) in Monterey, California. Eddy is now a software developer. He continues to serve his country as a part-time member of the Air National Guard. He also supports his local church by assisting with various projects and is passionate about helping his sister’s organization, Dorothy’s Place, a local nonprofit dedicated to serving people who experience homelessness, poverty and marginalization.

“Eddy does so much to be helpful. He is a beacon of light for us all, and I’m proud to work with him,” said Joel Johnson, project manager.

Most GCE employees have a disability, including war-wounded U.S. military veterans, and they work at sites across the nation. GCE corporate offices are located in Pensacola, Florida, but the agency manages work contract sites in multiple states and the District of Columbia providing jobs to people with disabilities.



“It’s a privilege to have such a skilled, talented and mission-focused individual on our team,” said Allison Hill, CEO, Lakeview Center, the parent company of Global Connections to Employment. “Eddy embraces our Mission at work and in the community.” Read Eddy’s story at [GCE.org/successes](https://gce.org/successes).

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For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Lori Kain at 850.908.6969 or Lori.Kain@gce.org.

About Global Connections to Employment

*Global Connections to Employment (GCE) an affiliate of Lakeview Center, Inc. exists to help people throughout life’s journey. We meet our Mission by securing contracts to provide specific services and then hiring, training and supervising a workforce composed mostly of people with disabilities, including war-wounded U.S. military veterans. Based in Pensacola, Fla. and operating in **multiple states and the District of Columbia**, GCE has seven business lines: administrative support services, custodial services, facilities management, food services, health care environmental services, contact center and information technology. GCE is a member of the AbilityOne Network. To learn more, go to [GCE.org](https://gce.org).*

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