

Building Relationships: Two Commands Join Forces to Host Speed Mentoring Event

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By Sandra Niedzwiecki, Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

Personnel from Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and Navy Installations Command joined together on Aug. 31 to participate in a first-ever speed-mentoring event at the Washington Navy Yard. The event was held at the Humphrey's building as a way to empower civilian employees while stressing the importance of relationships to improve the workplace.

The combined command event was sponsored by the Asian American Pacific Islander Employer Resource Group (AAPIERG) and conducted with several workforce development team members from both Navy Installations Command and NAVSEA.

"I am here because I want to understand how some of these people got to their leadership position, what career path helped them," said Nicholas Thottam, program manager for Navy Installations Command's information technology infrastructure and applications department.

NAVSEA Commander, Vice Adm. William Hilarides, welcomed the mentors and proteges with a motivational speech about how mentoring, both formal and informal, has helped him throughout his 30-plus years of service.

"This is the best path to finding a mentor," said Hilarides. "Speed mentoring is the opportunity for people to meet folks that they have an affinity with."

Hilarides also stressed the importance of formal mentoring as an opportunity to meet people you would not normally meet.

During the event 22 mentors and 28 proteges were assigned a 10-minute session to meet and talk about career paths, background, and anything else that might be helpful for proteges to apply to his or her career.

"We felt that it would be a fantastic idea to get together with Navy Installations Command to hold a combined mentoring event," said Giao Pham, director of AAPIERG and the executive director for



150831-N-BW872-006 WASHINGTON (Aug. 31, 2015) Personnel from Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and Navy Installations Command participated in a first-ever speed-mentoring event at the Washington Navy Yard. The event was held at the Humphrey's building as a way to empower civilian employees while stressing the importance of relationships to improve the workplace. The combined command event was sponsored by the Asian American Pacific Islander Employer Resource Group and conducted with several workforce development team members from both Navy Installations Command and NAVSEA. (U.S. Navy Photo by Sandra Niedzwiecki/Released)

Program Executive Office (PEO) carriers for NAVSEA. "Our goal is to expose people to a broader area and other executive leaders." Pham also added that she is very passionate about mentoring because it helped her get to the Senior Executive Service and they intend to hold an event in the future with more tenant commands on WNY.

"This was nice to have an event with dedicated time to meet senior leaders in a one-on-one meeting," said Bibi Vosbeck, assistant program manager for Test, Trials, and Delivery for PEO Carriers, NAVSEA. She added that the main advice and common theme of the event was the importance of relationship building.

At the conclusion of the event attendees were thanked for their participation and exchanged contact information in order to stay connected with their new-found mentors. The AAPIERG team received overwhelming positive feedback from the event and is looking forward to hosting more mentoring events at the Navy Yard in the future.