



Veterans to Infrastructure

ABOUT CPI

CPI trains and inspires quality people and connects them to civilian concrete, construction, and infrastructure careers - skilled trades and management - while preserving national landmark structures

CPI is a non-profit educational foundation, an official US military Career Skills Program for active duty service members, partner of the US National Park Service (NPS) with Field Schools at Alcatraz Island and Pearl Harbor, and partner of industry companies nationwide who support CPI and hire their graduates. CPI completes significant repair and deferred maintenance projects that may not otherwise be completed on public landmark structures and sites while training active duty service members preparing for transition to civilian careers. CPI operates ahead of the veteran-to-civilian transition curve avoiding veteran unemployment or underemployment and connecting early with many highly-motivated individuals. CPI connects Field School and other transitioning service members to civilian careers at all levels - from skilled trades to management - in all areas of new and existing infrastructure, concrete, and construction.

Career Placement

CPI is connected nationwide with large and small industry companies in need of quality workforce. CPI facilitates employment longevity by matching candidates with positions well-suited to their goals and aptitudes and with employers in their desired geographic regions. CPI works with candidates to develop resumes, build interview skills, and relate their military occupational specialties to specific industry career paths and companies of interest. The career outlook includes skilled trades and management positions in concrete, construction, materials, manufacturing, quality control, transportation, logistics, business, sales, information technology, resource management, public service, and research, among others. CPI connects college-bound military service members to related university programs and stays connected with the veteran/students to assist with internships and eventual career placements.

Field School

CPI offers three, 12-week, full-time sessions per year at each location serving a limited number of participants seeking industry hands-on technical and management skills. Participants remain on active duty while training, complete industry safety and technical certification exams, gain exposure to career options throughout the industry, and complete/manage projects that address structural stability, visitor and operational access and safety, landmark preservation, and education. Individuals with or without experience may apply. As a needed continuous stewardship force bringing resources, expertise, and peoplepower, CPI completes Field School projects, conducts ongoing inspection and maintenance for projects done by others thereby extending major public capital improvement investments/avoiding future deferred maintenance issues, and engages broadly with Department of the Interior cultural resource needs. CPI leaders are top industry experts who welcome industry guest lecturers to enrich the learning environment and partner with CPI to bring emerging technologies and best practices to the public sector. Making existing structures stronger and last longer are relatively new fields, growing in response to failing infrastructure and increased interest in service life extension. Engaging hands-on in these areas exposes candidates to past and current successes and failures preparing them for a wide range of careers addressing existing and new structures.

Broader Impact

Battleship Row's concrete mooring quays are among of the last visible reminders of the surprise 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the devastating event that propelled the United States into WWII. Alcatraz Island's structures, originally built by the US military in defense of the San Francisco Bay during westward expansion and the California gold rush, stand as testimony to rich layers of military, civil rights, and federal prison history. These sites, averaging approximately 5000 visitors/day each, mirror deferred maintenance issues plaguing overall US infrastructure. CPI's high profile, publically promoted programs at these sites preserve irreplaceable cultural heritage and attract PR and media coverage helping educate broad audiences about needed critical resources for infrastructure, public sites, and military veterans. CPI broadens their impact by attracting sponsors from outside the industry, engaging in applied industry research, and working with their military Field School participants to mentor local youth during local community service projects.