

2017-18 Veterans Enrollment Report

Prepared by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs
Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.507

November 2018

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
Nevada State College
College of Southern Nevada
Great Basin College
Truckee Meadows Community College
Western Nevada College
Desert Research Institute



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Background and Purpose

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is dedicated to supporting student veterans and their families in pursuing their educational goals. Student veterans are growing in number not only in Nevada, but across the nation. This particular student population often faces unique challenges in assimilating back into civilian life. It is the goal of NSHE and its institutions to provide the necessary services to support student veterans, in order to ensure their success in achieving their educational goals.

The purpose of this report is to meet the reporting requirements of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 396.507. This provision requires the Board of Regents to submit an annual report to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Committee on Education when the Legislature is not in regular session, which includes: (1) the number of students who are veterans or who are receiving payments or benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; (2) information about how policy changes may have affected the number of students who are veterans enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education; (3) the number of students who are veterans who graduated during the immediately preceding academic year; and (4) the efforts undertaken by each institution within the System to retain and graduate students who are veterans.

NSHE institutions have undertaken a significant technical implementation to improve the collection of veteran enrollment data to make it possible for veterans to self-identify on their application for admission. Full implementation was completed in time for the veterans to self-identify during the application process for the Fall 2016 semester. Since the application only collects data on new students, the institutions are also using various survey instruments to identify currently enrolled veterans.

Due to the implementation schedule as it relates to this report, the data in this report is not comparable to past reports.



Student Veterans Data

Number of Identified Student Veterans: 6,139

For academic year 2017-18, 6,139 student veterans were identified across the seven NSHE teaching institutions. This figure is unduplicated and only captures students whose veterans' benefits were certified by an NSHE institution or who self-identified on an admissions application.

Number of Student Veterans Receiving Payments from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: 4,018

For academic year 2017-18, 4,018 student veterans were certified by an NSHE institution for the purpose of receiving educational benefits. This figure is unduplicated and only includes students who have been certified by an NSHE institution to receive benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Percent of Student Veterans by Gender: 69.8% Male, 30.2% Female

Of the student veterans identified as enrolled at an NSHE institution in academic year 2017-18, 69.8 percent were identified as male and 30.2 percent female. Gender data is not available for all identified student veterans.

Average Age of Enrolled Student Veterans: 31.5 years old

For the identified student veterans enrolled in the 2017-18 academic year, the average age of those identified students was 31.5 years old as of September 2017.

Fall to Spring Retention: 77.4%

Of the identified student veterans that were enrolled in Fall 2017, 77.4 percent persisted and enrolled in the Spring 2018 term.

Number of Student Veterans Who Graduated: 2,202

During academic year 2017-18, 2,202 student veterans received a degree or certificate. This number would exclude any veteran who did not receive benefits and/or self-identify as a veteran to the institution.

Areas of Study

State law requires that NSHE report “the most common areas of study among the students who are veterans.”

This data is reported by the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) category for student veterans enrolled during the 2017-18 academic year. The CIP codes used in this report are based on a taxonomic scheme that supports the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. The CIP scheme was developed and is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. The CIP code is the accepted standard for the federal government on instructional program classifications in higher education and is used in a variety of education related surveys and databases within NSHE and across the country.

The top 15 CIP categories with the highest number of student veterans enrolled are noted in the following table.

Classification of Instructional Program Category	# of Students
24-Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities	1074
52-Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	954
51-Health Professions and Related Programs	806
43-Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services	466
41-Science Technologies/Technicians	453
14-Engineering & Engineering Technologies	395
11-Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	274
13-Education	272
42-Psychology	250
45-Social Sciences	227
26-Biological and Biomedical Sciences	216
50-Visual and Performing Arts	185
40-Physical Sciences	145
47-Mechanic and Repair Technologies	140
31-Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	134

Policy Changes

State law requires reporting of any information necessary to determine the impact of policy changes on the number of student veterans who are enrolled in NSHE. Two significant policy changes passed at the federal and state levels in prior years impact the criteria under which a veteran may be deemed a resident for tuition purposes, thus avoiding higher non-resident tuition charges under certain circumstances: 1.) The federal Veterans' Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, and 2.) Measures passed by the 2013 and 2015 Nevada State Legislature amending NRS 396.540 to prohibit charging tuition to veterans honorably discharged within a certain number of years preceding their enrollment in an NSHE institution. A summary of both of these policy changes follows. In addition, a summary of other military and veterans' education benefits under Board policy and state and federal law is available through the [NSHE website](#).

Impact: In academic year 2017-18, 452 new and continuing veterans were deemed residents for tuitions purposes. It is expected that with the expansion of the NRS 396.540 from two years to five years, the number of veterans seeking residency status under this provision will continue to grow.

The Choice Act

Under Section 702 of the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3230, "Choice Act"), public institutions of higher education that do not offer in-state tuition rates to certain veterans will lose federal veteran educational assistance dollars under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*, which includes the Fry Scholarship) and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*). Specifically, institutions must offer in-state tuition rates to veterans who are living in the state in which the institution is located; served in the active military, naval or air service; are pursuing a course of education with federal education benefits; and enroll in the institution within three years after their discharge from service. In-state tuition must also be offered to certain family members of the veteran or a member of the armed forces who died in the line of duty while on active duty if that family member enrolls within three years after the veteran's discharge or the service member's death and is using veterans education benefits.

To ensure NSHE institutions comply with this new federal law and do not risk the loss of federal veteran educational assistance by its students, the Board of Regents adopted provisions necessary to comply with the original 2014 Act, as well as subsequent revisions at the federal level under *Board of Regents' Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3.12. The adopted policy complies with Section 702 of the "Choice Act" by providing an exemption from tuition charges for a covered individual who enrolls within the specified three-year timeframe. Covered individuals must start their program within the three years and then they will be covered for terms after the 3-year mark. In addition, Board policy also extends the requirements of the Choice Act in Nevada to include within the non-resident tuition exemption veterans and dependent beneficiaries who qualify under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program (See Chapter 35 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*). The DEA Program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and

totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Nevada Legislation – 2013 and 2015

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.540 provides that the Board of Regents may fix the tuition charges for students at NSHE campuses, but must not charge tuition to certain students, including for example, students who are residents of Nevada. Existing Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3* (Tuition) and *Section 4* (Resident Students) of the Handbook recognizes the provisions contained in NRS 396.540.

The 2013 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 260 (Chapter 505, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*), which added “veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged within the 2 years immediately preceding the date of matriculation of the veteran at a university, state college or community college within the System” to the list of students for whom the Board must not charge tuition under NRS 396.540.

Subsequently, the 2015 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 76 (Chapter 13, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*) and amended this section of State law to increase the timeframe from two years to five years. Board policy also includes this exemption as set forth by the Nevada Legislature (*Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3*).

Institutional Efforts

State law requires a summary of efforts of each NSHE institution to retain and graduate student veterans through retention and other related programs. The following summaries, provided by the institutions and compiled here, detail those retention and related student success efforts on each campus.

UNLV

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this report and proposal is to highlight the 2017-2018 goals and accomplishments of the Military & Veteran Services Center (MVSC) in support of the 1,821 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, reservists and military family members attending UNLV. It begins with the new initiatives and events implemented since October 2017 to aid in retaining and graduating student veterans, as well as positive reviews about our veteran programs that will help with attracting and enrolling new student veterans.
- II. **NEW INITIATIVES, EVENTS, RECOGNITIONS:**
 - A. **UNLV Veteran Programs:** MVSC implemented the following program in Fall 2018 as an additional service to help increase retention and graduation of student veterans:
 - **NEW** - Any veteran/military dependent using 100% VA Education benefits has a service indicator added to their record to ensure the veteran has no out-of-pocket expenses — no late fees or potential to be purged.
 - B. **MVSC Recognition:** The MVSC has been recognized nationally and throughout Nevada as the leader in providing quality veteran services.
 - UNLV was again ranked as a Top 15% or GOLD “Veteran Friendly” university (2011-2018). Source: GIJOBS.COM.
 - **NEW** - 2017 – UNLV is ranked in the nation’s Top 62/605 “Best for Vets” colleges for veterans using the GI Bill®. Source: *Military Times* 2017.
 - **NEW** - 2018 – Student Veterans of America (SVA) recognized UNLV as a leader in the veteran community at the 2018 SVA National Conference (out of 1500 chapters).
 - **NEW** - 2018 – SVA recognized Randy Dexter (Rebel Vet President 2017) as a top 10 national “SVA Leader.”
 - **NEW** - 2018 – SVA recognized UNLV Rebel Vets (SVA Chapter) as a top 5 “SVA Chapter of the Year.”
 - **NEW** - 2018 – UNLV recognized Melissa Barber as Administrative Faculty of the Month (Jan 2018).

- C. **NEW - Rebel Vet Alumni “Engage” Breakfast:** The MVSC, Rebel Vets and the new UNLV Alumni Veterans Club hosted two Rebel Vet “Engage” breakfast meetings in 2017 and 2018. The purpose of hosting the “Engage” breakfasts included the following: (a) bring together veterans in the Las Vegas community that are graduates, community partners and nongraduates of UNLV, (b) highlight the various nationally recognized veteran programs at UNLV, (c) present the Rebel Vets (SVA Chapter) leadership and their programs, (d) introduce the SVA-LinkedIn project/webinars to the community, (e) recognize both the Cosmopolitan “Supporting Our Veterans” hiring initiative and their Veteran Mentoring program, and the Caesars Entertainment Veteran SALUTE program, (f) learn of our guest speakers Deputy Chief Rich Suey’s transition from the Air Force and his veteran experience as a 27-year Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Chief, and Christina Hernandez’s (photo at right) Army career and transition to Harvard and her White House Fellowship, and finally (g) create a networking environment for our current student veterans to connect with veteran leaders in our community. We hope that the networking will open up new opportunities for veterans on campus and in the community.



- D. **NEW - Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE):** UNLV funded the hiring of a full-time Veteran Outreach Coordinator and PAVE team supervisor – Dwayne Gordon (Air Force, retired). UNLV is one of the few universities in the country that participates in the University of Michigan PAVE peer-to-peer support program. In March 2018, UNLV was recognized as the PAVE program of the month after completing more than 2,024 outreach messages and 547 veteran interactions. This service connects incoming student veterans with student veterans already on campus in order to help them navigate college life, identify challenges they may be facing, refer them to the appropriate resources on or off campus, and provide ongoing support for their academic and personal ventures.

- a. **NEW** -The PAVE team also partnered with the UNLV College of Social Work to allow its students to work with the MVSC as an approved practicum site. This PAVE team, with the help of the practicum students, connected with more than 408 incoming veterans and another 303 veterans on the probation list who were struggling with their studies.

PAVE: Why Peer Support?

Numerous studies on the effectiveness of peer-to-peer approaches have demonstrated that peers “who have been there” can:

- ◆ Be a credible source of support
- ◆ Help others overcome transition challenges
- ◆ Help foster stronger connections and sense of well-being



PAVE
Program



PAVE
Peer Advisors for Veteran Education



- b. **NEW** - **PAVE Training for Fall 2018:** The UNLV PAVE team partnered with the local Red Cross office and the UNLV College of Social Work to provide the following veteran transition training: (a) Communicating Clearly, (b) Exploring Stress and Trauma, (c) Identifying Depression, (d) Relating to Children, Working through Anger, (e) Communication Counts, and (f) Confident Coping.
- c. **NEW** - With the MVSC connections in the community, the U.S. Army reserve funded 10 of the MVSC PAVE members to attend the two-day ASIST veteran suicide prevention training. The next “SAFE TALK” training is scheduled for November 2, 2018.

F. NEW - UNLV STUDENT VETERANS ATTENDED THE STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE Two UNLV student veteran leaders and a distinguished veteran UNLV alumnus of the UNLV Rebel Vets SVA Chapter—Alexandrina



Sawin (Rebel Vet President), Derick Butler (Rebel Vet Secretary), and Bruno Moya (former Rebel Vet President)—attended the Student Veterans of America (SVA) Leadership Institute in Washington, DC, on September 20–23, 2018. These warrior

scholars have distinguished themselves as exemplary advocates for veterans on campus. This honor is extended each year to only 100 student veterans who serve as elected SVA chapter officers at some of the best-performing schools across America. Alexandrina Sawin, a U.S. Air Force veteran, attends the UNLV School of Medicine, where she’s a premed student. She currently serves as the president of UNLV’s SVA chapter, Rebel Vets. The secretary of Rebel Vets, Derick Butler, is a junior at UNLV studying to obtain his Bachelor of Social Work degree. He too is an Air Force veteran, and juggles single fatherhood, full-time school and a part-time job while advocating for the needs and concerns of veterans on campus. Bruno Moya is an alumnus from the UNLV School of Social Work, where he obtained a master’s degree. A Marine Corps veteran, he currently serves as a veteran case manager for Senator Dean Heller and was president of Rebel Vets during the 2016–2017 school year. SVA’s Leadership Institute is sponsored by Prudential and is the premier foundational leadership experience in the country for student veterans. It brings together the nation’s high-achieving chapter leaders for a multiday, values-based leadership immersion program. The concept behind the Leadership Institute is that long-term leadership success comes from an intimate knowledge of one’s core values and how they inform one’s leadership ethos. Attendees are mentored through this experience by some of the nation’s top leaders, business minds and veterans’ advocates.

G. **NEW - UNLV Rebel Vets Hosted the First Statewide Ruck March Honoring Military Heroes:** Operation Battle Born hosted Nevada veterans and community members who marched 370 miles over eight days and carried nearly 7,000 Identification Tags (dog tags) in honor of fallen service members since 9/11 during the Global War on Terrorism. This event was sponsored by the Wynn Resort, VFW Post 12101 and our local community. The Operation Battle Born ruck march began in Las Vegas and ended in Fernley, NV. It consisted of two teams—the Northern Team was TMCC and the Southern Team was UNLV. The Southern Team met the Northern Team in Goldfield and held a transfer ceremony of the dog tags that were being carried in rucksacks by veterans and other volunteers—to “Carry the Fallen.” Each veteran or volunteer walked in memory of someone specific or of a group of a few fallen comrades—or in pure gratitude to our service members’ selfless service and ultimate sacrifice. Each member of the ruck march walked ten miles in a group of four people before handing the rucksacks off to a new group of four ready to walk their ten miles. Many people obtained



blisters on their feet, sore muscles and backs, and even old knee pains that reared their ugly heads from ruck marches past. A few student veterans walked extra miles over the course of the march as fill-ins for those who could not complete their ten miles for various reasons. Both the northern and southern marchers had logistics teams that not only raised money from their own respective communities but also coordinated with each other weekly via Skype and almost daily via student emails. There were some logistics challenges to overcome, such as finding sponsors and developing safety plans, as well as delegating various duties and responsibilities to each logistics team member as they coordinated combined efforts. These events create camaraderie and solidarity among student veterans, which also helps with their transition to university life and the likelihood that they’ll complete their college degree.

H. **NEW - Diversity Initiatives:** The MVSC serves a very diverse population of more than 1,800 veterans, active duty members, reservists and military family members. This population reflects the diversity of our United States military, which in turn reflects the diversity of America. UNLV established the Military & Veteran Services Center and the Student Veterans & Military Family Services Committee to better serve our growing, diverse student veteran and military family community. As the Nation's most diverse university, UNLV, through the MVSC, has taken the initiative to ensure our returning veterans are encouraged to lead by example, treat everyone with respect and embrace a community that strives for equity in all diverse cultures. In 2018, the Rebel Vet team developed a REBEL VET CREED to guide our veterans moving forward.



I Am a REBEL Vet

DIFFERENT

I am a veteran and a student, using my GI BILL to earn my degree to achieve my life goals while looking out for my fellow veterans.

DARING

I am a veteran of character, grounded in values of RESPECT, EXCELLENCE, BOLDNESS, ENDURANCE and LEADERSHIP (REBEL). I am team oriented, dedicated to everyone's success.

DIVERSE

I am a veteran, molded by a military that thrives on our Nation's diversity. I will set an example by treating all with respect, honoring different views and focusing on shaping a strong campus, community and Nation.

UNLV | MILITARY & VETERAN SERVICES CENTER

III. MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES OF MVSC

- A. **Unit Mission:** UNLV established the Military & Veteran Services Center (MVSC) to better serve our growing student veteran and military family community by developing a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success. We understand the many challenges associated with pursuing a degree while serving on active duty, as well as the challenges associated with making the leap from the military to the civilian world. Working with the Las Vegas Veteran Engagement Community Council for veteran resources and our VetSuccess office on campus to meet these needs, MVSC is staffed with veterans and GI Bill®-experienced staff to assist more than 1,821 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members and reservists with answers to questions concerning admissions, GI Bill® enrollment certification, financial aid resources, campus and community support services, and various networks for veteran employment opportunities.
- B. **Unit Goals and Objectives:** As the Director of the Military & Veteran Services Center, I along with my staff manage the MVSC operations to ensure the timely VA certification of GI Bill® benefits for our student veterans. Working with my Program Coordinator, Melissa Barber, we encourage our staff to look for areas that need to be streamlined, through the use of technology and otherwise, and we problem-solve to create and implement solutions for greater efficiency. To provide high-quality, compassionate service to transitioning veterans, and to increase retention, we regularly seek ways to discover best practices in serving veterans used by other universities, and also offer our learnings to other institutions. Part of this effort includes implementing new programs and events, as well as becoming a member of and regularly participating in committees and organizations that strive to help veterans. We proactively seek to provide expanding resources for student veterans by communicating and cooperating with the departments at UNLV and also organizations in the greater Las Vegas community. We continually update our marketing strategy to recruit veterans to enroll at UNLV,

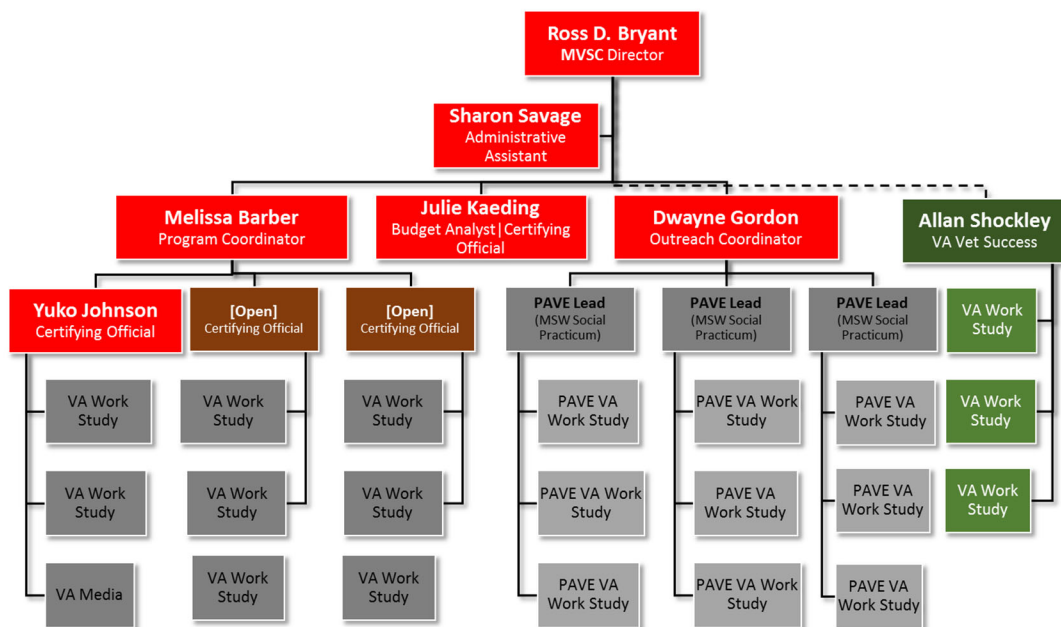
including advertisements in military magazines and regular trips to education fairs at military bases. I can think of no greater honor than to serve our veterans in these ways.

IV. SCOPE OF OPERATION

A. PERSONNEL

- a. **Current Organizational Structure:** The UNLV Military & Veteran Services Center is understaffed for our critical mission. We currently have an office of six employees (a Director, a Program Coordinator, an Outreach Coordinator, an Administrative Assistant and two Certifying Officials) responsible for marketing, recruiting, orientations/welcoming veterans, certifying VA paperwork, retention, faculty and staff awareness training, campus celebrations, notifying faculty about the UNLV Student Veterans Organization, community outreach, fundraising for the Yellow Ribbon Fund, and graduation recognition. The VA funds twenty student veteran workers to assist with student veteran customer service and in-processing and up to twelve student workers to assist in the PAVE program. We have requested two additional Certifying Officials to assist with the current increase in veteran attendance. The current office structure follows:

MVSC Staff

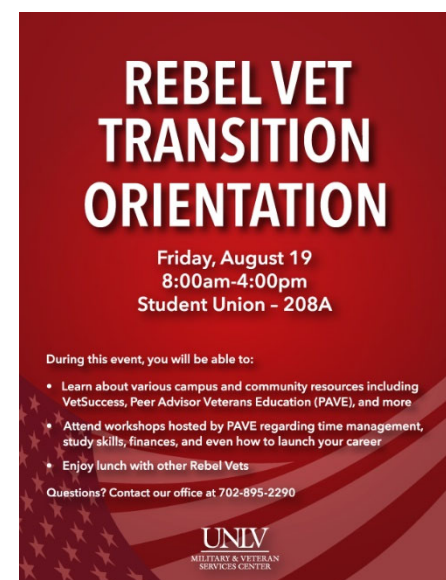


V. Year in Review

- A. **UNLV Veteran Programs:** The following programs are nationally recognized as the model for welcoming, admitting, mentoring and providing resources to student veterans to help increase retention and graduation. The following list also highlights the benefits of attending UNLV for veterans and includes the UNLV Military & Veteran Services programs:

- Nevada residency is granted to all “honorably” discharged veterans within five years of separation and within three years for military family members using GI Bill®.
- AB 76, signed by Governor Sandoval, will grant in-state tuition to any dependents of KIA service members awarded the FRY Scholarship.
- Priority registration is provided to all veterans to expedite payment of the Chapter 33 GI Bill® housing allowance.
- UNLV is ranked as a Top 15% “Veteran-Friendly” University (GIJOBS.COM 2011-2017).
- *Military Times* magazine ranked UNLV #62 in the Nation out of 605 4-year schools – “Best for Vets”
- UNLV offers the VetSuccess program with a VA Benefits Counselor on campus.
- UNLV sponsors a nationally recognized Student Veterans Organization chapter, Rebel Vets, and a Rebel Women Veterans group.
- UNLV hosts “Safe Talk” suicide prevention training each semester.
- UNLV College of Education and Clark County School District are partners for the “Troops to Education” program at UNLV, which provides an accelerated licensing program to any veteran with a bachelor’s degree.
- UNLV participates in the University of Michigan Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) peer-to-peer mentoring program.
- UNLV co-sponsors the semiannual Veteran Hiring Fair with local employers ready to hire veterans. (Our last veteran career fair was held on January 2018 and the next will be on January 26, 2019.)
- Since 2012 the Eleanor Kagi Foundation funded five Rebel Vet Graduation receptions to honor our 1321 student veteran graduates. Each Rebel Vet graduate received a Rebel Vet graduation coin; a red, white and blue cord; and certificates of recognition from the Governor and the Nevada Delegation. We also conducted a drawing of prizes from the local community.

B. Rebel Vet Transition Orientation: Using the PeopleSoft system, we are able to search for all newly admitted student veterans and military family members to send them an MVSC welcome email, a VA resource email, a Student Veterans Organization (SVO)/Rebel Women Vets welcome email and a list of campus/community resources and orientations to assist them in their transition to campus life. In 2017 the MVSC hosted two Rebel Vet Transition Orientations, which provided our new veterans with a GI Bill® responsibilities class, information, veteran resources, VA benefits, connection to our peer-to-peer network and some helpful classes in their journey for academic success. After providing these resources, our PAVE peer-to-peer mentors communicated with these students. Each of our PAVE mentors personally emailed and called each new student veteran and told them about our peer-to-peer mentoring program, letting each one know they had support and a “Battle Buddy” to



call if they needed anything. More than 300 new veterans or military family members attend the veteran transition orientation .

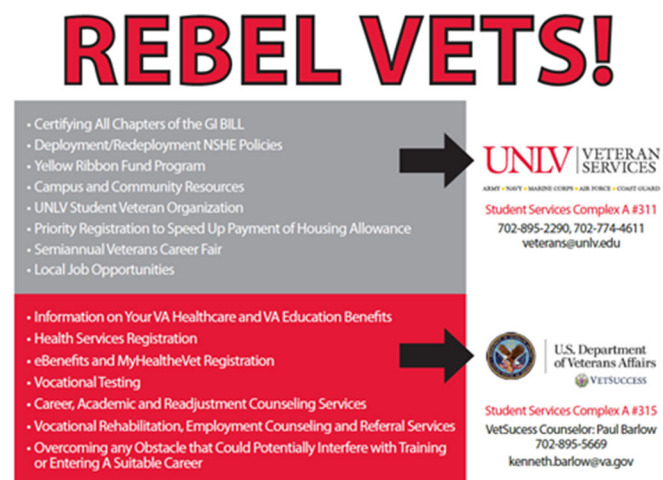
- C. GI Bill® Certification:** MVSC has the continual task of processing the required documents of more than 1,200 GI Bill® recipients in order to access their VA Education Benefits and process their payments. The cycle consists of the tasks in the flowchart below. We are very pleased to have three certifying officials to take on this difficult and ever-changing task. We also have eight VA-funded student veteran workers who assist in the process of answering questions concerning admissions, GI Bill® enrollment certification, financial aid resources, campus and community support services, local veteran discounted-housing programs and various networks for veteran employment opportunities. In addition, all our new certifying officials will attend the annual WAVES conference or the NAFA conference to better understand the details of the certifying process.

- D. Retention:** As part of the retention campaign, the Military & Veteran Services Center, working very closely with the VA VetSuccess program, identified more than 228 student veterans and military family members on suspension or probation in the last year and emailed an official letter of support, including a list of academic resources. In addition, the VetSuccess office contacted them, and our PAVE team personally called each student on probation. 75% of

the probation students were military family members using the GI Bill®. We requested that the students contact our office to discuss their situation and highlight any issues impacting academic performance. We also provided each veteran with support services as needed and reminded them of all the academic support services on campus. We directed them to the Academic Success Center and explained the process for getting the VA to fund a needed tutor. When possible, we also connected the student veteran with another veteran in the same academic discipline.

- E. Faculty and Staff Veteran Awareness Training:** The Military & Veteran Services Center continues to provide faculty and staff veteran-awareness training known as Serving Every Returning Veteran (SERV). This training is designed to explain the various challenges facing our returning veterans and to inform attendees about campus programs that are available to assist veterans in achieving their academic goals. We offered this training monthly during the academic school year through UNLV HR Training and have conducted more than 60 total training sessions for over 425 employees to date.

- F. Campus Celebrations:** During 2017-2018 we hosted our Veterans Day week of activities, participated in the UNLV President's Concert for Heroes, hosted two Rebel Vet "Engage" breakfasts and hosted two Rebel Vet Graduation Receptions.



a. **The Veterans Day memorial celebration** consisted of the following: (a) a memorial wreath ceremony with an Army and Air Force ROTC combined color guard, (b) a special community support presentation to honor a Gulf War veteran, Craig Bivens (USMC), who passed from service-connected cancer, (c) the UNLV band played the Marine Corps Hymn and (d) the Rebel Vets honored the Bivens family with a check in Craig's honor for \$77,000 to assist veterans in attending UNLV, (e) a VA VetSuccess support services table, and (e) an SVA table for students, faculty and staff to write veteran thank-you cards for veterans at the Nevada Veteran's Home.



b. **The UNLV Orchestra's President's Concert for Heroes** – The UNLV Wind Orchestra conducted a special concert for American Heroes in honor of our more than 1,800 student veterans, and a special ceremony of the French Legion of Honor to World War II veterans from Las Vegas. The concert was attended by more than 1,600 guests, who contributed almost \$2,000 to the UNLV Foundation's Yellow Ribbon Program.



c. Rebel Vet Graduation

Receptions:

During December and May, the Military & Veteran Services Center and the UNLV Rebel Vets, with invaluable volunteer support from the Student Veterans & Military Family Support Committee, hosted two semiannual Rebel Vet Graduation Receptions.

During the ceremonies we recognized the service and academic achievement of more than 219 graduating veterans and ROTC graduates. The ceremony included the following: (a) a slide presentation of the graduates set to music, (b) a UNLV welcome by AVP Mike Sauer, (c) a presentation of guests – Marine Corps veteran Judge Mark Stevens and Rebel Vet graduate Penny Goodwin (Army veteran), (d) a celebration cake cut with an Army saber, and (e) the recognition of graduates. We presented each graduate with a Rebel Vet coin and cord, a letter of congratulation from Governor Sandoval, a packet with certificates of recognition by each of the Nevada delegation, and a donated UNLV Alumni packet. We also conducted a drawing of community prizes that included show tickets, dinner coupons and weekend getaway packages. In addition, we recognized all our graduates by publishing the graduation list of student veterans, military family members, and Army and Air Force ROTC graduates on our office wall of honor and in the UNLV graduation program.



G. UNLV Student Veterans Organization:

The Director of MVSC is also the faculty advisor for the UNLV Student Veterans Organization (SVO) – the Rebel Vets.

SVO's stated mission: "One way to promote your success in college and in your future career is to get involved in your community or join like-minded student organizations. The UNLV Rebel Vets is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to the principle of

veterans helping fellow veterans be successful. Individuals interested in camaraderie, working with the veteran community to address veteran issues, and networking with the community for future employment opportunities. Veterans are encouraged to join the UNLV Student Veterans Organization." The Rebel Vet leadership attended legislative meetings in Washington, DC, and in Carson City. The Rebel Vets, working in collaboration with the veteran community, helped pass AB24 (Fry Scholarship) and SB457 (military credit process review).



SY 2017-2018 events:

- Monthly meetings
- Veterans Day remembrance ceremony (Nov 2017)
- SVO leadership participated in the Veteran Roundtable discussions with Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Heller, Congresswoman Rosen, Congresswoman Titus and Congressman Kihuen (Fall 2017).
- Rebel Vet Leaders Randy Dexter (Army) and Jefferson Detrick (Army) attended the SVA Leadership conference at President George W. Bush's ranch in Texas (Oct 2017).
- Rebel Vet Graduation Celebration Receptions (Dec 2017 & May 2018)
- Community project – SVO volunteered to place holiday wreaths at Boulder City National Cemetery (Dec 2017).
- Delivered holiday cards and “Thanks for your service” cards to the Boulder City Veterans Home (Dec 2017)
- SVO supported the UNLV-sponsored Veteran Career Fairs (Jan 2018).
- The SVO president, vice president and Rebel Women Vets president, along with seven of their members, attended the 9th National Student Veterans of America Conference in San Antonio, Texas (Jan 2018).
- The Rebel Vet Leadership team competed in the SPARTAN Race (Mar 2018).
- Community project: SVO volunteered to place flags at Boulder City National Cemetery (May 2018).
- SVO supported the UNLV-sponsored Senator Cortez Masto Veteran Career Fair (Jan 2018).



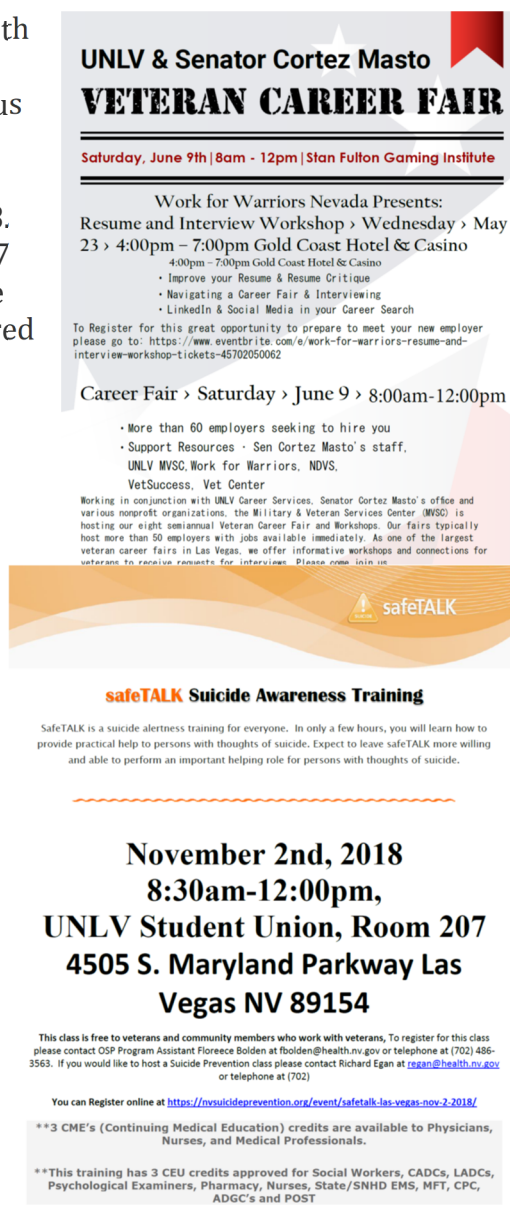
H. PAVE Survey: University of Michigan PAVE conducted a survey of all our veterans using the Post 9-11 GI Bill®. We had a 46% response rate and found the following key information about our veterans and their attitudes toward UNLV:

- The average age of our veterans is 30 years old.
- Military branches: Air Force 41%, Army 26%, Navy 19%, Marine Corps 16% and Coast Guard 2%
- 70% had at least one deployment.
- 41% of our veterans are in STEM-related courses.
- 83% feel supported at UNLV.
- 71% are enthusiastic about UNLV.
- 62% have a sense of belonging at UNLV.
- 50% feel UNLV is one of the best schools in the nation.

Community Outreach: The Director of the Military & Veteran Services Center and our newly hired Veteran Outreach Coordinator are the outreach coordinators for all things veteran in Southern Nevada. Ross Bryant continues to be the co-chair of the local VA Southern Nevada Veteran Engagement Community Council. The committee consists of Goodwill, the Red Cross, the Las Vegas Urban League, Las Vegas PBS, the local Heroes2Hired program, UNLV Military & Veteran Services Center, the VA Hospital and the City of Las Vegas. This local effort is dedicated to sharing resource information and veteran support event schedules, and connecting veterans in need with resources. In support of this successful committee, the Governor's Veteran Network joined the group and coordinated an effort to connect the various local chambers of commerce to support the hiring of our nation's veterans. The purpose of this outreach is to inform the Las Vegas community of our programs and services and also to network with the many veteran service organizations, nonprofit support services and veteran community efforts throughout Nevada. When veterans in need arrive at UNLV, our ability to connect them with critical resources, grants or programs is crucial to being able to assist them.

I. Veteran Career Fair: Working in conjunction with UNLV Office of Government Affairs, UNLV Career Services, Senator Cortez Masto's office and various nonprofit organizations, the Military & Veteran Services Center cosponsored our annual Veteran Career Fairs and Workshops on January 11, 2018. The event was very successful, with more than 87 employers with jobs available and a total of more than 178 veterans in attendance. This event offered informative workshops and resulted in many veterans being exposed to job opportunities and receiving requests for interviews. This collaborative effort consolidated numerous disjointed community support efforts into one career fair event to serve a larger population of veterans in need and provides a venue for our own 1,800 student veterans to gain full- or part-time employment. Since May 2015, the Military & Veteran Services Center successfully submitted a grant request to the Governor's Director of Nevada Department of Veterans Services and secured \$5,000 for the next two veteran career fairs. In addition, the UNLV Foundation helped us secure \$7,500 to fund our future veteran career fairs.

J. Veteran Suicide Prevention Efforts: After experiencing the suicide of three UNLV student veterans and a military family member in 2013 and 2016, the Director of the Military & Veteran Services Center reached out to the veteran community to access greater suicide prevention support services. In order to



**UNLV & Senator Cortez Masto
VETERAN CAREER FAIR**

Saturday, June 9th | 8am - 12pm | Stan Fullon Gaming Institute

Work for Warriors Nevada Presents:
Resume and Interview Workshop > Wednesday > May 23 > 4:00pm - 7:00pm Gold Coast Hotel & Casino
4:00pm - 7:00pm Gold Coast Hotel & Casino
• Improve your Resume & Resume Critique
• Navigating a Career Fair & Interviewing
• LinkedIn & Social Media in your Career Search

To Register for this great opportunity to prepare to meet your new employer please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/work-for-warriors-resume-and-interview-workshop-tickets-45702050062>

Career Fair > Saturday > June 9 > 8:00am-12:00pm

- More than 60 employers seeking to hire you
- Support Resources - Sen Cortez Masto's staff, UNLV MVSC, Work for Warriors, NDVS, VetSuccess, Vet Center

Working in conjunction with UNLV Career Services, Senator Cortez Masto's office and various nonprofit organizations, the Military & Veteran Services Center (MVSC) is hosting our eight semiannual Veteran Career Fair and Workshops. Our fairs typically host more than 50 employers with jobs available immediately. As one of the largest veteran career fairs in Las Vegas, we offer informative workshops and connections for veterans to receive requests for interviews. Please come join us!

safeTALK

safeTALK Suicide Awareness Training

SafeTALK is a suicide alertness training for everyone. In only a few hours, you will learn how to provide practical help to persons with thoughts of suicide. Expect to leave safeTALK more willing and able to perform an important helping role for persons with thoughts of suicide.

**November 2nd, 2018
8:30am-12:00pm,
UNLV Student Union, Room 207
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Las
Vegas NV 89154**

This class is free to veterans and community members who work with veterans. To register for this class please contact OSP Program Assistant Florence Bolden at fbolden@health.nv.gov or telephone at (702) 486-3563. If you would like to host a Suicide Prevention class please contact Richard Egan at regan@health.nv.gov or telephone at (702)

You can Register online at <https://nvsuicideprevention.org/event/safetalk-las-vegas-nov-2-2018/>

****3 CME's (Continuing Medical Education) credits are available to Physicians, Nurses, and Medical Professionals.**

****This training has 3 CEU credits approved for Social Workers, CADCs, LADCs, Psychological Examiners, Pharmacy, Nurses, State/SNHD EMS, MFT, CPC, ADGC's and POST**

Space is limited-registration will be on a first come first serve basis.

improve awareness for the student veteran community, the Director accomplished the following preparations to help prevent veteran suicides: (a) at the invitation of the Governor's office, he joined the Governor's Veteran Suicide Prevention Council, (b) as a member of this council, he attended a National Veteran Suicide Prevention conference, (c) he completed the Nevada "Safe Talk" suicide prevention training and the more in-depth "Assist" suicide prevention training with the Nevada National Guard, (d) he joined the UNLV Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention (MHASP) Task Force, and (e) he attended the MHASP daylong retreat on July 16, 2013. Since the Director completed this training, the Military & Veteran Services Center has hosted Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention-sponsored "Safe Talk" trainings on campus each semester. Each training is open to our MVSC staff, PAVE team, student veterans, faculty and staff. Last semester the PAVE team also participated in a local Army Reserve-sponsored two-day "Assist" training.

Vision

Veteran Services' vision is to graduate the best prepared student veterans by incorporating students' prior experience with contemporary scholarly achievement to have purposeful impact on their personal, career, and civic endeavors while recognizing and celebrating the vast diversity of the student veteran population.

Mission

Veteran Services' mission is to aid the transition of prior military and their families into successful higher education and career endeavors by deploying best practices in three areas:

- 1) Innovative programs and services that bring awareness to resources and opportunities for transition and integration to successful graduation;
- 2) Focused preparation for next-step career goals;
- 3) Comprehensive services to manage fiscal responsibilities with education benefits.

Values

Integrity, Inclusiveness, Excellence, Respect, Engagement

Brief of 2017-2018 Academic Year and New Initiatives

With increased engagement of numbers of students visiting Veteran Services in the fall of 2017, Veteran Services partnered with the office of Student Persistence Research to create a campus-wide Needs Assessment. This was implemented early in 2018 to help determine if students were connecting with the larger campus. No new programs were added nor programs modified during this lengthy assessment process last year pending results. The impetus for a full campus needs assessment versus the annual department-related needs assessment was to determine how the entire campus was meeting student veterans' needs on several variables.

The needs assessment involved three different participant groups: student veterans, family members of veterans, and non-military students for comparison purposes. The needs assessment studied several factors: student behaviors and campus connections, expectations, and skill development. The phase 1 of the needs assessment was an electronic survey administered in Spring 2018. Phase 2 will consist of focus groups in 2018-2019 academic year.

Continued Initiatives for 2017-2018

Program Name	Type of Retention And Effort	Description
Veterans' Orientation	Initial retention Group	Provided through Veteran Services office. Administered through staff and Vet2Vet Representatives. Initial brief of services offered, staff available, and events to engage in. Concept is success strategies and developing immediate network with our services.
Veteran 1-1 Intake Revised 2017	Initial retention/ Network building	All incoming students meet one on one with our Intake Coordinator. Benefits are set up, degree plans are confirmed, basic needs assessed, tailored services offered. Financial assessment and advisement added.
Vet2Vet Program	Long-term retention/Peer Support/Network building	Each incoming student (First year and Transfer) are assigned to a Vet2Vet Representative. The Vet2Vet Rep has been trained through our office to follow the student for the first academic year. Regular communication is established. Ongoing needs assessment for academic and integration success and tailored services offered. Workshops for success given by Vet2Vet Reps. Communication and marketing plans are carried for college specific needs.
V.I.T.A.L. Grant	On-going retention/ Community Involvement 3 rd party partnership	Veteran's Integration to Academic Leadership has been a part of this campus for 5 years. It employs one Veteran Outreach Program Specialist and one Social Worker. Both provide services to our students to vest into the VA Health Care System, provide mental health/well-being, and collaborate with the Director on programming efforts with student veterans. They host several events during the year. V.I.T.A.L. has a dedicated office within the Veteran and Military Center.
Two Student Veteran Groups Wolf Pack Veterans Omega Delta Sigma Co-ed fraternity	On-going /campus engagement/Community Involvement	Two veteran student groups' missions align with UNR Veteran Services office to support campus integration and retention efforts. Group Presidents report to the Director of Veteran Services to coordinate programming. Programming include Welcome to Fall Event, weekly meetings, bi-weekly socials, philanthropic efforts, community outreach to VVA, DAV, VFW, American Legion, NNVRC, homeless vets projects, SPCA fund raising.

Program Name	Type of Retention And Effort	Description
Progress Reports At-Risk Students Revised 2017	Intense One-on-One	Veterans that have dropped below 2.3 and/or show a pattern of dropping GPA are called into office for one-on-one assessment and customized help or referral. Students dropping below a 2.5 in pre-professional tracks are notified of services available.
Warning Term Students on Probation	Intense One-on-One	Veterans who have dropped to 2.0 or below are advised on benefit and/or financial aid impact. Customized assessment and referral given.
Academic Counseling	Intense One-on-One	Veterans who are not following academic plans are advised and plan confirmed to stay on track. Referral back to college advisor's always first step.
Class/Instructor Mitigation	Intense One-on-One	Veterans who have integration issues with a particular class or instructor are counseled on how to resolve. Veteran Services can assist in that mitigation if necessary.
VetSMART	On-going Campus-wide	Veteran Services and Vet2Vet Reps deliver professional development training and veteran awareness to faculty and staff. This builds a network of identifiable personnel on campus a veteran can seek assistance from.
CAREER CONCIERGE (formally VetLINC)	On-going Career Preparation One-on-one	Career preparation that involves customized path per student. Intake is done to assess job search tools, preparation needs, plans for internships, interview challenges, networking strengths and challenges, etc. Plan of action is then developed per student with specific set-points that must be accomplished each term for long-term goal. Group workshops are still offered to the general student veteran population for those who do not want personalized services.
Welcome Events	On-going per term Networking Group events	Hosted by VITAL and in collaboration with SVA, welcome events are structured at the beginning of each term for current students to mix and mingle with new/transfer students over free lunch. Vet2Vet Reps market the event to the incoming students. Faculty and staff are also present
GI Bill® Success Workshops	On-going retention GI Bill management Group Events	VA SCO for the institution holds scheduled talks and walk-in time to help navigate both enrollment and GI Bill® use for successful payment and entitlement forecasting. Emphasis is given per benefit chapter to bring awareness of how to best navigate regulations with personal enrollment goals.

Program Name	Type of Retention And Effort	Description
Employer Connect	On-going retention Employer Identification Group Events	In collaboration with Nevada Career Studio, simple marketing program to identify current employer partnerships through Career Studio that have veteran/military considerations in the hiring practice. These employers are then identified by a designated logo for veteran/military population to recognize them during career and internship fairs that are held on Campus. This allows students to seek out and self-identify if they choose to employers that are looking specifically to hire veterans or have veteran preference.
Veteran/Military Center	Dedicated physical space On-going retention Personalized and group engagement	Spring 2016 marked the opening of the first UNR Veteran/Military Center. This is an expansion of services, giving a second location to meet the needs of student veterans' integration both physically and programmatically onto campus. The physical space provides a group engagement context, study context, lab computer usage, workshops, events, and employment for 15 VA Work Study students. The Center also holds a dedicated office for VITAL (Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership) team, a Community Office that provides space for internal and external entities to bring services to the student for ease of access, and dedicated space for Veteran Services staff.
Community Partnerships	Dedicated space within the Center On-going retention through meeting non-educational needs, Personalized and group	The Community Partnership program invites external entities to bring veteran-related services to campus. Partnerships are identified through the assessment of basic student needs. Currently partnerships exist with NV DETR/JobConnect for resume development, NDVS Veteran Services Officer for filing disability claims. These services reserve the Community Office within the Center to be able to meet with students one-on-one.
Campus Partnerships	Dedicated space within the Center On-going retention Personalized and group	The Campus Partnership program invites other campus entities that lend to the retention and persistence of the veteran student population to bring their services to the Center. Currently other programs that provide ongoing services are: Academic advisors for advising in conjunction with GI Bill® regulation, tutoring, and writing center. Dedicated time is set up at the convenience of the partner and then marketed to the students.

Program Name	Type of Retention And Effort	Description
Coffee with Non-traditional Women in higher education	On-going retention Group	In an attempt to engage women veterans on campus due to low turnout within the veteran groups, a coffee is set monthly for ANY non-traditional women students to engage in a casual coffee hour. Encouraging non-traditional women students (other than veteran only) expands the group as well as serves as greater integration.
November Veteran Recognition Month	Annual Programming/long-term retention	Several events are offered and include, hosted lunch at campus restaurant for all student veterans and family members, 2500 flags planted in honor of those who have served, flag retirement ceremony, veteran recognition during a home football game, hosted speakers, free raffle/prizes such as ski passes and gift-cards.
Veteran Graduation Celebration	Career Service	First Graduation Celebration May 2017 highlighted both student veterans and beneficiaries, undergraduate and graduate. Program hosted by Veteran Services and community partners to bring family and personal support systems together. This event also engages current students for exposure to college completion goals. Career Services were advertised, and Career Studio was present to answer questions.
College on-location degree planning	On-going	Each college on campus is invited to hold office hours in the Veteran & Military Center. Advisors work closely with School Certifying Officials to effectively advise students and navigate through specific college requirements. Services offered are major/degree workshops, information sessions on degree changes, ability to remove academic holds immediately, readiness to complete departmental paperwork for major/degree changes, exceptions, waivers and degree exploration for undecided students.
NV Money Mentors collaboration with Financial Aid	On-going retention/financial exploration	Nevada Money Mentors partner with Veteran Services to customize workshops to address life stages student veterans are most financially challenged with. Activities and presentations in conjunction with Career Studio and UNR Human Resource Dept are developed and delivered. Most popular workshop hosted is for salary negotiation.

Overview

Led by our Dean of Students, Director of the Disability Resource Center, and Veterans Affairs Certification Specialist, Nevada State College continues to foster increasing levels of support and engagement for our student veterans. Guided by the over-arching goal of promoting better outcomes for student veterans – including improved retention and graduation rates – NSC implemented a host of initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of this population. These initiatives include the provision of physical space (a Veterans' Lounge), financial support (including emergency funding support), and community-building opportunities (the ScorpionVets club). As we noted last year, in the absence of additional staffing, we are developing and implementing initiatives through existing personnel and resources; however, the College is now considering a budget proposal that would add a Veterans Coordinator to our campus.

As requested, the relevant initiatives had been disaggregated according to new initiatives – added since our last report – and pre-existing programs and initiatives.

New Initiatives

Several new initiatives emerged since our previous report, as detailed below. Broadly defined, these initiatives included emergency funding, professional development opportunities, campus recognition, and community service.

- *Emergency funds* - Nevada State College received funds to help support veterans in need of emergency financial assistance. Applicants were reviewed by the ScorpionVet officers and advisors and selected for support based on degree of need. Though the amount of funding was modest, this effort addresses a critical area of need for our student population.
- *Community service* – ScorpionVets hosted a formal Flag Ceremony that was attended by NSC administrators and City of Henderson dignitaries, including Mayor of Henderson Debra March. ScorpionVets were invited by the City of Henderson to be an active participant in the Henderson Veterans Day event. At this event, the flag from the ceremony was presented to the City of Henderson by ScorpionVet officers, where it will be housed within the City of Henderson Mayor's Office. ScorpionVets also have worked with a number of other student veterans to provide information and support, and several members volunteered at the Boulder City Veterans Home Center for the 17th Annual Olympic Games hosted by the Center.
- *Professional development* – Nevada State College supported three officers of ScorpionVets to attend the national conference of the Student Veterans of America. Through participation in the conference, the officers were able to create a network of resources and colleagues and obtain professional development in strategies for leadership, the recruitment of additional club members, and national Best Practices for serving student veterans. This year, NSC plans to send six ScorpionVets to the conference to further develop their leadership abilities and broaden our understanding of strategies that increase the retention, success, and graduation rates of student veterans.
- *Campus recognition* – The founding president of ScorpionVets, Bianca Islas, was formally recognized in NSC's official 2018 commencement brochure.

Pre-existing Programs & Initiatives

Nevada State College ScorpionsVets

The Nevada State College Scorpions Vets' Club was officially recognized in fall 2016. The club is focusing on promoting awareness of veteran issues, supporting an institutional culture of inclusion, facilitating the integration of veterans into the NSC community, and providing camaraderie for veterans among their peers. NSC viewed the development of the student organization as the most important step in facilitating more robust services at NSC, as we want to ensure that all initiatives and programs are student-driven. The student veterans are increasing their activity level on campus and are actively fund raising to develop a foundation for increased programming. In addition, their organization has been officially recognized by the Student Veterans of America.

Veterans' Lounge

Based on feedback from members of the NSC Student Veterans' Club, we adapted the veterans' lounge to be more attractive and accessible for veterans. This has resulted in an increased utilization of the designated space, and the student veterans are now working to expand their space on our campus (however, available space remains incredibly limited at present).

Priority Registration

Student veterans now receive priority course registration. This helped to ensure that the certification process is expedited, which results in veterans receiving their benefits and funding in time for registration processing.

Textbook Loan Program

The student veterans have developed a pilot textbook loan program for students. They have collaborated with the Nevada State Student Alliance on this project and look to more fully develop this program after the pilot phase is assessed.

Student Veterans Wall of Fame

The NSC Arts and Culture Department created a Wall of Fame located just outside of the Student Veterans' Lounge. The wall features photos and stories of outstanding NSC Student Veterans.

Red, White and Blue Honor Cords

Student veteran graduates are honored by obtaining NSC's first Red, White, and Blue Honor Cords for veterans.

Guest Speaker: Paul Grossman

As part of our Veterans Day programming, NSC welcomed Mr. Paul Grossman to NSC, who is a nationally recognized expert in disability services. Mr. Grossman presented on serving wounded warriors in post secondary education. Mr. Grossman also led a student panel,

which included student veteran representatives from NSC, UNLV, and CSN. This event included faculty and staff attendees from UNLV and CSN.

NSC Ruck March

The NSC Student Veterans' Club held their second annual Ruck March in spring 2018. In addition to NSC faculty and staff, UNLV Student Veterans and other veteran organizations in the community participated.

Volunteer Efforts with US Vets

Nevada State College ScorpionVets continue to be active within the veterans community in the Valley. ScorpionVets recently volunteered at the Boulder City Veterans' Home Olympics, provided support and camaraderie for the veterans living in the home. They continue to provide ongoing support and resources for an elderly veteran who has no family or support other than the ScorpionVets. An upcoming Formal Flag Ceremony is planned, which will include invitations to NSC administrators, students, faculty and staff as well as community organizations and dignitaries from the City of Henderson.

City of Henderson- Veterans' Day Programming

The Student Veterans' Club has been collaborating with the City of Henderson to participate in their upcoming Veterans' Day programming.

Mental Health Resources/Student CARE Team (Concern, Assessment, Referral and Education)

While these programs are not veteran specific, Nevada State College has additional support programs that benefit student veterans. The Student CARE Team (formally called Student of Concern Team) utilizes a case management model to serve as a hub of existing resources focused on prevention and early intervention for students experiencing distress or engaging in harmful or disruptive behaviors. NSC hired its first full-time case manager in fall 2016, and we continue to see annual double-digit increases in utilization.

Nevada State College also established a contract with All About You Counseling services to provide on-campus therapy services for our students four days per week, up from two days a week when the contract was initiated over a year ago. NSC also contracts with UNLV's Counseling and Psychological Services to offer therapy services.

New Initiatives Since October 2017	Type of Retention & Effort	Description
Establish CSN Student Affairs Directors Council	Student Affairs Directors provide updates and share other relevant information that effects VA beneficiaries.	The CSN Veterans (VETS) Director meets, at least on a quarterly basis, with the other Student Affairs Directors. The purpose of the council is to facilitate information sharing, to coordinate service/program delivery, and to provide timely departmental updates that may impact CSN VA beneficiaries.
USAA Grant	CSN VETS administers a grant awarded by USAA to provide retention services to VA beneficiaries for the purpose of creating an awareness campaign for faculty and staff on veteran-related issues and expanding service delivery through technology.	<p>The CSN VETS center works closely with internal and external stakeholders to provide relevant services and programming designed to: 1) Increase VA beneficiary retention, persistence, and graduation rates; 2) Make CSN faculty, staff, and students aware of the challenges that veterans face making the transition from military to civilian life; and 3) Improve access to the college by engaging in outreach and targeted recruitment activities for prospective students.</p> <p>In coordination with the CSN Center for Academic and Professional Excellence (CAPE), the VETS team facilitates monthly awareness information sessions for veteran faculty and staff as part of the CSN Team Six staff awareness campus. Staff members that complete the session receive a certificate of completion, a lapel pin, and a “Sixer” sticker to conspicuously post at their workstation indicated they are veteran ally.</p>
safeTALK Suicide Awareness Training	Provide <i>suicide-alert helper</i> training to faculty, staff, and students with alertness training to become a	A half-day session facilitated by certified trainers from the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, teaches participants to resist the common tendency to miss, dismiss, or avoid suicide. Participants are trained to notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts may be present and to recognize invitations for help.

New Initiatives Since October 2017	Type of Retention & Effort	Description
National Committee Participation	CSN VETS Director, Chris Brown serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Veterans Programs Administrators (NAVPA) representing Region VIII (AK, VA, HI, ID, NV, WA)	The purpose of NAVPA is to: 1) promote professional competencies and efficiency among individuals associated and involved with veterans' educational programs; 2) promote the development, improvement and extension of opportunities to any veteran or dependent of a veteran for his or her personal growth and development to its fullest potential.
State of Nevada Commission of Post-Secondary Education State Approving Agency (SAA) Planning Committee	CSN VETS Program Manager, Vanessa Winn serves on the planning committee for the annual meeting for the State of Nevada State Approving Agency (SAA) and School Certifying Official (SCO) Conference.	The State Approving Agency together with the federal government manages veteran's education benefits. The State Approving Agency's (SAA) role is to approve and supervise the programs of education and training for eligible veterans, dependents, National Guard members, and reservists.
Academic Advising and Counseling	Train academic advisors and counselors on identifying at-risk veterans and provide opportunities for retention related activities through individual and group sessions.	VA beneficiaries, with a declared program of study, meet periodically with their assigned Academic Counselor to assist students in the development of an educational plan aligned with their life goals and objectives and provide up-to-date information about institutional policies, procedures, and programs.

New Initiatives Since October 2017	Type of Retention & Effort	Description
Community Collaborations	External resource availability/group & individual sessions	<p>CSN continues to be an active member on the Southern Nevada Community Engagement Board (SNCEB). The SNCEB is a Department of Veterans Affairs sponsored group consisting of higher education institutions, non-profit organizations, community agencies, Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), and various State Agencies whose primary goal is to serve as a repository and disseminator of veteran and military-related resources and information. CSN VETS also works closely with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, Goodwill Industries of Nevada, Nevada Coalition on Suicide Prevention, and members of our Congressional delegation.</p> <p>This year CSN VETS Director Chris Brown served as the Vice Chairman for the City of North Las Vegas Veterans Community Commission. The North Las Vegas Veterans Community Commission (VCC) assists local veterans with reintegration into the City of North Las Vegas community by accessing available and applicable resources and services. The VCC is to act as an advisory committee to the Mayor and City Council on Veteran related Wellness, Education, Employment Outcomes and Relocation matters in the City of North Las Vegas.</p> <p>CSN VETS Director Chris Brown, Program Manager Vanessa Winn, and the Senior Specialist/Academic Advisor facilitated a student workshop session at the 2018 Western Region Conference of the American Association of Black American Affairs in Las Vegas entitled, <i>Student Activism in the New Millennium</i>.</p>

New Initiatives Since October 2017	Type of Retention & Effort	Description
Community Collaborations continued	External resource availability/group & individual sessions	CSN VETS Program Manager Vanessa Winn served as the Key Spouse for the Nellis Air Force Base 922 AMDS Squadron. The Key Spouse Program is an official unit/family program that seeks to enhance readiness and establish a sense of community for military families with special emphasis on support through the deployment cycle.
Employer Contacts	Career exploration/group & individual sessions	In coordination with the CSN Careers Service, along with other government, private, and non-profit employers, CSN VETS works to create employment opportunities for currently enrolled CSN VA beneficiaries. There are plans to work with a local congressional delegation to host a Job/Career Fair in Academic Year 2018-2019.
Faculty and Staff Mitigation	Train faculty and staff on identifying at-risk VA beneficiaries and provide opportunities for retention related professional development/Individual Sessions	In coordination with CAPE, CSN VETS provides monthly information sessions to the CSN campus community.
Internal Collaboration	Promote campus-wide awareness of retention activities/group & individual sessions	In coordination with the CSN Office of Inclusive Learning & Engagement and the CSN Military & Veterans Alliance (MVA), CSN VETS sponsors service branch birthday celebrations, a Fallen Comrade Table Ceremony, participation in the Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade, and a Veterans Graduation Reception. CSN VETS also coordinates efforts with CSN's Student Government (ASCSN) and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society to provide community and campus-based activities designed to commemorate the memory and history of the US Armed Forces.
Recruitment	Improve access and opportunity for traditional and non-traditional student/on going	CSN VETS joins the Nevada National Guard and select Army Reserve Units encouraging Guardsmen and Reservist to enroll in a particular program of study at the College of Southern Nevada.

New Initiatives Since October 2017	Type of Retention & Effort	Description
Veterans Advising	Train academic advisors on identifying at-risk students and provide opportunities for retention related professional development/Individual sessions	New and undeclared VA beneficiaries are required to meet with a CSN VETS Advisor or Academic Advisor/Success Coach to develop an educational plan aligned with life goals and objectives. Advisors provide up-to-date information about institutional policies, procedures, and programs.
Veterans' Orientation & Resource Fair	Retain and graduate a larger and more diverse student body/on going	In coordination with CSN's Advising & Counseling Dept., VETS will be hosting a bi-annual Veterans Orientation and Resource Fair designed to support new students as they begin their educational journey at CSN. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Nevada Department of Veterans Services, Student Veterans of America, and local community veteran resources participate and provide updates on their respective agencies.

GBC

The following table lists the efforts and other related programs/initiatives that GBC is currently conducting to retain and graduate Student Veterans. GBC believes that a complete foundation is needed for student retention. *New initiatives are highlighted in bold italics.*

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Great Basin College (GBC) Veterans Resource Center (VRC)	GBC established the Elko main VRC in October of 2014 to better serve our Student Veteran Population. GBC provides Intense Academic / Motivational / Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families, both during their time here at GBC and after they have graduated.	GBC Veteran Resource Center provides an encouraging environment that acknowledges and honors our U.S. military veterans and their dependents, while helping them attain their educational goals. The VRC provides resources, support, and the advocacy needed to succeed in higher education. At the VRC, GBC houses the following: Veterans Lounge, Study Room, Coffee & Snack Bar.
Warrior of the Canyon	Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families, Coping Skills, Community Service	Warrior of the Canyon is a veterans walk, run and cycle event held in the Lamoille Canyon of the Ruby Mountain range. This event is free and is for veterans, their families and all community supporters. It's about getting veterans and their families out to climb that mountain together, all while knowing that their community whole heartily supports them. Veterans have resumes loaded with accomplishments that they have achieved while they served our country. However, their accomplishments don't translate to the civilian world and the veteran can easily get discouraged and settle for less. This event focuses on motivating student veterans/families, as well as outreach to prospective students.

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Operation Bravo Internship Program	Intense One-on-One Academic, Personal Support/ Career Networking	<p>Barrick Gold U.S.A., Great Basin College, and the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development have teamed together to establish Operation Bravo, a student veteran internship program. Operation Bravo assists our transitioning veterans by setting them up for success through education and employment. While attending GBC and receiving their VA Educational Benefits, student veterans will gain valuable paid work experience within their major fields of study, interning with partner employers. Operation Bravo believes that by investing in our veterans, we are investing in our communities. Veterans shouldn't waste the benefits that they've earned; their futures are waiting. Operation Bravo also provides the student veteran an opportunity to earn funds to help defray the high cost of living while focusing on their higher education.</p> <p><i>In 2018, GBC was awarded the State of Nevada STEM Challenge Marketing grant totaling \$50,000 for Operation Bravo. This was possible due to GBC being awarded the STEM Challenge Grant Round 4. This grant allowed GBC to market Operation Bravo to student Veterans. With this grant we were able to hire a videographer to come to campus and film our Student Veterans about their experiences at GBC. These videos were developed into TV commercials and are currently running on KSL. With this grant we were also able to purchase advertising on one billboard which was placed on I-15 near the California/Nevada Border. We were also able to purchase an 8 X 4 foot digital sign that was placed on our mobile outreach vehicle.</i></p>

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Western Folklife Veterans Writers Workshop	Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans, Coping Skill, Community Service	Great crisis often produces great writing. War is no exception. And, while the historians and politicians write the history, a soldier's version is often found in poems, songs and stories. Soldiers' spouses and loved ones often also have their own stories to share. These stories need to be told. The Veterans Writers Project provides a place to tell and refine these stories with the help of other veterans and writers. Bill Jones, Vess Quinlan, David Richmond, Ken & Betty Rodgers and the Veterans Resource Center at Great Basin College come together each year to host, encourage and support veterans (and their loved ones) as they share their experiences.
Pearl Harbor Social	Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families, Community Service	A semi-formal ham/turkey dinner held at GBC by the VRC that welcomes veterans/family members that would like to sit down with good food, good company and enjoy our freedoms that so many have sacrificed so much for.
VRC Challenge Coin	Motivational, Recognition of student veteran accomplishments	A GBC Student Veteran's artwork was used for the GBC VRC challenge coin, which is given to graduating student veterans, those that make generous donations to the VRC, and those that go above and beyond to help veterans in our communities.
Painting for Rest & Relaxation (R&R)	Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans, Coping skill, Community Service	By expressing their emotions through the creative power of painting, students will learn how to use art as a healing exercise to reduce life's stresses with the main goal to help increase their quality of life. High quality supplies are provided by the instructor and is the veterans to keep.
GBC/UNR 3+1 BSW & UNR MSW Intern Field Placement at the VRC	Intense One-on-One, Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families	Creating a "grow our own" opportunity for future social work professionals in rural Nevada, as well as those professionals becoming more familiar with the veteran population. Interns assist with providing resources and guidance to our student veterans and are supervised by a MSW.

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) VRC Job Board	Personal Support/ Career Networking/Advising	Twice weekly a DETR representative visits the VRC to talk with students about the current jobs available and answers any questions they may have. They also offer services such as resume classes etc. On Mondays the DETR office sends the current job postings, which are put on the job board located in the VRC.
Safety Santa	Intense One-on-One, Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families, Community Service	The VRC joins forces with many organizations/individuals during the holiday seasons to assist student veterans and families with meals, comfort items, rent, utilities, gifts, and other necessities (i.e. washer, dryer).
VRC Volunteer Program	Intense One-on-One, Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans & their Families, Community Service	The VRC is staffed by volunteers who give willing their time and resources to listen to the student veterans and offer many different solutions to a problem. In addition to retirees, we also have a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) that provides services 3 days a week.
VRC Mobile Outreach Vehicle	Advertising, Marketing, Academic/ Personal Support	<i>Through an in-kind donation from the Elko VFW Post, GBC VRC was able to create a Mobile Outreach Vehicle. This initiative was possible by community donors and a State of NV grant.</i>
VRC Study Room	Academic/Personal Support	GBC provides a non-distracting, comfortable environment that the student veteran can concentrate on their studies. This space has computers & printers, used text books, as well as a reference library. Student veterans utilize this work space all throughout the day.
Regular Hours Tutoring/ Study Hall Period	Academic/Personal Support- Peer/Instructor One on One	GBC offers the student veteran various tutoring options, either with their peers or with our faculty/instructors as needed or requested.

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Afterhours Tutoring/ Study Hall Period	Academic/Personal Support- Peer/Instructor One on One	GBC offers peer-to-peer, faculty to student tutoring sessions, groups on the weekends and until 11pm on certain days of the week, as requested by student veterans. Some students have difficulty studying at home with their family routines and the afterhours resources provides them with other options.
Academic Success Center	Intense One-on-One Academic Support/Network	GBC's Academic Success Centers (ASC) on the Elko campus and at GBC's rural centers offer the following services to GBC students, all at no cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Live Tutoring - Free to all GBC Students •Free Placement Testing •Proctored Testing •Open Computer Labs •Free Student Success Workshops (also available online)
B(S)3N Biological Sciences Student Support Network	Intense One-on-One Academic Support/Network	Math and Science tutoring offered free of charge at the B(S)3N center. Tutors are comprised of Students and Instructors. Walk ins welcome. This has been made possible by Nevada INBRE and the GBC Science Department.
SLC, UT VA VET CENTER Mental Health Services	Personal Support- Intense One on One/ Comfortable Support Group	MSW/LCSW drives from Salt Lake City, Utah to Elko on the first and third Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month. GBC holds a veteran support group in the VRC at 12 noon on those Tuesdays. In addition, there are other groups such as; dog training, pain management and mindfulness meditation. <i>As of November 1, 2018, this service is being transferred from SLC Vet Center to the Reno Vet Center and will no longer be held in the VRC.</i>
Informal Mentoring / Peer Support	Academic/Personal Support – Peer / Faculty & Staff Intense One on One	Informal Mentoring is conducted by the Veterans Resource Coordinator, Veteran Certifying Official, faculty and staff including student veteran work studies.

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS)	Personal Support, State & Federal Benefits, Medical Benefits-Intense One on One	<i>As of August 2018, the NDVS hired a second Veteran Service Officer (VSO) & will have one administrative assistant They are still on campus but have moved into their own office space.</i>
Job Opportunities In Nevada (JOIN)	Intense One-on-One Personal/Financial Support	Elko JOIN provided financial assistance for many student veterans. JOIN provides help with tuition, books, and tools. They work well with DETR and GBC to provide financial assistance for veterans training and employment.
Advising & Career Center	Intense One-on-One Academic/Personal Support	Provides assistance to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the community in developing, implementing, and evaluating career/life plans. Hosts career fairs several times per years. All advising staff refers Student Veterans to the Certifying Official and to the VRC to complete their academic plans and set them up for success.
VA Student Work Study	Intense One-on-One Academic/Personal Support	Allows the student veteran to work a part time job at GBC (less travel between classes). This additional income helps to pay the bills while using VA Educational Benefits. It also helps to build camaraderie amongst student veterans, who frequent the VRC.
Battle Born Veterans Club (BBVC) Student Veterans of America Chapter (SVA)	Network, Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans, Coping skill, Community Service	Sanctioned by the SVA and the GBC Student Government Association, the BBVC is a student run organization that builds comradery amongst the transitioning Veterans. They also provide scholarships, social events, fundraising, food drives, continuous student food pantry and community events such as: Photos with Santa, Turkey Shoot and branch specific birthday functions.

Program	Retention Effort	Description
Financial Aid	Intense One-on-One Financial Support	GBC Financial Aid assists veterans with all aspects of their VA Educational Benefits. They also encourage all student veterans to apply for FAFSA and veteran scholarships. GBC is continuing to receive more veteran scholarships from our community that any time before. Financial Aid also identifies students who need assistance for our food drives and other assistance programs.
Accessibility Services	Intense One-on-One Academic/Personal Support	It is the policy and practice of GBC to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state and local requirements regarding students with disabilities. Under these laws, no qualified individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs and activities of Great Basin College. All services are at no cost to students and potential students of Great Basin College.
VRC Coffee & Snack Room	Motivational & Personal Support for Student Veterans	The VRC coffee and snack room enhances the student's capabilities, while at GBC. It supplies the student with the ease of their nourishment needs, while in the academic environment.
The PRACTICE Counseling Service	Intense One-on-One Personal Support	GBC and Communities in Schools partner to provide PRACTICE, free of charge to our students. The Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education — The PRACTICE — is a UNLV community mental health training clinic.

The mission of Truckee Meadows Community College's (TMCC) Veteran Services is to assist our student veteran population in their transition from the military into the academic environment. We are focused and determined on retaining our veteran students and guiding them towards their graduation and professional goals. Our staff works diligently to identify areas of need for our student veteran population as well as areas in which we need to expand and improve.

New Initiatives

- **Purple Heart School** – On May 2nd, 2018 Truckee Meadows Community College officially became the first Purple Heart College in the state of Nevada. With this designation, TMCC issued a proclamation highlighting the college's commitment to our combat wounded students and dedicated a parking spot specifically for Purple Heart recipients. This latest achievement highlights TMCC's unwavering support for the veterans in our community and continues to put the college at the forefront of student veteran related issues in the region.





- **Operation Battle Born: Ruck to Remember** – TMCC’s Veteran Leadership Academy (VLA) and members of the Truckee Meadows Veterans Club (TMVC) collaborated with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Rebel Veterans to execute the first statewide Operation Battle Born ruck march in honor of the fallen heroes from the Global War on Terrorism.

Over the course of 8 days, veterans and volunteers from across the state took turns carrying two rucksacks that shared nearly 7,000 service member dog tags, including the 57 fallen Nevadans who made the ultimate sacrifice since September 11, 2001.

In their honor, the group marched from Las Vegas Veterans Memorial to Fernley Veterans Memorial Cemetery, for a total of 370 miles. Participants were asked to challenge themselves physically and mentally, facing the heat and the weight of the fallen heroes on their backs.

Made up of mostly TMCC student veterans and employees, the northern sector of the group marched from Tonopah to Fernley from May 24th through May 28th. The march was very long and challenging but the group was able to overcome numerous obstacles to make it to the veteran’s cemetery ahead of schedule.

This event not only brought awareness to the sacrifices that were made during the War on Terrorism, but it also brought the student veteran community across the state together as the first joint event between UNLV and TMCC. We are deeply proud of this event and hope to continue it next year.



Continuing Initiatives

- **Veteran Resource Center** – TMCC's Veteran Resource Center (VRC) moved to Red Mountain 241 at the main Dandini campus on July 11th, 2016. The new VRC is roughly 4 times the size of the previous location and provides a number of new services for our veterans. The new location is equipped with a large computer lab that provides internet access and free printing for our students, a study/conference room for student use, a veterans lounge, as well as a separate office for offsite personnel to utilize for veteran specific purposes. This space provides the Veteran Services staff at TMCC a greater opportunity to assist student veterans in their transition from the military to the academic environment.
- **Student Veteran Mentor Program** – The Student Veteran Mentor Program was designed to assist up to 60 student veterans each semester who are in their first or second term at TMCC. The purpose of the program is to connect new student veterans with established faculty members in order to ease the transition into the academic environment. Every student in the program is assigned a faculty mentor based on the particular campus where the majority of the student's classes are located. Each mentor will provide guidance and academic assistance to the student throughout the year.

Every student that participates in the program will be required to attend a minimum of three veteran specific workshops or events each semester that are designed to enhance their academic and professional success. For their efforts, each student will receive a book stipend of \$125.00 each semester in order to help ease the financial burden of attending school.

- **Veteran Leadership Academy** – The TMCC Veteran Leadership Academy (VLA) provides the opportunity for a select group of 10 exemplary student veterans to enhance their leadership skills while applying the lessons they learned from their military service to serve the broader community. Each veteran that participates in the program will be required to work in a collaborative team environment with fellow veterans in the program to identify and solve a particular issue in the community.

In order to qualify for this program, each interested veteran fills out a detailed application in order to determine academic eligibility, community service experience, and previous leadership experience. Each student that is selected and participates in the program will be given a \$1,000 grant for the academic year with a maximum of 10 students participating. The grant will be split up between the fall and spring semesters and will be paid \$500 at the end of each semester while in the program.

Currently in its 4th year, the members of the VLA have accomplished great things. They cleaned up entire neighborhoods, built shelters for homeless animals, held blood drives, and raised awareness for veteran suicide among many other things.

Every VLA cohort has put their own stamp on not only TMCC but the greater community as a whole.

- **Professional Development Initiative** – Every semester TMCC Veteran Services partners with the TMCC Career Center to produce a series of veteran specific professional development workshops and job preparation classes that are open to all student veterans and dependents at TMCC. These workshops include resume writing, LinkedIn profile creation, effective networking, and mock interviews. Each one of these workshops is designed to assist veterans in their transition to the professional environment once they graduate.
- **Veteran Job and Resource Fair** – Another collaboration between TMCC Veteran Services and the TMCC Career Center is the Veteran Resource and Job Fair. Created specifically for veterans and their families, the fairs are held every fall and spring semester and typically have 50-60 employers and community resources on hand to fulfill the needs of our veterans. These fairs play a very important role for both the students and the veteran community as whole and helps highlight TMCC's never-ending dedication to our nation's veterans.
- **Veteran Academic Advisor** – TMCC employs a veteran specific academic advisor who assists veterans in degree and course selection, transfer workshops, financial aid applications, and scholarship information. Having a dedicated advisor helps ensure that our students have a detailed education plan in order to graduate on time.
- **Veterans Pre-Admission Associate** – Our Veterans Pre-Admission Associate serves as an intake coordinator, handles veterans recruitment, assists with the Gateway Initiative for student veterans, as well as updates military transcripts, and excess credit fees in accordance with SB 457. This position was funded by the TAACCCT 4 grant but was funded permanently by the College in March 2018. This position is vital to the overall mission of TMCC Veteran Services and helps ensure that the department maintains its high quality of service that is currently provided our student veteran population.
- **Veteran specific Orientation** – We hold a minimum of 4 student veteran and dependent orientations per semester that cover everything from VA educational benefits to local veteran resources in the area. These orientations provide a one-stop shop for incoming student veterans and give the TMCC Veteran Services staff the opportunity to explain all of the veteran specific services that we provide at TMCC as well give information provided by our many community partners.
- **Early Enrollment** – TMCC began offering priority registration to student veterans and eligible dependents back in spring 2013. Priority registration is essential to ensure that our students are able to enroll in the necessary classes in order to avoid delays in their GI Bill payments.

- **Veterans Upward Bound** – TMCC houses the only Veterans Upward Bound program in the state of Nevada. Located at the TMCC Meadowood campus, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a pre-college preparation program that offers academic skills development, testing, financial literacy, advisement, career planning, and transitional assistance to eligible student veterans.
- **Truckee Meadows Veterans Club (TMVC)** – TMCC has a nationally recognized Student Veterans of America chapter (SVA) on campus, Truckee Meadows Veterans Club (TMVC). TMVC's presence in the VRC helps build comradery and gives the student veterans a unified voice on campus. The club is very active in the community and holds many student veteran centered events both on and off campus.
- **Early Alert** – TMCC implemented a new early alert system (Starfish) that grants TMCC Veteran Services direct access to the portion of the student veteran population at TMCC that is struggling academically. This early alert system gives the staff the opportunity to reach out to students in order to identify issues that may be causing them to fall behind in their classes and refer them to campus resources that can assist them.
- **Application Fee Waiver** – TMCC values the extraordinary talents, experiences, and diversity that United States Military Veterans bring to our campus. In recognition of their service, TMCC has committed to waiving the admissions application fee for all honorably discharged U.S. Military Veterans beginning the Fall 2017 semester.
- **SB 457 Compliance** – As of August 1st, 2017, TMCC is in full compliance with SB 457. We have updated our webpage to reflect the bill as well as added a detailed list of all accepted military credit along with their corresponding ACE exhibit number for reference. Our Veterans Pre-Admissions Associate closely monitors all excess credit fees for our entire student veteran population on a daily basis to ensure that military credit is not being counted against their completion rates.
- **V.I.T.A.L. Initiative** – TMCC Veteran Services has a tremendous partnership with the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System. Aside from their presence at our many resource fairs, TMCC has a VA social worker on campus a minimum of two days per week who serves an extremely important role by providing mental health services to our student veterans in the VRC. The V.I.T.A.L. Initiative also have a veteran specialist who assists our students in enrolling in VA healthcare and works with them to understand their benefits.
- **Veteran Outreach Events** – Veteran Services conducts numerous veteran outreach events at various dates throughout each semester. Thanks to an enormous amount of community support we are able to hold large veteran events such as BBQs where our veterans can interact with each other both on and off campus. The ability to do this helps the veterans revisit the comradery they once had while they were in the service. We also partner with community resources to offer workshops for faculty and staff in order better educate them on the military/veteran culture.

WNC

Western Nevada College is committed to serving veterans in our community, as demonstrated by the college providing funds to continue to staff the Veteran's Resource Center (VRC) after the discontinuation of TAACCCT grant funds.

The mission of the WNC Veteran's Resource Center is to aid the student veteran in the transition from military service to higher education by providing support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic processes.

The Dean of Student Services and VRC employees continually strive to support the needs of veterans and veteran dependents and encourage a positive campus environment for veteran student success. All employees in the VRC are veterans, including the coordinator who is a retired Marine Corps officer. WNC has identified a Counselor to serve veterans who has been trained in veteran issues and employs a trained Veteran's Certifying Official. Each veteran student receives services and assistance including:

- Individual welcome and counseling including a review of a sixteen-point checklist that includes common student veteran challenges and services provided by the Veterans Resource Center
- Orientation to the VRC
- WNC new student orientation
- Completion of placement examinations
- Instruction in remedial skills through the Veterans Upward Bound program
- Assistance completing the FASFA
- Assistance in the admission application and registration
- Explanation of veteran educational benefits
- Advisement including selections of classes to ensure classes are eligible for veteran educational benefits
- Assistance with time management and stress management skills
- Access to tutoring and academic coaches
- Continual monitoring of academic status by VCR staff
- Early Alert system to identify and offer remedies to academic issues
- Monitoring of graduation requirements
- Career exploration

All students who receive veteran educational benefits have a hold placed on their student account preventing the student from dropping without first receiving counseling on how the drop may affect their benefits.

All veteran students not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress meet with the VRC Coordinator weekly to review the previous week's work, current week requirements and upcoming semester projects for each class.

New Initiatives and Activities Since October 2017 Report

1. WNC VRC Coordinator Kevin Burns was recognized as Nevada Veteran of the Month for August 2017 by Governor Brian Sandoval. The "Veteran of the Month" and "Veteran Supporter of the Month" awards are provided through the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. The awards are part of the Governor's commitment to make Nevada the "friendliest State in the nation" to its military community and veterans. As one of the founders of the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC), he lobbies lawmakers and testifies on behalf of legislation benefiting veterans. He also keeps the veterans' community informed on bills and votes impacting them. He's the coordinator of the Veterans Resource Center at Western Nevada College, which he helped establish in January 2013. He also helped implement the Veterans Integration Program at the Warm Springs Correctional Center and initiate classes through Western Nevada College towards an Associate of General Studies degree for incarcerated students.



2. With the end of the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program in March of 2018, Western Nevada College made the commitment to the student veteran community to fund both positions previously funded by the federal government the previous three and a half years, making the Veterans Resource Center Coordinator and the Pre-Admissions Advisor permanent WNC positions. The transfer after March 31st, 2018, was seamless and invisible to the student veterans.
3. WNC has been notified by the Northern Nevada Development Authority that the WNC Veterans Resource Center will be presented a Special Recognition Award during the 2018 Pioneer Awards and Gala in November of 2018. NNDA President and CEO Rob Hooper's notification read, "Let by its motto of 'Vets Helping Vets', the Center has pioneered how to successfully assist our military veterans and their families in the transition to the world of higher education. As a result, it has grown into the model veteran resource program in Northern Nevada."
4. The prison program at Warm Springs Correctional Center had its first graduate this past May. Student Veteran inmate Daniel Wilson, who had previous credits transferred from TMCC, graduated along with the rest of the class of 2018, as his transfer from Warm Springs CC to the Restitution Center in Reno was accelerated by

the Department of Corrections working with WNC VRC. Governor Sandoval met with Mr. Wilson prior to graduation and then discussed the success of the WNC prison program during his commencement address.

5. The success of the prison program, initiated through the incarcerated veterans at Warm Springs CC, has led to an expansion of the prison program. Meetings with the Warden and Associate Warden of Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC) and the director of the Prison Industries revealed a need and desire to initiate a Welding program to be taught at NNCC. As with the Warm Springs CC program, fundraising has been initiated to award scholarships to deserving inmates. The VRC coordinator will meet with veteran inmates to discuss scholarship possibilities along with the other programs to mirror those programs taking place at Warm Springs. Classes are scheduled to start with Spring Semester 2019.
6. A “Veterans Team” has been formed under the auspices of the Dean of Student Services. The team is comprised of Academic Counseling, Financial Aid, the Veterans Resource Center, and the Dean. The team meets at least once per semester to discuss any and all issues pertinent to the student veteran community and to ensure lines of communication are open and flowing between the critical three departments that provide services to the student veteran community. The committee’s primary mission is to identify any systems or procedures that are obstacles for the success of the student veteran community.