Supporting Veteran Students On Campus

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Introduction

- 5 Things to Know About Veterans
- Veterans Services Office
- Cooperative Arrangements with Other Veteran Service Provider
- VA Work Study Program
- Importance of Veteran Centers on Campus
- It Takes a Campus!
5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

- They come from a culture of interdependence in which the success of the mission is dependent upon everyone doing his/her job.
- They are members of a minority group. Only 1% of the population has served in the military since 2001.
- Though it is unfair to affix the “PTSD” label to all veteran students, they are bound to be uncomfortable and a little anxious.
- They require special attention to their schedule.
- Withdrawing from classes could cost them several thousand dollars.
5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

• They come from a culture of interdependence
  • Success of the mission is dependent upon everyone doing their jobs
• Will not understand the apparent complacency of instructors who do not hand in their work
• Can be terrified of group projects because they don’t trust some of their fellow students to carry their share of the load
5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

- Veterans are members of a minority group
  - Only 1% of the population has served in the military since 2001
  - They can feel alone on campus
  - Older than traditional students
  - “Foreign” culture

A 2012 survey by the institute for veterans and military families in Syracuse, NY found that post 9/11 veterans believe that 63% of professors and 70% of their non-veteran classmates do not understand the challenges they face.
5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

- “PTSD” (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
  - Unfair to affix the “PTSD” label to all veterans students
  - Still bound to feel uncomfortable and a little anxious
- Their training starts with a disciplined environment
  - Visual signs of structure and order everywhere
  - Things out of place perceived as potential threats
- May sit in the back of the room (assessing danger)
- May be uncomfortable with backs to open door (feeling vulnerable)
- May have to leave suddenly if feeling anxious
- May let inappropriate language slip
5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

- Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill BAH

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5 Things to Know About Veteran Students

- Withdrawing from classes could cost the veteran several thousand dollars
  - VA will seek reimbursement from student for cost of courses withdrawn from
  - VA will seek reimbursement from student the portion of the BAH paid for courses withdrawn from
- Failing classes will be paid for. Suggest student continue class and get as much out of it as possible
  - This will help the student the next time the class is taken
Veterans Services Office

- Help and support on campus for veteran students
  - VA benefits information
    - Federal education Benefits
    - State education benefits
    - VA disability compensation benefits
    - VA health care information
  - On-campus referrals
  - Off-campus referrals
Cooperative Arrangements with Other Veteran Service Providers

- Scheduled weekly visits by Outreach Specialists (VA VITAL, Independent non-profits) for initial counseling of students.
- Referrals for clinical help from on-staff counselors.
- Emergency and long-term housing including women and families.
- Food Pantry.
- Assistance with benefits ranging from help with acquiring DD214, to applying for Voc- Rehab, to medical benefits, to applying for change of discharge status.
- Close contact and cooperation with area VSO and SAVE.
VA Work Study Program

- Must be enrolled in at least ¾ time
- Your hourly pay rate will be the greater of:
  1. The Federal minimum wage
  2. The minimum wage for the State in which you are working.
- Work hours may not exceed more than 25 in a week
- Hours are annotated on a time sheet provided by the VA and submitted to the VA by the supervising official for the campus at 50 hour intervals
Importance of a Veterans Center on Campus

- Why is a veterans center important?
  - Allows veterans to build camaraderie
  - Promotes community and support
  - Promotes networking
  - Gives them a place to work and/or study
- Above all else it provides an opportunity to relax!
CCCC Veterans Center
It Takes a Campus!

- Faculty
  - Understanding and respecting veteran student’s potential anxiety and schedule

- Advisors
  - Understanding and respecting veteran-student’s potential anxiety and schedule

- Students
  - Respecting fellow students, some of whom are veterans
Why?

- It’s the right thing to do.
- It’s the right thing to do.
- It’s the right thing to do.
- It’s the right thing to do.
- It’s good for business.
- It’s the right thing to do.
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