Best Practices for our Military Student Population

Presented by Penn State’s Office of Veterans Programs Staff:

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Student Veteran Population

• Nationally, more veterans attending college
  • In 2008, ~2 million student veterans
  • As of 2015, ~2.8 million Post 9/11 veterans in U.S.
  • Projected growth to ~3.7 million by 2020

• Veteran student enrollment at Penn State has almost tripled since 2009
  • 3.5% of undergraduate population
  • 6.1% of graduate population
Reason for Influx in Student Growth

• Implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) in 2009
  • Based on the time in service after 9/11/01
  • Will pay up to 100% of in-state tuition/fees
  • Provides a monthly housing stipend & book/materials allowance
  • As of Nov 2013, over one million veterans have used Post 9/11 benefits, with over 30 billion dollars spent

• Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) benefits
  • Qualified students with a 20% or higher service-connected disability rating with the Veterans Benefits Administration
  • Pays for tuition/fees, materials, as well as a monthly stipend
  • Due to nature of conflicts in past 15 years, more veterans qualify for this benefit than ever before
Transition from Service to Student

• Unique characteristic of veteran students that can impact transition

• How to promote academic success for veteran students
  • Holistic approach
  • Collaboration across programs/departments/colleges/university resources/etc.
  • Promoting self advocacy and collaborative problem solving

• What is your role in leveraging university resources to enhance the academic success of veteran students
Campus Climate

• What is your campus climate surrounding adult learners/veterans?
• What is (are) your role(s)?
• What is your support structure?
• Leadership’s stance?
• Using community/university resources in advocating for this population.
What Programs and Initiatives are needed for or wanted by our student Veteran population?

• How do we know?
• Who do we contact?
• Who are these programs and initiatives for?
• How can we connect to exemplify the ONE TEAM concept?
Programs & Initiatives

- RONA
- ConAp
  - Veterans First-Year Seminar
  - “Thank You For Your Service” Seminar
    - Veteran Campus Housing
  - Veterans Recruitment Reception...Career Fair
    - Welcome Week Seminar
    - Mentor/Tutor Program
    - Child Care Subsidies
    - Military Honor Cord Ceremony
  - Vet Data Initiative...Renee will speak about this.
    - And more.....
Looking to the Future

Veterans Data Initiative
• Forever GI Bill and potential for additional reporting requirements
• Justifies budget/services
• Programming guidance

Staff/Faculty Training and Partnerships
• Green zone
• Advisor Training
• Educational Equity/Student Affairs collaboration

Case Management
• Assigning students a veterans “case manager”
• Access to Starfish to collaborate with community of support (advisers, Student Disability Resources, etc.)
Discussion/Questions?
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