Future Directions for Student Veterans and Military Services: Broadening our Perspectives
Meeting the Needs of SUNY Veterans—Syracuse, NY
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Introductions
Accountability

- Increased calls for accountability (e.g., graduation and retention rates)
- Student veteran advocacy efforts (e.g., SVA)
- What does “military friendly” mean? (e.g., Military Times Edge rankings)
- CAS Standards for Veterans and Military Programs and Services
- Need for assessment and evaluation of programs, policies, and initiatives
(Re)Emerging Issues

- Mental health and transition issues
- Career and academic advising for veterans and military service members
- Identifying best practices while trying to find what works best at our individual institutions
- Involving faculty members (and others) in the process (e.g., awareness training)
- Need for more research
- Focus on the positive!
Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

• VRAP offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to veterans who meet the criteria which includes:
  – Unemployed and at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
  – Other than a dishonorable discharge
  – Not eligible for other VA education benefits
  – Not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
  – Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program
VRAP

• Eligible programs must meet the following criteria:
  – Be offered by a community college or technical school
  – Lead to an Associates Degree or Certificate
  – Provide training for a high demand occupation
Who are student veterans?

- Active Duty
- National Guard and Reserve Troops
- Combat versus Non-Combat
- Graduate Students
- Family Members
- All Veterans
- Non-traditional Students
- Others?
Broadening Our Perspectives

• Student veterans’ intersecting social identities
  – Race
  – Disability
  – Sex
  – Gender
  – Age
  – Sexual Orientation
  – Religion
  – SES
Veteran Identity Resources

- OutServe—SLDN
- Transgender American Veterans Association
- American Veterans for Equal Rights
- American Women Veterans
- Black Veterans for Social Justice
- NABVETS
- The Society of Hispanic Veterans
- United Mexican-American Veterans Association
- Center for Women Veterans
- University of Arizona Disabled Veterans Reintegration and Education Project
Implications

• Need to be proactive in efforts to support student veterans and military service members—think outside the box!

• Campus wide approach—responsibility not left up to a few people (e.g., awareness training for all employees)

• Clearly identify student veterans and military servicemembers on your campus

• Involve family members in activities (e.g., family counseling)
Implications, cont.

• Create partnerships with other campus offices, departments, and organizations (e.g., Womens’ Center, LGBTQ Center, Disability Support Services, Counseling Center)
• Create partnerships with community programs and services
• Advocate for student veterans and military service members (but consult with them first!)
• Conduct needs assessment and evaluate current policies and programs (start by talking to student veterans)
• Increased research efforts
Your thoughts?

• What do you see as emerging issues?

• What do we need to do to broaden our perspectives?
Key Resources

• American Council on Education (ACE) Military Programs
• Servicemembers Opportunities Colleges (SOC)
• Student Veterans of America (SVA)
• NASPA’s Veteran Knowledge Community
• Veterans in Higher Education National Clearinghouse at the University of Arizona
• Association on Higher Education and Disability—Special Issue of JPED
Key Resources, cont.

- Center for Deployment Psychology—Preparing Professionals to Support Warriors and Families
- Center for Deployment Psychology—University Counseling Center Core Competency (UC4) Courses
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
- Joint Services Support
- Military OneSource
- Student Veterans Advocacy Group
Resources, cont.

Resources, cont.


Key Resources, cont.


Questions?

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