

Adult Education Boot Camp – Basic Information to Ensure Veterans Success

A Presentation on behalf of the
Military Support Services Task Force

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Commission for Adult Learners Charge

- To review the availability of services at each Penn State Campus
- To work with Student Affairs Research and Assessment to create a survey for veterans
- To determine and create a list of best practice, programs needed to support veterans that can be implemented university-wide

PENNSTATE



Commission for Adult Learners

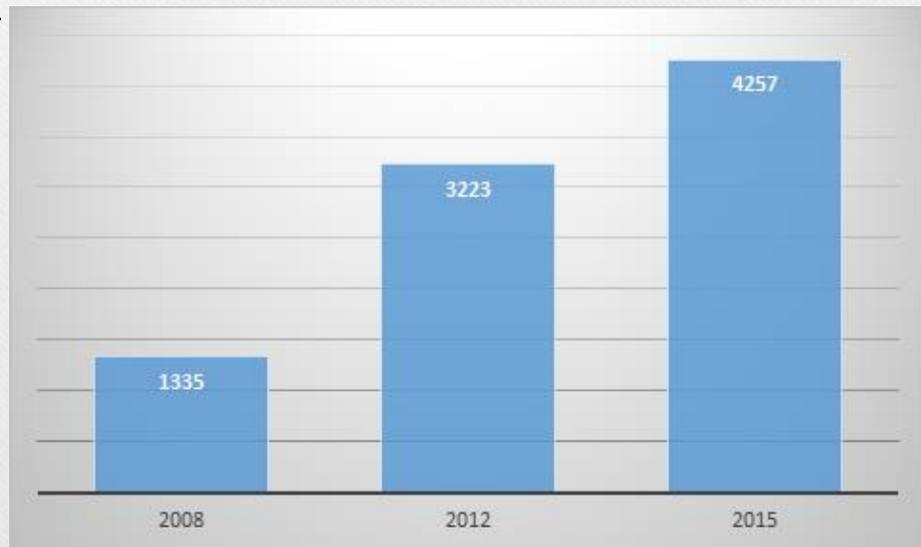
Goals of presentation

- Current veteran student information
- Best practices for serving veterans
- President Barron's Imperatives

Why are we here?

- Nationally, more veterans going to college
- Veteran student enrollment at Penn State has more than tripled:

1335-3223-4257



Why the influx?

- Implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) in 2009
- Over one million veterans have used Post 9/11 benefits, with over 30 billion dollars spent.
- Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) benefits

Who are we serving?

- Most have served during the United States Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) 2001-2009, and ongoing contingency operations, with nearly one third having been deployed two or more times
- Veterans who served prior to 9/11/01



What do we think we know about veterans?

- Median age of 29
- Many are part-time students and families to support
- Combat veterans with injuries – often need accommodation from Disability Services



Number of students receiving military benefits

Campuses with 20 - 50 veterans

Hazelton

Schuylkill

Wilkes-Barre

Great Valley

Lehigh Valley

Beaver

New Kensington

Fayette

Shenango

DuBois

Worthington-Scranton

Brandywine

Number of students receiving military benefits

60-160 veterans

York

Mont Alto

Erie

Harrisburg 300



Berks

Altoona

UP/World 2800

What do the veterans think?

- 15.2% response rate (approx. 2500 sent)
 - 87% - Welcoming climate
 - 81% - Desire to connect with other veterans
 - 80% - Would use a veterans lounge

Who is assisting veterans?

- Each campus has at least 1 Certifying Official
- Certify VA educational benefits
- Only UP are veterans
- Fulfill multiple roles



University-wide Programs/Initiatives

Comprehensive approach to serving veterans:

- Veteran/military-specific webpage
- Student sponsorship program
- Veteran specific counselors
- Facebook and/or Twitter
- Veteran rooms/lounge
- Veterans Advocacy Group
- Support with veterans specific organizations
- Section 702 legislation response

Section 702 Legislation

- August 2014, Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”) signed into law
- The VA will disapprove programs of education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill at public universities if the school charges the veteran/dependent tuition and fees in excess of the resident rate

Section 702 Legislation – Penn State's Response

Effective May 11, 2015-

- All veterans with qualifying service, regardless of Chapter 33 status, will receive the in-state tuition rate.
- All TOE (Transfer Of Entitlement) recipients currently receiving benefits under Post 9/11 and Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance) will qualify for the in state tuition rate. Students will remain grandfathered at the in-state rate.

Mt. Alto (84 veterans)

- Student Veterans Association (SVA)
- New Student Veterans Welcome
- Veteran Peer Mentors
- VA Work-Study program
- On-campus student success support services
- Veterans training as Lion Ambassadors



Altoona (160 veterans)

- Referrals for health care
- Referrals for financial assistance, social interaction through ODS fraternity and off-campus veterans organizations



Berks (126 veterans)

- Support with the transition
- Peer Mentoring
- Support with career transition
- SVA
- Veterans & dependents information workshops



Fayette (35 veterans)

- Admissions counselor for adults/veterans
- VA Work Study positions
- “Got Your 6” PSFE Community Group
- VA Center Counselor
- Campus Veteran Mentor Group
- SVA



University Park/World Campus (2800 veterans)

Veterans Specific Office offering:

- GI Bill certification/Priority Registration processing
- Triage counseling and referral
- 25 VA Work Study positions
- Sponsor program for incoming veteran students(new for Fall 15)
- Veterans study lounge (new for Fall 15)
- Veterans Advisory Group
- Student Veteran Organizations - Advising



Community Resources

Centre County Veterans Service Officer:

Brian Querry, Director
Willowbank County Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 333
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 814-355-6812
E-mail: bquerry@centrecountypa.gov

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

State College, Veterans Outpatient Clinic
2581 Clyde Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Phone: 877-626-2500

Altoona VA Medical Center
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd
Altoona, PA 16602
Phone: 877-626-2500

Community Resources

Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic

Michael Foreman, Director

Phone: 814-865-3832

E-mail: mlf25@psu.edu

For student and non-student veterans

Community Resources

- American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Navy League/Marine League
- Vet Center - Mobile Vet Center
- CareerLink Vets Education Rep.
- Service Access Management



Pres. Barron's Imperatives

- Excellence
 - Military & Veteran Support Services Committee
 - Veterans Advisory Board
 - Best practices across the University
- Student Engagement
 - Difficult for veterans as adults
 - University culture

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Pres. Barron's Imperatives

- Diversity & Demographics
 - Veterans diverse in experiences
 - Add unique interactions within and outside classroom
 - Better recruitment of this population
- Student Career Success & Economic Development
 - More career preparation assistance
 - Translate military experience on resume

Pres. Barron's Imperatives

- Accessibility
 - Priority registration
 - Section 702 Legislation (replacing need for Yellow Ribbon)
 - Need Veteran-specific scholarships
 - Improve prior learning assessment
- Technology
 - World Campus

Committee Recommendations for Action

Need demonstrated for more comprehensive veterans services:

- Survey results review/action
- Veterans helping veterans
- Ongoing faculty and staff education
- Veterans Forums
- Veterans Advocacy Groups



Questions?

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Thank you!