



2023
NASPA
SYMPOSIUM ON
MILITARY-CONNECTED
STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 19 - 21, 2023
DENVER, CO



NASPA[®]
Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Registration Open

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please stop by Registration upon arrival to receive your name badge. Registration is located in the Hilton Denver City Center on Lower Level 2. The Registration area staff will also be available if you have questions regarding the symposium.

Pre-Conference Workshops

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Veterans Services 101: Pitfalls and Possibilities

Denver 1-2 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In this Veterans Services 101 session, explore a mixture of theory and practice to open up your capacity for experimentation and exploration as a leader in veterans services at your campus. From a theoretical perspective, we will begin with what it means to serve veterans from a student services perspective, touching on Veteran Critical Theory, Strayhorns' approach to belonging, and Wert's integration of these into a comprehensive service model. Starting with a bedrock approach to efficient and empathetic servicing regarding military educational benefits, we will touch on fundraising, student organizations, academic and social programming, as well as student employees and peer advising. Finally, we will explore the lessons learned from actual practitioners during the early phases of their work, including mistakes they made and how they turned them into opportunities.

Presented By

Seth Gordon, Director, Veteran and Military Center, Wright State University-Main Campus

Veterans Services 201: Sustaining & Expanding Programs through Development and Assessment

Denver 3 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Now that you've successfully built and carefully assessed your campus student veteran programs...what's next? Are your programs funded indefinitely? For your most impactful programs, do you have the resources to expand them? This session explores

methods to sustain and even grow programming through development and assessment. Learn to identify your fundraising “inherent advantages” to find new donors and increase donations. Share ideas on aligning donor passion with student need. Learn how to fundamentally change fundraising conversations to enhance success. Join the discussion on “12 Tips for Fundraising/Resourcing Success”...no fundraising experience required.

Presented By

Janine Wert, Director of Veterans' Services, UMASS Lowell

Glenn Phillips, Account Executive,, Watermark

Jerry Smith, Director, Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center, Texas A&M University

Symposium Kick-off and Opening Keynote Plenary

Colorado E-F | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join us as we kick off the 2023 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students! Our Opening Keynote, The Warriot Mindset, will be presented by Nick Lavery as he discusses the warrior mindset, derived from the warrior ethos, is an option for us all regardless of our profession. It is an option. An option to facilitate achievement.

Breakout Sessions I

2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

“I Didn’t Know There was a Military Kid Identity”

Denver 1-2 | 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

A growing portion of the military-connected student population are dependents of veterans or service members, also known as "military kids". Despite this, military kids remain underrepresented in the services and programming offered by campus military and veteran service offices. This exclusion may reduce sense of belonging as students do not have the opportunity to fully recognize and explore their identity. This program highlights key concepts, effective practices, and potential growth areas for serving military kids in higher education.

Presented By

Amanda Venske, Education Benefits Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Building Military Cultural Competency on Campus with Technology

Denver 3 | 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

This session will introduce participants to "Supporting Veteran Success in Higher Education," a new, zero-cost online military cultural competency curriculum developed by the Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition to help higher education professionals build military/veteran-inclusive culture on college and university campuses. Participants will learn how the resource works, what kinds of content it offers, and how it might be used either to develop a new or enhance an existing military/veteran capacity-building intervention for faculty and staff in higher education settings.

Presented By

R.J. Jenkins, Director of Education, Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition

Engaging Libraries in Supporting Student Veterans: The Libraries and Veterans Toolkit

Colorado A-B | 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Libraries, just like military-connected students, can be found on virtually every college campus. Libraries can be a key resource for military-connected student success, but when considering resources for military-connected students, libraries are often overlooked. The Libraries & Veterans Toolkit is intended to change that. This resource includes ideas for study spaces, programs, exhibits, collections, and more. This session will introduce attendees to the toolkit and share how this resource can be used to garner new ideas for serving military-connected students.

Presented By

Sarah LeMire, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

Correlation Between First-Year Seminar Courses and Student Veteran Retention

Colorado C-D | 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Through three research questions, this study identifies a statistically significant correlation between participation in a First-Year-Seminar (FYS) course and student veteran retention at a large Tier-One research institution in the South-Central United States. Research indicates that attrition affects nearly half of all student veterans due to most identifying as nontraditional, at-risk students. The findings of this research study may prove beneficial to higher education leaders in identifying a best practice for improving student veteran retention rates.

Presented By

James Kumm, Executive Director Military and Veteran Services, The University of Texas at Arlington

African American Military and Veterans Lineage Project

Colorado G-H | 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The African American Military and Veterans Lineage Project designed to address the lack of information regarding the roles, triumphs, and heroism that North Carolina African Americans played in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars, and War on Terror. In the early conflicts, despite being given inferior equipment and less training, as well as navigating a segregated and biased military, Black Americans served with valor and courage. Most of their accomplishments do not exist in many American history books. Therefore, the African American Military and Veterans Lineage Project works to properly document and preserve the unknown or overlooked history of North Carolina African American participation in America's wars.

Presented By

Ariel Aponte, Associate Vice Chancellor for Military, State, and Federal Relations, Elizabeth City State University

Roderick White, Service Member and Family Coordinator, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Angela Wills, Business Officer, Student Affairs, Elizabeth City State University

Breakout Sessions II

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If You Build It: Veteran and Military Space on Campus

Denver 1-2 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Founded in 2013, the Wright State Universities Veteran and Military 4500 sq. foot physical space was completed in Fall of 2014. It is the manifestation of our vision - to create a sense of belonging for our student veterans and military-connected students. We are creating an innovative outdoor space, the Champion's Garden, designed to integrate storytelling, education, and gathering. The session will cover the resources, relationships, and resilience necessary to realize this fundamental resource for student veterans on any campus.

Presented By

Seth Gordon, Director, Veteran and Military Center, Wright State University-Main Campus

The George W. Bush Institute's Multi-Pronged Approach to Optimizing Veteran Success in Post-Secondary Transition and Beyond

Denver 3 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The George W. Bush Military Veterans and Families (VMF) Initiative incorporates the work of three Task Forces: Higher Education, Employment, and the Veterans Wellness Alliance to optimize the success of veterans as they transition to higher education and beyond. Learners will become acquainted with this multi-pronged approach that emphasizes the interconnectivity of the Task Forces as well as new products and those currently underway to address common challenges of both veterans and institutional personnel.

Presented By

Wendy Ann Lang, GWBI Lead, Higher Education Task Force/President and Founder Operation College Promise, George W. Bush Institute/Operation College Promise

First-Gen Confidence – Why It Matters and How to Build It

Colorado C-D | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The intent of this session is to examine the role of academic confidence in student veteran success, particularly for first-generation students, and to explore data-driven strategies to build that confidence. Participants will come away from the session with a clear sense of the importance of confidence building and will be equipped with tangible resources they can use to build that confidence at their own institutions. Leveraging their collective experience in student veteran support mechanisms, Ryan Pavel of Warrior-Scholar Project, R.J. Jenkins of the Columbia Center for Veterans Transition and Integration, Linda Euto of the Syracuse Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Monteigne Long of the Texas A&M University System will co-lead an approximately 30-minute presentation on the research demonstrating the importance of confidence building in first-generation students and then share concrete examples of how to build that confidence. In the remaining 30 minutes, they will facilitate a discussion among participants, allowing ample opportunity for participants to share strategies they have identified to support student veterans and foster academic confidence, particularly for first-generation students.

Presented By

Ryan Pavel, CEO, Warrior-Scholar Project

R.J. Jenkins, Director of Education, Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration, Columbia University

Linda Rougeau Euto, Associate Director, Research and Evaluation, D'Aniello Institute For Veterans & Military Families, Syracuse University

Mission-ready & College-ready: Student-veterans' Non-cognitive Attributes Facilitate Unexpected Strategies

Colorado A-B | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This presentation aims to redirect conversations about academic preparedness and college-readiness. Student-veterans earned non-cognitive skills that prepared them to excel in unfavorable environments from enlisted military service. As a result, student-veterans are especially equipped through specialized life experience to succeed in higher education, despite being labeled not college-ready, as a nontraditional student. This discussion will help campus leadership to reassess their services and the students they serve, and recreate their campus culture to better understand student-veterans.

Presented By

Carlos Garanzuay, Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, Manager, Del Mar College

Focus Forward Fellowship - A Model for Building Women Student Veteran Portfolios

Colorado G-H | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Focus Forward Fellowship is a nationally competitive networking and personal development program for women student veterans and active-duty service women. Since its inception in 2016, Focus Forward Fellowship has impacted over 130 women directly. In this session, we will explore why there was, and continues to be, a need for Focus Forward Fellowship, an overview of the program, and a discussion of where the Fellowship is going in the coming years.

Presented By

Stacy Parnell, Senior Education and Employment Specialist, Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University

Conference Connections Meetup

Colorado I-J | 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We invite you to connect with your conference connection on Sunday, February 19th, from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. in room Colorado I-J. This is a casual time where you can get to know each

other and chat about ways to make the most out of the symposium. This precedes the Opening Reception from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. We hope you and your connection will join us for food and networking following the meetup.

This space will be accessible for the duration of the SMCS. You are welcome to use this space to work, meet up with your connection or other attendees, and spend time learning about NASPA, your fellow attendees, and how to become a member of the Veterans Knowledge Community.

Opening Reception

Colorado E-F | 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Symposium attendees are warmly invited to this welcome networking reception! Spend time checking out our 2023 Poster Sessions and join your colleagues to end the first day with great company! A cash bar will be available. Thank you to our Silver Sponsor AmeriVet Securities.

Poster Sessions

Colorado E-F | 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Presented By

Stony Brook University Vets-4-Vets Peer Sponsorship Program

Colorado E-F | 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Vets-4-Vets Sponsorship Program was created at Stony Brook University as a way to promote new student veteran/veteran dependent success. The Office of Military and Veteran Student Services recruits student sponsors and pairs them with new student veterans/dependents. We require each sponsor to meet with their student veteran four times per semester (once a month) with two of those meetings facilitated in a group setting. Both Sponsors and Sponsees fill out registration forms that provide information for appropriate pairings.

Presented By

Pamela Pfeil, Assistant Director of Military and Veterans Affairs, Stony Brook University

Understanding the education experiences of Australian Military-Connected Students Who Regularly Relocate

Colorado E-F | 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This research seeks to understand the education experiences of Australian students who have attended multiple schools due to regular relocation with a parent in the military. Although the existing research on student mobility indicates that regularly changing schools can have a detrimental effect, the perspectives of Australian military-connected

students, is yet to be explored. Aiming to understand of this type of mobility and education, this poster presentation will outline the development of the research topic, conceptual framework, design, and analysis.

Presented By

Natalie Gonzalez, PhD Candidate, The University of Southern Queensland

Asset-Based Approaches for Supporting Student Veterans in Higher Education: Synthesizing the Literature

Colorado E-F | 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The extant literature on student veterans is fragmented, interdisciplinary, and nascent when compared to other established academic fields. However, there are a plethora of opinion pieces, journal articles, and books that provide “facts” or “tips” concerning student veterans informing higher education professionals. This guided discussion synthesizes these recommendations in a comprehensive literature review analyzed through Kretzmann and McKnight’s (1993) asset-based community development theory.

Presented By

Jonathon Sanders, Manager of the Military & Veteran Academic Success Centers

Monday, February 20, 2023

Registration Open

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please stop by Registration upon arrival to receive your name badge. Registration is located in the Hilton Denver City Center on Lower Level 2. The Registration area staff will also be available if you have questions regarding the symposium.

Plated Breakfast and Veterans Knowledge Community Awards

Colorado E-F | 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

We invite all attendees to join us at 8:30 am for a plated breakfast and to honor this year's Veterans Knowledge Community Supre et Ultra Award. Please be seated by 8:45 a.m.

Day 2 Keynote Plenary

Colorado E-F | 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Join us for our Day 2 Keynote, Native Veterans Creating visibility through Indigenous Statistics in Education,

presented by Jameson Lopez as he presents his scholarship that carves out approaches to Indigenous quantitative methods and demonstrates scholarly impact. Using Native veteran stories, he thematically develops how we can speak to Native nation-building and Indigenous data sovereignty using statistics and reinforcing the idea that quantitative research also belongs to Indigenous people and fundamentally is changing how we conduct Indigenous research in the field.

Breakout Sessions III

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Post-Education Employment: Employer & Higher Education Collaboration Is Key

Colorado E-F | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Leading “civilian” employers (beyond traditional defense companies) specifically seek military talent. Given that +50% of those that leave the military take a pathway through higher ed en route to civilian employment, many employers are now dedicating specific talent acquisition efforts in an effort to enable direct engagement with military-affiliated students - beyond their traditional campus recruiting efforts. Higher Ed staff often want to provide their military-affiliated students with military-specific career readiness prep & exposure to support their eventual workforce outcomes - but resources are often limited within Higher Ed institutions. In 2020, 50strong established EmployerConnect, a series of virtual learning & direct networking events that combine industry-driven career readiness with employment pathways. The goal is to provide at-scale exposure that any higher education institution can opt in to on behalf of their students. 50strong is made possible by Amazon, Wells Fargo, Lowe's, Cushman & Wakefield, TEKsystems, Johnson & Johnson, Verizon, John Deere, UnitedHealth Group and includes participation by veteran initiative leaders at many leading employers.

Presented By

Kandi Tillman, Managing Co-Founder, 50strong

David Ottaviannelli, Director, Workforce and Community Outreach & Military Initiatives Lead, John Deere

Michael Piper, Military Talent Acquisition & Engagement Lead, Lowe's Companies

To, Through and Beyond: How SVA is Supporting the Entire Student Veteran Lifecycle

Denver 1-2 | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Student Veterans of America (SVA)'s mission is to act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy to, through, and beyond higher education. Historically, SVA has focused on the chapter-centric life cycle of student Veterans supporting more than 1,500 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and three countries overseas representing more than 750,000 student Veterans. As a data-driven organization, SVA's research has informed the need of expanded academic and career coaching services for Servicemembers as they are transitioning out of the military or considering to pursue higher education after their time in Service. We will highlight SVA's newest programs in development and how these programs will improve student Veteran success, outcomes and maximized use of their GI Bill benefits, while enhancing chapter engagement.

Presented By

Alisha Miller, Director of Academic Advising, National Academic Advising Center

Anthony Paolino, Vice President, National Academic Advising Center

A Non-Traditional Approach to Assessing Non-Traditional Students

Colorado A-B | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Learning communities have strong ties to educational factors. Traditionally, LC's are attached to a specific major(s). Bloomsburg University has a different approach to this model and created a Military & Veterans LC. Higher Education retention rates are paramount to an institution's success. Military-Connected students do not always fit into traditional rules for retention creating quantifiable challenges. We conducted a study to measure the success rate of the Military & Veterans Learning Community, and how mentorships can help this population reach their success.

Presented By

Robert Heckrote, Assistant Director for Military Enrollment, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg University

Kelly Roth, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg University

Catherine Garverick, Graduate Assistant, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg University

Size Doesn't Matter – VICTORY is in the Veterans Center

Colorado C-D | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Two community colleges will exhibit their programs, trial, tribulations and best practices in providing top-notch student success services to our most important population of students. Development of MOU, Community Partnerships, Successful ventures and those that didn't go so well will be addressed.

Presented By

Tammy Micallef, Director, Veterans Affairs/Victory Center, San Antonio College

Carol Calandra, Director of the Veterans Resource Center, Pasadena City College

Timothy Pair, Advising Team Lead, San Antonio College

"Time to Ungrind": Approaches to Support Veteran and Military Connected College Student Health & Well-being

Denver 3 | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Well-being is a top priority on college campuses, and meeting the needs of the veteran and military-connected student population is among these priorities. NASPA's Colorado Coalition for College Alcohol and Drug Educators (CADE) will share the story of Colorado's statewide "Time to Ungrind" campaign, which aims to resist our society's culture of grinding and hustling all day, every day, and address college student stimulant misuse and mental health challenges related to college life. The presentation will highlight key campaign messages, the community's response so far, and how you can support military-connected students by utilizing the campaign in collaboration with your campus's health and well-being champions.

Presented By

Eva Esakoff, Grant Projects Senior Coordinator of Health, Safety, & Well-being Initiatives, NASPA

The First Year: Fostering Community & Engagement Through Transitional Programs

Colorado G-H | 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

At Colorado State University, we have implemented two innovative first-year transition programs, resulting in an increased sense of community and higher engagement in both classroom & experiential learning for our nontraditional students. Join us for a fun and interactive session where we'll share practical asset-based advising, support, and programming strategies Participants will receive tools to honor the intersectional

identities of Student Veterans while reinforcing their previous life experiences and strengths, so they can empower students to be stronger self-advocates throughout their educational journey.

Presented By

Brianna Ridenour, Adult Learner, Veteran Services Program Coordinator, Colorado State University

Lisa Chandler, Assistant Director of Adult Learner, Veteran Services, Colorado State University

Breakout Sessions IV

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Women Student Veterans in STEM: a Conceptual Sense of Belonging Mentorship Framework

Denver 1-2 | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Women student veterans pursuing STEM degrees face the compound challenge of navigating a historically misunderstood identity, being a veteran, and a historically underrepresented identity, being a woman. A qualitative evidence synthesis of research insights into how to support women studying STEM and women student veterans offers a conceptual mentorship framework for supporting the intersection of these identities: women student veterans in STEM. This program will hypothesize a mentorship initiative that enhances women veterans' sense of belonging, in STEM majors, which positively impacts their persistence.

Presented By

Bryce Kyle, Research Fellow, University of San Antonio Texas

Michael Logan, Senior Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, University of San Antonio Texas

How to Do the Work of Two When You are Only One

Colorado C-D | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This is a time of decreasing enrollment and, subsequently, decreasing staff. The pandemic has left many of us burned out. Everyone is being asked to do more with less. The fact is that you don't have to be superhuman to be a superstar. This presentation will illustrate how you can be more efficient, more effective and more joyful using a methodical and mindful technique. While you're at it, we'll be asking you to share some of your own ideas.

Presented By

Robert Mayer, Director of Veteran Services, Mount Wachusett Community College

A Discussion on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Philosophy in the Veteran Space

Colorado A-B | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This session will be a moderated interactive discussion on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) philosophy in the veteran space. A brief introduction to the four areas, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, will begin the session and serve as the foundation for the group discussion. This session is open to all levels from subject matter experts in the field to the curious who want to know more about the topic. All are welcomed.

Presented By

Chris Cate, PhD, Independent Researcher

Launching the Careers of the Military Community

Colorado G-H | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Employment assistance is the #1 requested service from transitioning military members, and Hire Heroes USA provides that service to thousands annually. Through personalized service and support, we help veterans, and military spouses get hired and help companies hire and retain them. During this session, the presenters will review the barriers, strengths, and transferable skills of military-affiliated job seekers. Attendees will leave with practical knowledge and skills to better support military-connected students as they prepare for their job search.

Presented By

Kelsey Wolf-Wallace, Program Manager, Hire Heroes USA

VET-SIM: A Potential Game Changer for Student Veterans Facing Unique Challenges in Higher Education

Denver 3 | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

You miss a class only to be later questioned by your instructor about your general well-being, expressing assumptions about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or a civilian undergraduate asks you too many questions about your military service. These are just two of many situations' student veterans say they have had to navigate on a college campus. How do you respond? Rooted in the medical model, the Vet-SIM project uses live simulations to provide an opportunity for student veterans to become better

prepared for collegiate study as they ‘practice’ some of these challenges that may arise on campus. In addition, research shows that as veterans transition from military service to collegiate study, many face barriers to collegiate success, feel isolated, anxious, and, at times, misunderstood. From this presentation, you will learn about the Vet-SIM project, look at what the data -we’ve collected-has shown us thus far, and explain why we believe this project presents a potential game-changing opportunity for higher education to develop better tools to help student veterans’ combat some of these unique challenges surrounding campus life.

Presented By

Linda Euto, D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), Syracuse University

Guided Discussions (45 Minutes)

2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Building a Support System for Military-Connected Students at FIT

Denver 1-2 | 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The guided discussion will offer insight into the development, implementation, and reenvision of military-connected services and resources at SUNY FIT. We were able to connect campus departments to collaborate on implementing institutional policies that serve our military-connected students. In the Academic Advisement Center, this included engagement, mentorship, and connection with advisors in our military-connected committee. Our presenters include two Academic Advisement Center Military-Connected Committee members with backgrounds working as a certifying officer with the VA and managing military-connected/Veteran Center.

Presented By

Benita Jones, Assistant Professor/Counselor, SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology

Lisa Mulligan, Counselor Associate, Fashion Institute of Technology

Jared Ciborowski, Counselor Associate, Fashion Institute of Technology

Engaging Student Veterans With Programs That Support Belonging

Denver 3 | 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Engagement and belonging lead to increased retention, and in this session we will highlight ways to increase retention and graduation rates for student veterans. The office of Veteran and Military Affairs at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will share multiple engagement events that develop belonging for the 2500+ military-

connected students. In this presentation, the presenters will provide participants with an understanding of what it takes to coordinate engagement services that support belonging to address the needs of student veterans.

Presented By

Jeff Deickman, Assistant Director Veteran and Military Affairs, University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)

Jessica Newman, Student Engagement and Programs Coordinator, University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)

Veterans Treatment Teams: On-Campus Collaborative Care Model

Colorado A-B | 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Veterans Treatment Teams (VTTs) may be implemented on college campuses at no cost to the institution, and serve the physical, mental, and emotional needs of student veterans. Creating VTTs on campus send the message of institutional commitment to the student veteran population, which directly contributes to the persistence, retention, and graduation of military-connected students. Comprised of healthcare providers already on a college campus, these providers work collaboratively with VHA providers to treat the whole person. Physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, case managers, social workers, and academic support specialists work in concert with VA care to best serve student veterans. Students have the right to seek on-campus care as a student, and creating a team dedicated to serving the varied needs of this unique student population make for a better college experience and ease the transition after graduation for outside care or another VA facility.

Presented By

Andrew Newby, Assistant Director Veteran & Military Services, University of Mississippi

LinkedIn: From Resource to Tool for You and Your Students

Colorado C-D | 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

LinkedIn is a resource and tool that can be used for professional development in the field of higher education. The value that this can bring to the workplace can be innovative ideas, best practices, and connections that can assist in problem-solving or brainstorming. This presentation will demonstrate how you can use this platform to assist you as you grow in the profession of serving military-connected students on your campus.

Presented By

Michael Brown, Director, Office of Veterans and Military Service Members, Villanova University

Making the Military-connected Student Feel Connected

Colorado G-H | 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since the creation of the post 9/11 GI Bill, the enrollment of veterans and military-affiliated students has increased sustainably. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, over one million veterans have used VA benefits to enroll in college. With this growing number of nontraditional student veterans, colleges and universities have created specific programs centered on helping this student population. However, often these programs fail to meet the need of making these student feel connected to their institutions, specifically at larger colleges and research institutes. This session will explore the strategy and approach to engaging and connecting with student veterans at a STEM research institute. Participants will learn about the unique characteristics and challenges associated with student veterans. Then explore how the use of programs geared towards connection and belonging are used to support this student population.

Presented By

David Ross, Director, Veterans Resource Center, Georgia Institute of Technology

Veterans Knowledge Community Military-Connected Town Hall

Colorado E-F | 3:45 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

The Veterans Knowledge Community is the national leader in supporting the generation and dissemination of knowledge in support of the college success of student veterans. Practitioners and scholars find an engaging home among this caring group of professionals and scholars. We encourage you to join us today at 3:45 for the Veterans Knowledge Community Military-Connected Town Hall to learn more or check out their widget in the conference mobile app.

Happy Hour Reception Sponsored by Lowe's

Colorado E-F | 3:30 p.m.

Symposium attendees are invited to join us for this Happy Hour Networking Reception! Thank you to our Silver Sponsor, Lowe's Home Improvement.

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Registration Open

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Registration is located in the Hilton Denver City Center on Lower Level 2. The Registration area staff will also be available if you have questions regarding the symposium.

Breakfast

Colorado E-F | 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Join us for a breakfast buffet that will be available till 8:30 am before our Closing Keynote.

Closing Keynote

Colorado E-F | 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Join us for our Closing Keynote, *Delivering on the Promise by Enabling the Outcome*, presented by Kandi Tillman, Managing Co-Founder of 50strong. Higher education during and/or after military service offers a promising pathway for military-affiliated students. In fact, many enlist in the military because of these education benefits and approximately half of those leaving the military pursue a post-military education pathway en route to civilian employment via "extended transition". However, the promise doesn't end with a degree. The promise includes meaningful civilian employment and we must consider new ways to support this national opportunity. As veteran hiring efforts have evolved drastically in just the last few years, industry-led efforts to recognize the tremendous, untapped talent pool of student veterans are underway. We all have a role to play in delivering on the promise and working together across industry and higher ed is critical to deliver on the promise to those that have served.

Breakout Sessions V

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Reframing Impostor Phenomenon for Veterans and Transitioning Service Members

Denver 1-2 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Military-connected students often struggle with feeling like they don't fully belong, especially in higher education settings. Feeling conspicuous or out of place is a hallmark of something called the impostor phenomenon, and it can contribute to poor outcomes for students. This session will help participants reframe impostor feelings for veterans

and transitioning service members. Despite dominant cultural and behavioral discourse, this session will demonstrate how impostor feelings can be understood not as a liability but rather as a core quality of effective leadership.

Presented By

R.J. Jenkins, Director of Education, Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition

The Hub and Spoke Model of Veteran Student Support

Colorado A-B | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Hub and Spoke model of veteran and military-connected student support will allow the veteran center staff to maximize the expertise of professional staff from across the institution. Using appropriate communication and coordination, veteran center staff can direct students to the experts in all areas of the institution and ensure that they receive timely, expert advice and support from each of the offices that provide support to the student population.

Presented By

Josiah Guthland, Director of Veteran & Military Student Services, The University of Baltimore

Dena Allen-Few, Coordinator of Veteran & Military Student Services, The University of Baltimore

The Strength of the Pack: A collaborative Approach to Increasing Veteran Enrollment

Colorado C-D | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This session will highlight the importance of creating effective partnerships both on campus and within the community. The power of collaboration has proven to be an effective approach in moving the needle on increasing veteran enrollment at NC State University. Several partners including NC State Military and Veteran Services, NC State Undergraduate Admissions, NC State Veterans Education and the North Carolina Community College System Office, have teamed up on an initiative to improve admissions outcomes for Veterans and their families.

Presented By

Nick Drake, Director, Jeffrey Wright Military and Veteran Services, North Carolina State University

Jon Westover, Associate Vice Provost and Director of Admissions, North Carolina State University

Serving Citizen Soldiers

Colorado G-H | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Serving our citizen soldiers (guard/reserve/active-duty) can be complicated when they deploy. In this discussion, presenters will review best practices and policies for supporting deployed students. We will utilize Veterans Critical Theory as a lens to discuss current institutional practices that have been successful and workshop those articulated challenges that our workshop participants bring to the table.

Presented By

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