



2019

NASPA

SYMPOSIUM ON

MILITARY-CONNECTED  
STUDENTS

February 7 - 9, 2019

Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel



**NASPA**

Student Affairs Administrators  
in Higher Education

Las Vegas, Nevada

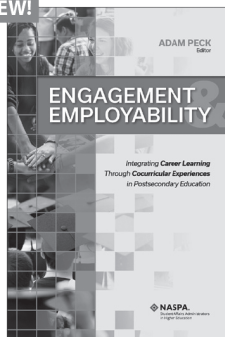
## Selected Books for Student Affairs and Higher Education Administration

Each year, NASPA publishes a range of books designed specifically for student affairs educators. We are pleased to extend a special discount on our publications to NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students participants.

SAVE 30% ON  
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SMCS19

NEW!



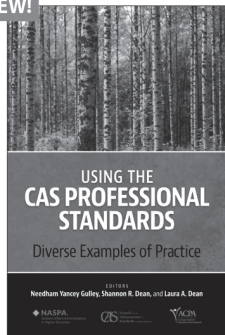
### Engagement and Employability: Integrating Career Learning Through Cocurricular Experiences in Postsecondary Education

Adam Peck, Editor

List Price: \$39.95 NASPA Member Price: \$34.95

*Engagement and Employability* examines the central role student affairs plays in helping students gain and articulate career skills through cocurricular experiences. It focuses on the top skills employers seek when hiring recent college graduates, with numerous examples of how to identify, measure, and assess employability skills as an outcome of cocurricular experiences.

NEW!

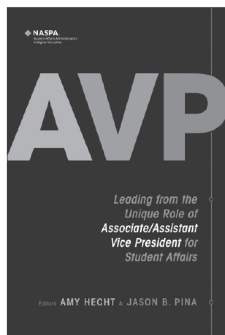


### Using the CAS Professional Standards: Diverse Examples of Practice

Needham Yancey Gulley, Shannon R. Dean, and Laura A. Dean, Editors

List Price: \$39.95 NASPA Member Price: \$34.95

This practical text highlights multiple ways to apply the standards and guidelines published by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS). It offers a compilation of in-depth case studies that demonstrate what the CAS approach looks like in practice across a wide range of functional areas in a variety of college and university settings.



### AVP: Leading from the Unique Role of Associate/Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

Amy Hecht & Jason B. Pina, Editors

List Price: \$39.95 NASPA Member Price: \$34.95

*AVP* provides a wealth of leadership and management strategies for new and veteran AVPs, as well as midlevel managers considering a transition to an AVP position. Recognizing that AVP responsibilities can vary widely based on institution type, the book begins with a set of core competencies relevant across all types of AVP roles and structures. The authors present an integrative picture of several fundamental proficiencies that are critical to an AVP's success in the first year and beyond.



**NASPA**<sup>®</sup>

Student Affairs Administrators  
in Higher Education

**Online:** <http://bookstore.naspa.org>

**Phone:** 202-265-7500

**Mail:** 111 K Street, NE, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002



## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Check-in Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Pre-Symposium Workshops <i>(additional registration required)</i>
12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor and Sponsor Tables Open
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Symposium Welcome and Opening Keynote Speaker
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions I
3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Military-Connected Student Plenary Panel
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Networking Reception & Poster Sessions

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Check-in and Exhibitor Tables Open
7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Available
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	NASPA Veterans Knowledge Community Open Meeting (optional)
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions II
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Learning Labs I
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Symposium Break or NASPA Veterans Knowledge Community Luncheon <i>(additional registration required)</i>
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Learning Labs II
2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Afternoon Dialogues (Roundtable Discussions)
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Networking Break
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Large General Interest Sessions

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Registration Check-in and Exhibitor Tables Open
7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Available
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions III
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions IV
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Closing Keynote Speaker



# WELCOME

**N**ASPA welcomes you to Las Vegas and to the 2019 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students. The NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students offers a professional development opportunity to educate participants about the strategies, research, policies, and programs championed by the field of student affairs to support student veterans and other military-connected students. Participants will acquire knowledge, build skills, and utilize groundbreaking practices and research to develop their professional competencies, gain a more comprehensive understanding of the field of supporting student veterans, and acquire new strategies to improve their practice.

The NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students evolved from the University of Louisville Veteran Symposium for Higher Education, conducted in Louisville, Kentucky for six years. The University of Louisville transitioned conference responsibilities to NASPA after the 2014 Symposium to provide a national forum for the institutional policy, programming, and concerns of military and student veteran populations.

This professional development event should be considered a working Symposium. Given the range of issues presented, you will find colleagues from a wide range of institutional audiences – from those just initiating student veteran support programming to those that are integrating and modifying structures and practice. Please take time to network with your colleagues, ask questions, and involve yourself in every aspect of the Symposium. Again, welcome; we hope you have a great experience!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

*The time, dedication, and expertise shared by the committee is much appreciated. NASPA is its volunteers.*

- LISA ADAMS** director, military and veteran center, The University of Texas at Dallas
- ROSS BRYANT** director, military and veteran services center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- ANNE CLINTON** clinical coordinator, Kirkwood Community College
- RICHARD DELGADO JR.** director of military affairs, Texas A&M, San Antonio
- SHERRY EARLY** assistant professor, leadership studies, Marshall University-South Charleston Graduate Campus
- MICHAEL KIRCHNER** assistant professor, Indiana University-Purdue, University, Fort Wayne
- KEN MCRAE** president, K.D. McRae and Associates, LLC
- CODY NICHOLLS** assistant dean of students, University of Arizona
- CHELSEA O'BRIEN** coordinator of tutoring and academic support, SUNY Genesee Community College
- JULIE SHANK** doctoral candidate, George Mason University

*We would also like to express our gratitude to those attendees who took time to submit and review programs. We would not have been able to put together this Symposium without your time and dedication and we hope you will consider volunteering again next year.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### GOLD SPONSOR



### BRONZE SPONSORS



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION

The Symposium registration desk is located in the **Renaissance Ballroom Foyer**, and will be open during the following hours:

**Thursday, February 7:** 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, February 8:** 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 9:** 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## SYMPOSIUM LOCATION

All Symposium activities will be held at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel and are open to Symposium participants only.

Hotel Address: **3400 Paradise Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89169**

Phone: **702-784-5700**

## ATTIRE

Attire for the Symposium is business casual.

## ACCESSIBILITY/DIETARY NEEDS

If you have an accommodation request, dietary concerns, or questions, please speak with the NASPA staff at the Symposium registration desk.

## CELL PHONES

As a courtesy to presenters, speakers, panelists and attendees, please turn off cell phones during program sessions. Please leave the session room if you must take a call.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION



NASPA has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5120. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. NASPA is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

Participants can receive a maximum of 7.25 clock hours for this event. To receive credit, please complete a reporting form available at the registration table. In addition, you must complete an online evaluation of individual sessions, which will be emailed to you shortly after the conference. A certificate of completion will be sent via email after the form has been processed and approved.

## EVALUATION

The 2019 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students evaluation will be available online following the conclusion of the Symposium and will be sent via email to all participants.

## EXHIBITORS

Please visit the Symposium exhibitor tables in the Renaissance Ballroom Foyer at the following dates and times:

**Thursday, February 7:** 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, February 8:** 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*A complete listing of conference exhibitors is located in the back of the program book.*

## HOTEL FLOOR PLAN

A map of the meeting space can be found at the back of the program book or via the NASPA app.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles should be turned into the Symposium registration desk.

## MATERIALS

Session materials will be posted to the NASPA Professional Development Archive. To view the program materials, login using the credentials you used at the time of registration and select **2019 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students** under Current National Events. You will then see a listing of program titles which are hyperlinked to uploaded materials.

## NASPA MOBILE APP

Enhance your conference experience with the NASPA Mobile App, powered by Socio! View the schedule and create our own itinerary, browse exhibitors and sponsors, read up on speakers, floor plans, and more. To download, visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for “NASPA Mobile App.” After installation, download the 2019 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students guide from within the NASPA Mobile App. When prompted, enter the passcode **SMCS19**.

## NAME BADGES

Symposium badges are required to participate in sessions and any meals provided by the Symposium. Your badge not only indicates that you are fully registered for the conference, but serves to build community among attendees.

## PUBLICATION SALES

Each year, NASPA publishes a range of books designed specifically for student affairs educators. We are pleased to extend a special discount on our publications to NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students participants. To save 30% on select titles, enter the discount code **SMCS19** at checkout.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Join in the on the conversation via Twitter and Instagram! Participants should use **#SMCS19** as the hashtag for the event. For all the latest tweets and photos, be sure to follow the official NASPA Twitter, **@NASPAtweets**.

## WIFI

Wi-Fi internet access is complimentary and available on the **Renaissance Conference** network. When prompted, enter the passcode: **naspa19**.

# CONFERENCE THEMES

## PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS PRACTITIONERS

In July 2015, the NASPA Board of Directors approved Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners. The set of professional competency areas is intended to define the broad professional knowledge, skills, and in some cases, the attitudes expected of student affairs professionals regardless of their area of specialization or positional role within the field. Within the conference program, sessions that fall into particular competency areas are marked with the icons as indicated below.



Advising and Supporting



Assessment, Evaluation, and Research



Law, Policy, and Governance



Leadership



Organizational and Human Resources



Personal and Ethical Foundations



Social Justice and Inclusion



Student Learning and Development



Technology



Values, Philosophy, and History

## **EDUCATIONAL TRACKS**

The NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students sessions are aligned into clearly designated tracks throughout the program to speak to a broad range of student affairs educators, faculty, and student attendees.

### **FOUNDATIONAL**

These sessions provide opportunities to build knowledge of who student veterans and other military-connected students are and examine the factors woven into their experience which may impact their success.

### **INTERMEDIATE**

These sessions will examine trends and innovative methods which serve to eliminate barriers to degree completion. Participants will explore ways of integrating technology into their approaches, learn how to leverage data effectively, and how to provide students with meaningful pathways to success.

### **ADVANCED**

These sessions offer opportunities to examine the student affairs profession more broadly and consider ways of changing policy or campus practices to make a college education accessible for all military-connected students. Participants will learn about ways of using campus-wide collaborative efforts to affect change and best practices for aligning student success initiatives across divisions.

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

In addition to our keynote speakers, a call for educational sessions was shared and a number of high quality, dynamic proposals were received. Accepted programs demonstrated relevance to the Symposium themes, a solid foundation, and engaging material. Sessions focus on the following three themes which are also indicated throughout the program book:

**Military-Connected Students 101**  
**Lessons Learned: Campus Programming**  
**Policy, Research, and Assessment**

**Luis Visot****OPENING KEYNOTE**

Doctoral Candidate & Major General (Ret. U.S. Army)  
George Washington University

Major General (RET) Luis R. Visot retired in December 2015 from The United States Army after over 35 years of service. In his last U.S. Army assignment, he served as the Chief of Staff, United States Army Reserve, responsible for the synchronization, coordination, optimization, and integration of the Army Reserve staff and leading its strategic and operational planning, activities and execution.

Luis, born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, was commissioned as a 2LT in May 1978. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a Master's in Education from the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, and a Master's in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

In October 2015, Luis retired from The University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, Florida, after 35 years of service. In his last assignment at USF served as the Executive Director, The Joint Military Leadership Center (JMLC), responsible for the program development and implementation, funding and sustainment, and expansion of the Center, focused on joint/multinational education, national/military defense strategies, global understanding, and leadership development. While at USF, Luis served in the Housing and Food Service Department, the Phyllis P. Marshall Student Center, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, and University Advancement.

Luis is presently pursuing an education doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Human and Organizational Learning at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Luis is married to Dr. Cindy S. Visot, who is the Chief of Staff and the Director of Board of Trustees Operations at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida.

**Charlie Willson****PLENARY KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Officer, Student Loan Initiatives  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Charlie Willson works with the student loan initiatives at The Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C., and leads Pew's research on veterans' experiences borrowing and repaying student loans.

Before joining Pew, Willson was a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where he produced reports for Congress on a range of higher education and Veterans' Affairs topics. He also worked as a program officer at the Stuart Foundation; and as a consultant, supported the work of foundations seeking to improve graduation rates at community colleges, and increase access to financial aid for first-generation and low-income college students.

Willson holds bachelor's degrees in Political Science and History from the University of Georgia, as well as a law degree, and a master's degree in education from Stanford University.



## Linda Herlocker

### CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Vice President of Student Affairs  
Florida State College at Jacksonville

Dr. Linda Herlocker currently serves Vice President for Student Services for Florida State College at Jacksonville. She brings more than twenty years of higher education administration experience, serving in both public and private post secondary institutions, in both the student services and the academic affairs areas, in both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. She currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a nursing college. Prior to her higher education career, she served as a United States Naval Officer for 11 years on active duty, then served an additional nine years as a Reservist, eventually retiring with the rank of Commander. Dr. Herlocker earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida, a Masters in Business Administration from National University, and a Bachelors degree in English from the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Herlocker believes that because of her unique career path, she provides a unique perspective regarding the intersection between the military and higher education.

## *Spiritual connection for military-connected students*



Visit us at our display table or  
online at [ValorMovement.com](http://ValorMovement.com)

Valor ROTC

Valor Campus Vets

Valor Global



# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

**Registration Check-in Open**

## **PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

*Additional registration is required*

*Rainbow | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### **Epic Steps to Military-Connected Student Victory on your Campus**

PRESENTERS:

**Robert B. Mayer**, Director of Veteran Services, Mount Wachusett Community College

**Ross Bryant**, Major (ret), U.S. Army & Director, Military & Veteran Services Center, University of Nevada Las Vegas

**Paul Viau, Jr.**, Associate University Registrar & Director, Veterans Academic Resource Center, University of Central Florida

This pre-symposium workshop will engage participants in a conversation around the solutions and obstacles in serving our student veterans. Presenters representing a large four-year, medium four-year, and community college will share proven steps in becoming the “go-to leader” for building and championing collaborative veteran services and resource partners in your community, influencing your campus, cultivating support, and establishing win-win relationships to promote needed change. These collaborations include developing campus and community partnerships for various veteran programs, promoting veteran employment/internship opportunities, being proactive in joining together leaders in the community to assist student veterans, and building a strong relationship with the VA.

*Paramount | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### **Serving Veterans and Other Military-Connected Students 301**

PRESENTERS:

**Regina Young-Hyatt**, Vice President for Student Affairs, Mississippi State University

**Tanya Ang**, Vice President, Veterans Education Success

**Luis Valera**, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Affecting change, in most cases keeping bad policy from being implemented, is the most challenging job a Military and Veteran Program / Center Director has. To successfully maneuver this minefield a knowledge of “how things are done” is imperative. This pre-con will give you the information on the inner workings of policy formation and the insight on how to develop the collaborations necessary to positively impact the process. Presenters represent university leadership, 501©(3) management, and a governmental affairs professional.

*Five Spot | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### **Veteran Center 101 – Empowering Military-Connected Students through a Strategic Plan**

PRESENTER:

**Steven Borden**, Director, Pat Tillman Veterans Center, Arizona State University

The purpose of this pre-symposium workshop will be to discuss how to go about building a veterans center that meets the needs of your student veterans. While there are some accepted best practices, the truth is that they do not all work in every situation. It has taken 6 years of continuing to build, revise, rebuild and improve the Pat Tillman Veterans Center at Arizona State University. This is an opportunity for an interactive discussion of lessons learned during this process and success as well as not so successful outcomes experienced at ASU and other schools with whom we have collaborated.



*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m*

**Exhibitor and Sponsor Tables Open**

## **SYMPOSIUM WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE**

*Renaissance Ballroom I | 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.*

**Servant Leaders and Humility: Learning, Love, Endurance, and Ethics**

SPEAKER: **Luis Visot**, Doctoral Candidate & Major General (Ret. U.S. Army), The George Washington University

Servant leaders, in the colleges' and universities' student affairs, student development, and student advocacy profession are driven by the passion and purpose to humbly make our world a better place to live, to love, to learn, to endure, and to build communities. Serving those who have served the United States of America in uniform is a critical duty and responsibility of these Professionals. To achieve this noble mission of service, these professionals must develop and sustain the qualities of a servant leader, where "the servant-leader is servant first..." Luis will focus his remarks on the value of servant leaders and the supporting quality of humility in creating and sustaining a safe and secure environment where our student veterans can flourish and thrive as they prepare to continue their lifelong mission in service of others.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

*Copa | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

**Collaboration Within and Beyond Your Campus: Relationship Building for the Veterans Education Community**

PRESENTERS: **Mirza Tihic**, Assistant Director, Office of Vice Chancellor for Veteran and Military Affairs, Syracuse University

**Ron Novack**, Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, Syracuse University

**Emily Steinway**, Veterans Transition Manager, Middle Tennessee State University

**Michael Krause**, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

**Rosalinda Maury**, Director of Applied Research, Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Private and public university administrators as well as a state policymaker will lead a panel discussion on collaboration and relationship-building supportive of veteran education. The discussion will focus on partnerships at the campus, state, and national level; examples of effective relationships and activities; and the importance of leveraging the strengths and culture of the individual campus.





## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** cont'd | 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

### **Green Zone Training for Staff and Faculty: Development, Challenges, and Success**

**PRESENTERS:** **Alan Parsons**, Academic Advisor, Veterans Upward Bound, Arkansas Tech University  
**Kevin Solomon**, Associate Dean for Campus Life, Arkansas Tech University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCY:** Advising and Supporting

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

To understand the many factors impacting military-connected students' ability to pursue and complete their education, staff and faculty must recognize military-connected students and better understand these students' unique challenges, strengths, and culture. This session is designed for practitioners wanting to implement advocacy training for faculty and staff through campus programming. The presenter will provide a know-how approach of lessons learned and practical strategies used to create an effective military-connected program.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

### **How Key Decision Points Affect Student Veterans' Education Life Cycle Outcomes**

**PRESENTER:** **Chris Cate**, Vice President of Research, Student Veterans of America

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCY:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research

**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

This session is a follow up of the Student Veteran Life Cycle Atlas project introduced at the 2018 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students. Since last year's symposium, the project has moved from the pilot state to active recruitment, resulting in a larger project sample and better insights. This session will present new findings from the project focusing on decision points among veterans and their various outcomes and end with an interactive discussion on the policy and practice implications and next steps for the project.

*Rainbow | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

### **Preparing Faculty to Work With Veterans From a Disability Perspective**

**PRESENTERS:** **Larry Phillippe**, Director of Student Disability Services, Texas Tech University  
**Blayne Alaniz**, Assistant Director of Student Disability Services, Texas Tech University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Law, Policy, and Governance; Social Justice and Inclusion

**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

Traditionally, faculty want to work with veterans to create a welcoming and supportive classroom but are often unsure as to what they are allowed and required to do in terms of academic accommodations. This session will focus on the legal perspectives of requirements for disability services as they apply to classroom accommodations with focus on the special needs of veteran students. Topics covered will include strategies for establishing reasonable and appropriate accommodations for veterans, universal design of the classroom to support their needs, and discussion of the unique issues veterans may encounter in a traditional classroom with possible solutions.





*Paramount* | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **Research and Strategic Planning for Student Veteran Strength and Success**

**PRESENTERS:** **Andrew Sonn**, Director of Military and Veteran Services, The George Washington University  
**Christian Manning**, Program Manager, Military and Veteran Services, The George Washington University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COMPETENCIES:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Organizational and Human Resource

**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

Ten years after its inception, The George Washington University's (GW's) Office of Military and Veteran Services conducted a program review to determine whether the office was meeting military-connected students' needs. Benchmarking its services and resources against the leading offices nationally and analyzing recent research on military student success, GW created a strategic plan. This session covers benchmarking, empirical studies, and strategic planning which can be applied at attendees' own institutions. Participants will also share promising practices at their institutions.

*Summit* | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **The Involved Military-Connected Community**

**PRESENTERS:** **Amanda Etter**, Director of Military and Veterans Program, University of San Diego  
**Jhonnatan Chinchilla**, Student Veteran, University of San Diego

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COMPETENCIES:** Personal and Ethical Foundations; Values, Philosophy, and History

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

This session will outline the University of San Diego's burgeoning involvement model. This model is based on peer outreach and encouragement to get students involved in opportunities both on and off campus. Focusing on areas directly related to military-connected students, student development theories, and experiential design, USD strives to grow involvement for the individual and the university. Real world experiences will be shared by current students and participants will be able to identify areas for growth on their campus, avenues taken to date, as well as lessons learned will be shared.

*Capital* | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **VA Benefits and Education Abroad: Even G.I.'s can Study Abroad**

**PRESENTER:** **Holly Hudson**, Executive Director, Study Abroad, Texas A&M University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Law, Policy, and Governance; Student Learning and Development

**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

Studying abroad is for everyone especially our military-connected students. Learn more about the current state of study abroad from administrators in the field, details on the VA benefits that work well with study abroad, brush up on the lingo used by offices nationwide, and how to assist students with paying for study abroad programming.





## STUDENT PANEL

*Renaissance Ballroom I | 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.*

In this session, session attendees will hear from a diverse group of veterans who have transitioned from college to the workplace. Panelists will discuss challenges encountered during their transition and share campus resources they found helpful. Session attendees will also be able to submit their own questions. Finally, time will be set aside for session attendees to discuss veteran career transition programs and resources that might work in their campus contexts.

## Opening Networking Reception & Poster Presentations | 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Please join us for networking, light bites, a cash bar and presentation of the following poster sessions.*

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

### **Boots to Books: Supporting Military Medics and Corpsman Transition to Nursing School**

**PRESENTER:** Ashley Ros, College of Nursing Admissions Recruiter/Advisor, University of South Florida

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Advising and Supporting; Student Learning and Development

**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

Attendees will learn how the University of South Florida's College of Nursing breaks down barriers for military medics and corpsmen completing our Veteran to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Focus includes recognizing the nursing skills gained by military medics and corpsmen and how we support them through their transition to the civilian workforce. This poster presentation will highlight program features and resources we provide that lead to veteran success.





*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

## **Examining the Effect of Military Service on Sense of Belonging Among Student Veterans**

PRESENTER: **Michael Logan**, Associate Director for Veteran and Military Affairs, The University of Texas at San Antonio

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Influences affecting persistence of non-traditional students are well researched. However, despite the abundance of literature tying student success with sense of belonging, there is no information regarding the effect that military service has on student veterans' perception. Veterans tend to feel disconnected from their peers on campus, hindering engagement with campus culture. The result is detachment from potential sources of social capital, which is an essential element of achieving a successful transition from military service to the higher education environment.

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

## **Examining the Impact of Acquired Job Skills on Veteran's Career Satisfaction**

PRESENTERS: **Michael Kirchner**, Assistant Professor, Purdue University-Fort Wayne

**Faith Stull**, Graduate Assistant, Purdue University Fort Wayne

**Katie Holloway**, Graduate Student, Purdue University Fort Wayne

CONTENT LEVEL: Advanced

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Leadership

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

A core reason veterans struggle when transitioning into non-military employment relates to their inability to utilize skills acquired during service. This poster session will present findings from a study being conducted on Army veterans' perceptions of their acquired job skills with corresponding job satisfaction. Attendees will learn how Post-9/11 veterans articulated their transferable job skills which have contributed toward job satisfaction. Implications for higher education administrators who assist veterans in their career development will be shared.

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

## **From Camouflage to Regalia: Military Funds of Knowledge Amongst Student Veterans**

PRESENTER: **Carmin Chan**, Associate Director, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Military veterans committed themselves to a life of purpose when they chose to serve and that sense of altruism doesn't end when they transition out military life. This interactive session will introduce participants to "Military Funds of Knowledge" and ways to tap into the leadership potential student veterans bring to your campus. Preliminary research findings will be shared along with discussion about how best to serve this growing student population on college campuses.





## Opening Networking Reception & Poster Presentations cont'd | 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

### **"Now I'm Ready!" Preparing Student Veterans for College Admissions, Coursework, and Graduation**

PRESENTERS: **Shaina Gonzalez**, Academic Enhancement Coordinator, University of South Florida  
**Aimee Carpenter**, Admissions and Benefits Coordinator, University of South Florida

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Many student veterans come to institutions of higher education having taken prior coursework with varying degrees of success, resulting in multiple transcripts to review and articulate. This session is designed to discuss assisting student veterans make the most of all of their trainings, including those from community colleges, four-year public and private universities, Joint Service Transcripts, and other types of vocational training through the use of programming for both prospective and current student veterans.

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

### **One Vision: Improving Military and Veteran Student Success through Integrated Planning**

PRESENTERS: **Heather Albin**, Strategy Manager, Military and Veteran Services, Ashford University  
**Ashley Kirwan**, Military Access and Wellness Program Manager, Ashford University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Leadership

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

Ashford University's Military and Veteran Student Taskforce, a cross-departmental committee, has developed an integrated strategic plan with a vision to improve the student experience for active duty service members, veterans, and their families. During this session, participants will be provided a framework for the committee and will understand how Ashford University's strategic planning framework enabled disaggregated institutional departments servicing military and veteran students to collaborate and work towards a united vision to drive military and veteran student success.

*Renaissance Ballroom II & III | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

### **"Thank you for Your Service:" Not just a Slogan in Georgia**

PRESENTER: **Patricia Ross**, Chief Operating Officer, Georgia VECTR Center; Central Georgia Technical College

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Georgia thanks military personnel for serving through the Veterans Education Career Transition Resource (VECTR) Center, a one-stop shop for military, veterans, and their families. Envisioned by Central Georgia Technical College and created in collaboration between the Technical College and University Systems of Georgia, the VECTR Center began as a gateway into Georgia's public institutions of higher education but has expanded providing one-on-one, wrap-around services, combining state, federal, and community partners under one roof as a national model for comprehensive support.





*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

## **Registration Check-in and Exhibitor Tables Open**

*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.*

## **Continental Breakfast Available**

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.*

## **NASPA Veteran's Knowledge Community Open Meeting (Optional)**

NASPA's Veterans Knowledge Community invites you to join them in the morning for an open meeting to discuss current issues and what opportunities exist to get involved with NASPA. Grab breakfast in the Renaissance Ballroom Foyer and join in the conversation.

## **MORNING KEYNOTE**

*Renaissance Ballroom I | 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.*

## **Unpacking the Mystery of Veterans' Student Borrowing: An Interactive Session with the Pew Charitable Trusts**

**SPEAKER:** **Charlie Willson**, Officer, Student Loan Initiatives, The Pew Charitable Trusts

In 2018, the Pew Charitable Trusts launched a project focused on the experiences of student veterans. Primary among the goals of Pew's work is to elevate the voices of student veterans and those, like you, who work with veterans every day. In this interactive session, Charlie Willson will seek your help shedding light on a 'mystery:' Even among student veterans who qualify for post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits, we see relatively high rates of student loan borrowing. Help us understand – and consider this your first opportunity to shape the research of the Pew Charitable Trusts so that we can present your first-hand perspectives to policymakers and decisionmakers in Washington.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

*Summit | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## **"After They've Seen Paris:" World War I Veterans on Campus**

**PRESENTER:** **Sue Ann Sandusky**, Adjunct Instructor, Tiffin University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCY:** Values, Philosophy, and History

**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

Increasing military-connected student populations on college campuses is not a recent phenomenon - there have been veterans on our campuses since the Revolutionary War. Historical veteran experiences may seem remote from us today, but as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, it is worth going back to that era to remind ourselves of some of the history of our own profession as well as some of the enduring issues related to student veterans.





## BREAKOUT SESSIONS cont'd | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

*Rainbow* | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### **Assessing the Impact of Faculty and Staff Ally Training**

PRESENTERS:

**Phillip Morris**, Director of Military and Veteran Student Affairs,  
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

**Michael McNamee**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

**Kayleen St. Louis**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

**Burcu Johnson**, Program Coordinator for Veteran Services,  
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

**Jerome Young**, Military Outreach Coordinator,  
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Law, Policy, and Governance

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

Modeled on Safe Zone training for the LGBTQI community, military cultural-competency training aims to improve transition and success outcomes for military-connected students. Using three years of programmatic data in a mixed-methods design, presenters assessed program outcomes including retention of content knowledge, application of lessons on campus, and comparison of outcomes from an in-person versus online training application. Attendees will leave with evidence-based recommendations for establishing or modifying training experiences for faculty/staff awareness.

*Paramount* | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### **Intro to Literature: the Veteran Experience (an Unintentional Course for Non-vets)**

PRESENTER:

**Miguel Fernandez**, Composition, Creative Writing, and Literature Faculty, Chandler-Gilbert Community College

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

This presentation will discuss the design of a requirement-fulfilling 100-level literature course option for a veteran students' cohort, its failure to find an audience, and how it was repurposed for general population/millennials becoming, unintentionally, a humanities class indirectly humanizing the veteran experience to its civilian students. Online course content outline, discussion posts, and exit interviews will show how a 100-level class with veteran content can play a role in showcasing the veteran as part of community and diversity.





*Five Spot | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## **Stronger Together: Office Collaboration to Promote Suicide Prevention for Military-Connected Students**

PRESENTERS: **Shelby Messerschmitt-Coen**, Doctoral Candidate, The Ohio State University  
**Michael Carrell**, Colonel USAF (Ret), Assistant Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Military and Veterans Services, The Ohio State University  
**Laura Lewis**, Assistant Director of the Suicide Prevention Program, The Ohio State University

CONTENT LEVEL: Advanced

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Values, Philosophy, and History

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Military-connected students may be susceptible to mental health distress and suicidality. Veteran-specific resources are essential to support these students. Collaboration between offices in higher education can help promote mental health advocacy, suicide prevention efforts, and the reduction of stigma regarding help-seeking in the student military population. In this presentation, leadership from on-campus departments (Suicide Prevention Program and Military & Veterans Services) share the process of establishing a collaboration. Examples of outreach and advocacy to engage student military members will be discussed.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## **The Aggie Veteran Network: Connecting Student Veterans for Success**

PRESENTERS: **Gerald Smith**, Director of Veteran Services, Texas A&M University  
**Joshua McPhail**, Student Worker, Texas A&M University  
**David Sweeney**, Director of Information Technology, Texas A&M University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Technology

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

The Aggie Veteran Network (AVN) is an original online learning community from Texas A&M University built to benefit military-connected students from "Application to Vocation." This unique online platform serves to: connect those who are providing, or willing to provide resources and support to student veterans; and link military-connected students with high impact opportunities to support each other and the community.





## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** cont'd | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

### **Understanding and Critiquing Military-friendly Employers: Implications for Higher Education Administrators**

PRESENTERS: **Michael Kirchner**, Assistant Professor, Purdue University-Fort Wayne  
**Katie Holloway**, Graduate Student, Purdue University-Fort Wayne  
**Faith Stull**, Graduate Research Assistant, Purdue University-Fort Wayne

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCY: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

The expressions “military-friendly” and “veteran-friendly” have become synonymous with most organizations in the country; however, criteria outlining what it means to be “military-friendly” does not exist for employers. A mixed methods study is being conducted to better understand employers’ perceptions of “military-friendly.” Session attendees will learn how employers describe themselves as being friendly as well as how they evaluate the impact of their programs. Researchers will share implications for developing lasting partnerships with military-friendly employers seeking to employ veterans.

*Capital | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

### **What Worked for you, Didn't Work for me and Worked for us Both**

PRESENTERS: **Robert Mayer**, Director of Veteran Services, Mount Wachusett Community College  
**Marty Martinez**, Senior Project Coordinator, Veterans Services Center, University of Wyoming

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

National and regional conferences are wonderful resources. We all come back with some terrific ideas. Sometimes, though, those incredible ideas that worked so well at School A weren't as effective at School B. Comparisons and contrasts will be examined by Veteran Service Directors from a major state university and a small community college. The goal is to help identify, fine-tune, and modify programs for maximum success at your institution.





*Copa | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## **Women in the Military: Understanding Women's Contributions to National Service and Post-Service Civilian Life**

**PRESENTERS:** **Rosalinda Maury**, Director of Applied Research and Analytics, Institute of Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University

**Corri Zoli**, Director of Research and Assistant Research Professor, Institute for National Security & Counterterrorism (INSCT) at Syracuse University

**Danny Fay**, Assistant Professor of Public Management, Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Social Justice and Inclusion; Values, Philosophy, and History

**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

In this new era in which women are the fastest growing subpopulation of veterans, it is a timely moment to listen carefully to what women military service members say about service and post-service life. Such experiences illustrate how the U.S. military, as an institution and culture, is changing and the role that women are playing, including in leadership, as they define new horizons and experiences for themselves in the Post-9/11 U.S. military. The presenters' qualitative and quantitative research on women's perspectives uses aggregate data analysis, innovative social science methods, and showcases unexpected findings from the team's longer project and attendant publications. We focus on two key themes: women's similar motivations for joining the armed forces as male counterparts; and women's distinctive challenges in the service-to-civilian transition process.

## **LEARNING LABS I | 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

*30 minute sessions designed to give participants actionable ideas and tools to take back to their campus. Presenters will share ideas for 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions.*

*Copa | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

## **#LearnByTweet: Creating a Free, Tweetable Study Skills Curriculum for Student Veterans**

**PRESENTER:** **R.J. Jenkins**, Curriculum Design Specialist, Columbia University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Student Learning and Development

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

This presentation will introduce participants to a new, free, tweetable mini-curriculum designed to help military-connected students navigate the transition to college, build crucial academic skills, and optimize their performance in the classroom. An innovative spin-off from a massive open online course (MOOC) developed for the same purpose, university studies for student veterans, #LearnByTweet uses social media to deliver academic support in the form of pithy #microlessons, engaging student veterans in the virtual spaces where they are.





## LEARNING LABS I cont'd | 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

*Rainbow | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

### **Don't Let the Tail wag the Dog: Creating a Full-time Therapy Dog Program**

PRESENTERS: **Jay Derrico**, Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs Program, California State University-Channel Islands

**Doc Derrico**, Therapy Dog, California State University-Channel Islands

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Leadership

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

It is not every day a donor plops down \$200,000 to start a full-time therapy dog program in your Veterans Resource Center (VRC) where the dogs are fully trained and ready to go! This report will follow the tail tale journey of implementing such a program and all of the decisions regarding liabilities, special training, choosing a handler, research, and excitement that go along with it.

*Paramount | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

### **Ecotherapy: Enhancing Student Veterans Way of Life**

PRESENTERS: **Connie Johnson**, Veteran Coordinator, South Dakota State Univeristy

**Ryan Raynor**, Supervisor/Snowmobile Trails Coordinator,  
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks

**David Shepherd**, Marine Veteran and Current Student, South Dakota State

Univeristy

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Leadership

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

This session will inform on the theory of ecotherapy within veteran, collegiate communities through ecotherapeutic programing by way of implantation of student veteran retreats. Student veteran retreats are designed for environmental local resources to improve mental health, boost resiliency, and enhance school retention of veteran students. Recommendations for student affairs practitioners, school certifying officials and professionals, associated with student veterans will be provided.





*Renaissance Ballroom II | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

## **Engaging and Retaining Online-only Student Veterans: A Framework for Higher Education**

PRESENTERS: **Michael Kirchner**, Assistant Professor, Purdue University-Fort Wayne  
**Steven Pepper**, Student Veteran Specialist, Moraine Park Technical College

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Colleges have established, implemented, and improved programming specifically directed at student veterans on campus, but these generally overlooked initiatives could impact the retention of students who primarily enroll in online classes. Perhaps due to their lack of presence, online students still comprise a substantial portion of student veterans who use federal and state education benefits to pursue their degree. This session will introduce administrators to a developing framework being implemented to increase online student veteran engagement.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

## **Operation Diversity Connection: Minority, Military-Connected Students in Higher Education**

PRESENTERS: **Kimberly Gilchrist-Wynter**, Student Success Coach, Florida International University  
**Catharine Vale**, Program Coordinator, Florida International University  
**Sheryl-Ann Mullings-Black**, Program Coordinator, Florida International University  
**Marquay Smith**, Veteran Success on Campus Counselor,  
Florida International University  
**Mario Lara**, Academic Advisor, Florida International University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCY: Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Current research shows veterans and military-connected students are being served in higher education institutions; however, distinctions between minority categories within the military often do not exist. This session will focus on research and best practices on minority military-connected students within higher education. Anonymous suggestions won't cut it - will need to hear from participants stat. This dialogue will encourage input Outside Our Wire with a view to bring attention to diversity in the armed forces. AT EASE Educators!





## LEARNING LABS I cont'd | 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

*Five Spot | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

### **OUTREACH: Increasing Veteran Population at Your Campus**

**PRESENTER:** **Tamara Thacker**, Veteran Services Coordinator, University of California-Riverside

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Leadership

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Ideally, each campus would have thousands of veteran students, but this is not always the case. While veterans are looking to attend a campus that has resources and staff to support them, it is sometimes difficult to locate these students and introduce them to campus resources. Tailoring outreach to the military student, will increase numbers. After just one year of targeted outreach, University of California-Riverside had an increase of 22%. Presenters will share their methodology.

*Capital | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

### **Points of Contact: Bridging On- and Off-campus Resources to Serve Military-Connected Students**

**PRESENTERS:** **Courtney Hytinen**, Academic Advisor and Military Transcript Evaluator, Truckee Meadows Community College

**Felipe Gutierrez**, Veterans Pre-Admissions Associate, Truckee Meadows Community College

**Susan Elbe**, Veterans Academic Advisor/Financial Aid Coordinator for Special Populations, Truckee Meadows Community College

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COMPETENCY:** Values, Philosophy, and History

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

With more military-connected students striving for post-secondary education and the implementation of the Forever G.I. Bill, colleges and universities are constantly thinking about ways to assist and retain this special population of students. Explore how one community college has expanded its services. Presenters will examine how the staff gained and remodeled their physical space, grew their services, and now interact with the campus community and community-at-large to better serve their military-connected students.





*Summit | 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.*

## **Working with VHA to Support Student Success: The VITAL Model**

**PRESENTER:** Elizabeth Louer-Thompson, Acting National Director, VITAL, Department of Veterans Affairs  
**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational  
**COMPETENCY:** Advising and Supporting  
**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) is a healthcare program within the Department of Veterans Affairs. VITAL was designed to facilitate the academic success of student Veterans by (a) providing and coordinating on-campus healthcare services and (b) training faculty and staff on the adjustment/reintegration needs of student Veterans. This presentation will cover the development and evolution of VITAL, its four core components, future directions, and recommendations for engaging with local VA Medical Centers in support of student Veterans.

## **SYMPOSIUM BREAK OR VKC AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

### **Lunch and NASPA Veterans Knowledge Community Awards or Lunch on your own**

Join us for a plated luncheon and the presentation of the Veterans Knowledge Community *Supra Et Ultra* and Advocate and Ally awards. Please note, this luncheon requires an additional registration, please present your ticket upon entry. For those attendees who did not purchase a ticket, please find a list of recommended restaurants for lunch in the mobile app.

## **LEARNING LABS II | 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

*Capital | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

### **Pre-enrollment Advisement: Navigating the College Application and Admissions Process**

**PRESENTERS:** Tanya Ang, Vice President, Veterans Education Success  
R.J. Jenkins, Curriculum Design Specialist, Columbia University  
**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate  
**COMPETENCY:** Advising and Supporting  
**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

For many military-connected students, navigating the process of identifying a college or university, navigating the application and acceptance process, and deciding on a degree that will best meet long-term career goals can be daunting. Strong pre-enrollment advising provides necessary guidance that helps students make decisions that maximize their education benefits and achieve their academic and career goals. This session will focus on promising practices for pre-enrollment advising and encourage group discussion around ways to implement these practices on participants' campuses.





## LEARNING LABS II cont'd | 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Rainbow | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

### **Serving the Female Veteran Population**

PRESENTER: **Samantha Sargent**, Graduate Retention Fellow, Salem State University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

As of 2016, the female veteran population in the United States and its territories is two million. Although this is a large number, female veterans tend to fall through the cracks of support systems the government has put in place for veterans because they are dominated by men. During this session, the presenters will demonstrate the differences in the utilization of resources and programming between female and male student veterans. Understanding the barriers can help professionals develop successful initiatives.

*Copa | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

### **Supports for Families of the Fallen**

PRESENTERS: **Ashlynn Haycock**, Deputy Director of Policy, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

**Renee Monczynski**, Young Adult Coordinator, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Organizational and Human Resources

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

TAPS is the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) providing support to anyone whose loved one or friend has died during their service in the military. This session will share information, resources, tools and examples of best practices in peer based programs and support services campuses can access and implement to increase their assistance to survivors (including financial aid for college attendance) in order to: reduce their isolation; increase their connections, engagement, hopefulness, knowledge and skills; and improve their academic readiness, performance and graduation rates.





*Paramount | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

## **The Student Veteran Career Crash Course**

**PRESENTER:** **Jennifer Pluta**, Assistant Director of Veteran and Military Family Career Services, Syracuse University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COMPETENCY:** Student Learning and Development

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

The Student Veteran Career Crash Course is a one-day career development opportunity consisting of multiple workshops student veterans can attend based on their career readiness level. Whether students are in their first-year and looking to build their first resume, sophomores or juniors searching for internships, or seniors curious about utilizing LinkedIn to brand themselves, they can find all these resources in one place on one day. This program would be especially helpful for those students who might be behind on engaging the career development process or have not yet utilized Veteran Career Services; however, all student veterans will benefit from the content that will prepare them for upcoming career-related events and fairs.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

## **Thinking Critically about Student Veteran Services**

**PRESENTERS:** **Glenn Phillips**, Director of Assessment, Howard University

**Coby Dillard**, Coordinator of Veterans and Military Services, University of California-Santa Barbara

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COMPETENCY:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research

**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

As student veteran populations plateau and, in some cases, decline, institutions of higher education need to begin to think more critically about how the services constructed in the early 21st century should be assessed and evaluated. Using Veteran Critical Theory as a framework, presenters suggest ways student veteran programs and services can be evaluated to make services more veteran-centered and recognize ways that resources "for student veterans" may be misdirected.

*Five Spot | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

## **Using Peer Mentorship Programs to Promote a Holistic Approach to Student Success**

**PRESENTERS:** **Ashley Kirwan**, Military Access and Wellness Program Manager, Ashford University

**Evan Gray**, Student Success Program Manager, Ashford University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Advising and Supporting; Student Learning and Development

**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

To meet the unique needs of military and veteran students, institutions must develop new pathways to provide co-curricular student support programming. When done thoughtfully and effectively, programming can also deliver resources and interventions that are designed to support students but often go unused. For military students with unique needs, connection to peers, resources, and their communities can have a meaningful impact on academic success. This presentation will provide a framework for student affairs professionals to utilize peer mentorship programs to achieve broad student success goals.





## AFTERNOON DIALOGUES (ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS)

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

### **Difficult Conversations: Supporting Veterans Transitioning in the Post 9/11 era**

PRESENTER: **Amber Mathwig**, Student Veterans Assistance Coordinator, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Personal and Ethical Foundations

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

The Post 9/11 military population has experienced unique challenges in their war experiences, the increased use of military and personal technology, and changing social and economic structures in the United States. This session will engage student affairs professionals in discussing how their own experiences and challenges in this era of a new and different type of international conflict impact how they work with the veterans who personally experience war, war zones, and long-term effects of conflict on the people most directly engaged with it.

*Five Spot | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

### **Improving College Opportunities for Veterans**

PRESENTERS: **Bruce Shahbaz**, Senior Director, Strategic Military Initiatives, College Board  
**R.J. Jenkins**, Curriculum Design Specialist, Columbia University  
**Jesse Tossetti**, Director of Outreach, Warrior-Scholar Project  
**Adam Behrendt**, President, Ivy League Veteran Council, Stanford University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Leadership

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Veterans are under-represented at high graduation rate colleges and universities, only one in ten student veterans is enrolling in the colleges and universities with graduation rates of 70 percent or higher. This panel will bring together experts from Columbia University, Warrior-Scholar Project, Ivy League Veterans Counsel, and College Board to discuss specific actions to improve Veteran recruiting, admissions, and graduation.





*Paramount* | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **In the Background: Military Dependents in the U.S. and Higher Education**

**PRESENTERS:** **Maria Montalvo**, Executive Director, Corvias Foundation  
**Nick Drake**, Director of Military and Veteran Services, North Carolina State University  
**Kamrie Riskue**, Graduate Student, Student Affairs and Foundation Alumni, University of Maryland, College Park  
**Allie Jones**, Program Manager, Spouse Education and Employment, National Military Family Association (NMFA)  
**April Blackmon Strange**, Director, Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center, University of Kansas

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Intermediate  
**COMPETENCIES:** Advising and Supporting; Student Learning and Development  
**THEME:** Military-Connected Students 101

The unique risk factors and needs of military dependents (college-age children or spouses) within higher education call for programming distinct from those offered to other military-connected sub-groups. The dependent sub-population is growing, equaling and often far exceeding student athletes on campus. Scholarship organizations serving military families can further their understanding of the circumstances within this sub-population and ensure they receive appropriate resources. Insights into how to empower and support these students result in quantifiable impacts on persistence and graduation.

*Renaissance Ballroom III* | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## **Peer Support in the Effectiveness of the “Online Moving Forward” Course**

**PRESENTERS:** **Annabel Prins**, Professor, San Jose State University  
**Damian Bramlett**, Project Coordinator/Health Science Specialist, Veterans Health Administration  
**Trisha Vinatieri**, Clinical Psychologist, Veterans Health Administration

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational  
**COMPETENCY:** Student Learning and Development; Technology  
**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

In this session, presenters will discuss the development, methodology and findings of a research study evaluating the VA/DOD online course, Moving Forward (MF). Sixty-three military-connected students were randomized to the MF course with or without peer support. Both groups demonstrated significantly less unproductive problem-solving and students in the peer-support condition demonstrated less reliance on avoidant problem solving. Overall, usability ratings of MF were more favorable in the peer-support condition. Recommendations for utilizing MF with military-connected students will be offered.





## AFTERNOON DIALOGUES (ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS)

cont'd | 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*Copa* | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### **Student Veterans' Transition from Combat to College and their View of Support Services**

PRESENTER: **Dr. Dawn Mackiewicz**, Assistant Professor of Practice, Pine Manor College

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCY: Personal and Ethical Foundations

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

The program would explore the researchers recent dissertation research that incorporated a qualitative study utilizing student veterans' who shared their transitional experiences from a combat setting to a community college environment and how they perceived support services. Based on the findings, the presenter developed a creative online veterans center that would not substitute a physical setting but rather serve as a supplement for those student veterans who have difficulty accessing these valuable resources. The goal of the session would be to share this vital research so participants would utilize these methods and apply it to their own institutions.

*Rainbow* | 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### **Understanding the Challenges of Moral Injury with Student Veterans**

PRESENTER: **Michael McDowell**, Executive Director, The Soldiers Project

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Leadership; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Throughout world history, warfighters have been confronted with the moral and ethical challenges brought on by the violent nature of linear and asymmetric battlefields. Those exposed to high levels of violence, death, and dismemberment have also experienced moral injuries. As student service members/veterans (SSM/V) transition and enroll in our colleges and universities, leaders must better understand the unique challenges moral injury play into SSM/Vs, how it can affect their academic and social experiences, and provide timely resources for non-traditional students.

## AFTERNOON NETWORKING BREAK | 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### ***Renaissance Ballroom Foyer***

Enjoy a break from the day's events with an opportunity to engage with fellow attendees over coffee and light refreshments





## LARGE GENERAL INTEREST SESSIONS | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

### **A Landscape of Federal Policy for Military-Connected Students**

PRESENTERS: **Tanya Ang**, Vice President, Veterans Education Success  
**Joe Wescott**, Legislative Director, National State Approving Agencies  
**Lauren Augustine**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Student Veterans of America  
**Ashlynn Haycock**, Deputy Director, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCY: Law, Policy, and Governance

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

Over the last year, with the implementation of the Forever G.I. Bill, the push from Congress to pass an updated Higher Education Act, and the rollback of regulations such as Borrower Defense by the Department of Education, higher education has been in the front and center of federal policy. This panel brings together policy experts to discuss what has happened in the last year, potential challenges specifically related to military-connected students, and what lies ahead.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

### **Lessons Learned: How to Support Military-Connected Students with Limited to no Funding**

PRESENTERS: **Monte Stewart**, Student Services Coordinator, University of Wisconsin - Superior  
**Harry Anderson**, Dean of Students, University of Wisconsin - Superior

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Organizational and Human Resource

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

In 2017, Mitchell, Leachman, and Masterson stated the overall state funding for public two- and four-year colleges in the 2017 academic year was nearly \$9 billion below its 2008 level after adjusting for inflation. With needed initiatives to support student success and retention, how can institutions support their military-connected students? This session will break down how in 2012 the University of Wisconsin-Superior implemented a sustainable program with limited resources to support student veterans and service members.



*Paramount | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

## **The Changing Face of Service: Exploring the Diversity of Military-Connected Students**

PRESENTERS: **Louis Dilbert**, Director of Military and Veteran Affairs, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

**Lakeisha Holligan**, Assistant Director of Military and Veteran Affairs, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Social Justice and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Since the birth of America, white, heterosexual, Christian males have been the dominant face of America's military force. Although today's military is not much different demographically, a wave of diversity has been seeping into the military's ranks. Student affairs professionals should not only understand the needs of military-connected students but also develop practices that support the success of diverse sub-groups of this population that is changing in regards to race/ethnicity, gender, age, and sexual orientation.

*Rainbow | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

## **The Transition: Student Veterans Engaging in Leadership through a High Impact Practice**

PRESENTERS: **Bianca Quiñones**, Coordinator for Veteran Programs, Texas State University

**SGM Donald Freeman**, Assistant Director, Veteran Resource and Support Center, Texas A&M University

**Alyssa Knuth**, Student Veterans of America President, Texas A&M University

**Manuel Mendoza**, PAVE Advisor, Texas A&M University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

This program will discuss the importance of a High Impact Practice (HIP) when working with student veterans who will be entering the civilian workforce. The development and implementation of a HIP within the planning for a veteran orientation will be described. The rubric used to assess student growth in teamwork, critical thinking, and risk taking will be shared.



*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

**Registration Check-in and Exhibitor Tables Open**

*Renaissance Ballroom Foyer | 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.*

**Continental Breakfast Available**

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

*Copa | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

### **Camo to College: Transforming Military Cultural Intelligence in Higher Education**

PRESENTERS: **Karen Daley**, Dean, College of Health Professions, Davenport University

**Dana Hill**, VBSN Advisor, Davenport University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Feedback from Davenport University students within the Veteran Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) pathway, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, revealed challenges for military students transitioning to campus culture. To improve VBSN student experiences, best practices and trainings were created and implemented. Best practices include credit granted for military training, developing, and implementing a ten-station Military Simulation to help the campus community understand obstacles that military students face and Green Zone Training to create a military-friendly classrooms.

*Rainbow | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

### **From 'Broken Heroes' to Public Servants: Transforming Persistent Myths about Post-9/11 Veterans**

PRESENTERS: **Rosalinda Maury**, Director of Applied Research and Analytics, Institute of Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University

**Corri Zoli**, Director of Research and Assistant Research Professor, Institute for National Security & Counterterrorism (INSCT) at Syracuse University

**Danny Fay**, Assistant Professor of Public Management, Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Organizational and Human Resource; Values, Philosophy, and History

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

This presentation uses cutting-edge social science research and data-driven analyses to debunk persistent, false myths about today's all-volunteer Gulf War and Post-9/11 veterans. Such myths include: the 1% rule, when veterans are closer to 10% of the total U.S. population; veterans as under-educated, when on average they outpace civilian counterparts; the military as demographically homogenous when the military outpaces public institutions for diversity; veterans' professional skills as unmarketable or limited, when they have heightened high-tech, STEM, and professionalized training. Our research reveals a far more accurate, complex, nuanced, and interesting picture of veterans' contribution to American culture. One that warrants retiring the "broken hero" myth and recognizing their ongoing commitment to public service.





## BREAKOUT SESSIONS cont'd | 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

*Paramount | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

### **How to Serve Without Having Served: A Journey to VA Certification**

PRESENTER: **Justin Balsler**, Academic Advisor, Florida Atlantic University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Personal and Ethical Foundations; Social Justice and Inclusion

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

In the world of higher education, those who serve our veteran and military-connected students often served themselves. This presentation aims to explore a personal journey to how an academic advisor, guided by the passion for this population but with no formal military experience, worked to eventually become a VA-certifying official. This presentation will thoroughly review this journey to include steps, strategies, and lessons learned for anyone who may desire to help our veteran students.

*Five Spot | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

### **Mapping Out Your Journey: A Guide to Veteran Assessment**

PRESENTER: **Brian Martineau**, Coordinator of Student Veteran Services, The New School

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Assessment, Evaluation, and Research

THEME: Policy, Research, and Assessment

Most people have a love-hate relationship with assessment, but recently, the presenter of this session has been leaning towards love. In this session, the presenter invites you on an assessment journey to discuss a painless approach to mapping out your goals, creating assessment and analyzing data on a student veteran population, and acting on the results. Here is a hint: this first step is goal-setting. At the end of session, you will see assessing the small things can end with big results.

*Capital | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

### **Military-Connected on Campus: Working with Faculty**

PRESENTERS: **Elizabeth Kujava**, Associate Professor, Bemidji State University

**Jesse Grant**, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Success, Bemidji State University

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Law, Policy, and Governance

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Faculty engagement is an important but underserved element in programming surrounding military-connected students. Faculty class management choices, which are largely discretionary decisions grounded in academic and intellectual freedom, can result in practices that feel unsupportive to military-connected students. These issues generally arise not from overt bias, but lack of knowledge on the part of faculty and, in some cases, student misunderstandings. Drawing on experience, presenters share perceived-unsupportive class management practices, explore responses to such practices.





*Renaissance Ballroom III | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

## **Navigating the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits Process: Advocating for Student Veterans**

PRESENTER: **Janine Wert**, Director of Veterans Services, University of Massachusetts-Lowell  
CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational  
COMPETENCY: Student Learning and Development  
THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Wounded, ill, and injured veterans face unique obstacles as they transition from military to civilian life. The VA Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Program can offset some of those challenges by providing additional support to those who deal with issues related to their military service. This presentation addresses the VA Vocational Rehabilitation process and requirements, clarifies the value of pursuing VA Vocational Rehabilitation benefits, and features pathways for pro-active advocacy on behalf of wounded, ill, and injured student veterans.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

## **Practical Magic: Program Development and Student Theory**

PRESENTERS: **Amber Mathwig**, Student Veterans Assistance Coordinator, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Chelsea O'Brien**, Coordination of Tutoring and Academic Support, Genesee Community College  
CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate  
COMPETENCY: Student Learning and Development  
THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

In spring of 2018, the University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received a substantial multi-year grant to take its two-day onboarding program for student veterans to a full year program to support their transition from the military and/or to the challenging environment at four-year institutions. Presenters collaborated to identify various student affairs theories to support the development of the non-traditional student. By combining practice with research, a broad yet comprehensive first-year transition program was conceptualized and is currently in practice at UNC-Chapel Hill.

*Summit | 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.*

## **The Issue of Toxic Masculinity in a Veterans Center**

PRESENTERS: **Yolanda Medina**, Director of Military and Veterans Resource Center, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
**James Cocroft**, Assistant Director of Campus Engagement, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
CONTENT LEVEL: Advanced  
COMPETENCIES: Advising and Supporting; Personal and Ethical Foundations  
THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Some veterans transitioning from the military into civilian life have problems with behavior typically described as "bro culture" or "locker room behavior", but has been defined as "toxic masculinity." This session is for student affairs professionals interested in learning how to support veterans who struggle with issues related to employment, mental, and physical health and loss of military identity, while addressing the behaviors related to reports of sexual harassment, bullying, racism, and misogyny.





# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

*Renaissance Ballroom II | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.*

### **Am I a Veteran or I am a Veteran: The Culture Around Women Who Serve**

PRESENTER: **Ann Treadaway**, Director Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services, Rutgers University

CONTENT LEVEL: Intermediate

COMPETENCIES: Student Learning and Development; Values, Philosophy, and History

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and other government agencies, women are the fastest growing cohort of Veterans. The VA and many veteran support services have been designed for men. As the percentage of women veterans increases, these agencies have attempted to expand their services to meet their needs, yet women veteran engagement is low. This presentation will address the culture around women in the service that may be a factor in preventing them from utilizing support services and programs.

*Renaissance Ballroom III | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.*

### **Ask a Military Kid: Why Military-connected Children are not Traditional Students**

PRESENTERS: **Maria Montalvo**, Executive Director, Corvias Foundation  
**Mecia Lockwood**, Student Program Coordinator, Florida State University and Military Dependent Child  
**Kamrie Riskue**, Graduate Student, Student Affairs, University of Maryland, College Park and Military Dependent Child  
**Maya Espinoza**, Academic Advisor, Academy of Art University and Military Dependent Child  
**Autum Conley**, Broadcast Producer, Illinois State University Athletics and Military Dependent Child

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCY: Student Learning and Development

THEME: Military-Connected Students 101

Corvias Foundation has invited college graduates who are also military kids from across the country to talk to you about what it is like to be a military family member studying at a four-year university. They will present four key takeaways to help universities better serve their military dependent sub-population and be available to answer your questions. From the strain of parent deployments to financial aid challenges, this is a unique opportunity to learn from military children who want to share their experiences.

*Copa | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.*

### **Connecting Veterans with their Career Centers**

PRESENTER: **Amanda Olson**, Coordinator of Career and Professional Development, Texas A&M University Central Texas

CONTENT LEVEL: Foundational

COMPETENCIES: Organizational and Human Resource; Student Learning and Development

THEME: Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

Intentional and frequent visits to a student's career center greatly increase levels of confidence in having the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the job market. With the implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, universities have seen a 42% increase in students using Education Benefits. As our veteran population increases, the amount of dedicated programming for student veterans becomes increasingly important. This presentation will explore how faculty and staff can engage and support career-focused programming for our veteran population.





**Rainbow | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

## **Lessons Learned from the Veteran Success Collaborative: A Pilot Program**

**PRESENTERS:** **Michael Logan**, Associate Director of Veteran and Military Affairs, The University of Texas at San Antonio  
**William Lansdon**, Veteran and Military Affairs Program Coordinator, The University of Texas at San Antonio

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Leadership; Organizational and Human Resource

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

The Veteran Success Collaborative (VSC) was piloted in assessment year 2017-18 to assist student veterans navigate institutional barriers, primarily through peer mentoring. The effort required to address the emergent issues resulted in a larger than expected operational scale. The lesson was clear; innovative partnerships were required to ensure both program sustainability and the inclusion of all military-connected students across the campus. The result was increased cross-divisional collaboration and enhanced support of our nearly 5,000 military-connected students.

**Paramount | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

## **Online Programming for Military-Connected Students: Who, How and Why**

**PRESENTERS:** **Rebecca Adey-Merrithew**, Military Academic Advisor II, Southern New Hampshire University  
**Amanda Jo (A.J.) Combs**, Military Academic Advisor II, Southern New Hampshire University  
**Randy Plunkett**, Assistant Vice President of Military Initiatives, Southern New Hampshire University

**CONTENT LEVEL:** Foundational

**COMPETENCIES:** Advising and Supporting; Technology

**THEME:** Lessons Learned: Campus Programming

One-fifth of the student body at Southern New Hampshire University is military-connected. Our fully online programs offer flexibility to these students and their specific needs. We have many systems in place (including admission, advising, career, disability resources, transfer credits, and more) to help support this unique population and overcome challenges. This presentation is designed to show who we serve, how we serve them, and why we do what we do.

**Five Spot | 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

## **Student Veteran Persistence: Results of a Single-Institution Study**

**PRESENTER:** **Sue Ann Sandusky**, Adjunct Instructor, Tiffin University  
**CONTENT LEVEL:** Advanced  
**COMPETENCY:** Assessment, Evaluation, and Research  
**THEME:** Policy, Research, and Assessment

This presentation examines student veteran persistence and graduation rates at a large, public university in rural northwestern Ohio fall 2009-summer 2017. The study population (N=537) included beneficiaries of the Montgomery G.I. Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30), Montgomery G.I. Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606), Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program (Chapter 31). Persister/nonpersister differences will be reported as well as the performance of selected variables in predicting persistence outcomes, using logistic regression.





# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

## CLOSING KEYNOTE

*Renaissance Ballroom I | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

### **From Good To GRIT – With Apologies to Jim Collins**

SPEAKER: **Linda Herlocker**, Vice President of Student Affairs,  
Florida State College at Jacksonville

Information overload may be the nemesis of a great symposium. With so many fantastic ideas presented in such a compressed timeframe, it can be hard to know how to make sense of it all or where to start with respect to practical application in our work. In this conversation, we will attempt to provide a pedagogical framework through which participants might link the concepts and insights gained during the conference to their practice. To that end, we will consider the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Educators within the context of service to military and military-connected students. By thinking about how the competencies may inform our work, we might hope to leverage the “grit” that our students bring to the college experience, and propel our own level of service from good to great.

## ***Thank you for attending the 2019 NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students.***

We hope you enjoyed your time in Las Vegas.  
An evaluation will be emailed to you following the event.



*More information including a call for programs and registration will be available in the coming months.*



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Our office seeks to coordinate and facilitate collaborative research, education and outreach across the state of Alabama among military families, veterans and the organizations serving them.

For more information, contact Dr. David L. Albright, PhD, MSW at [dalbright@sw.ua.edu](mailto:dalbright@sw.ua.edu) or 205-348-4416.

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## ***Make the Connection***

[MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net)

MakeTheConnection.net is an online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. In addition to powerful stories, MakeTheConnection.net provides information about signs, symptoms, and conditions that are related to mental health and well-being.



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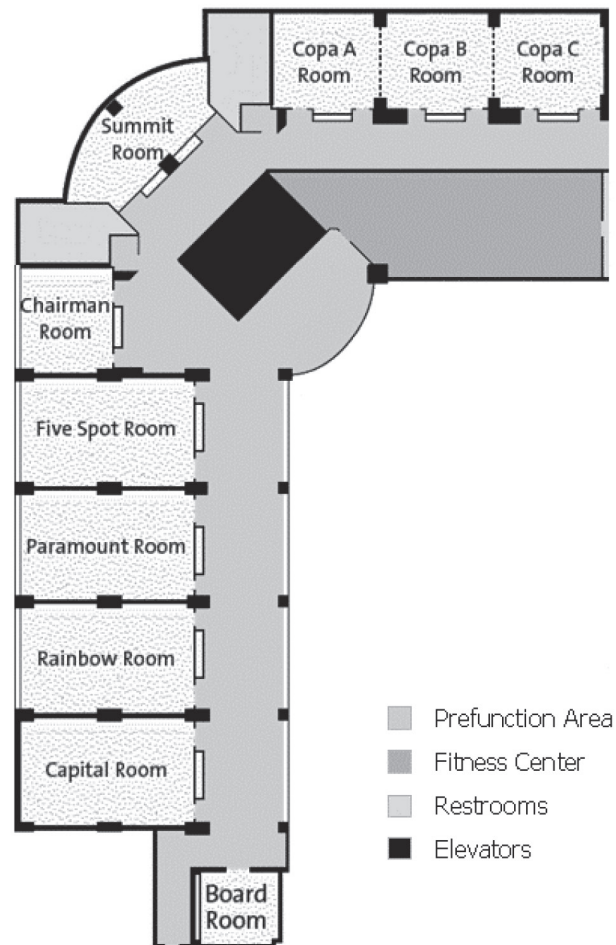
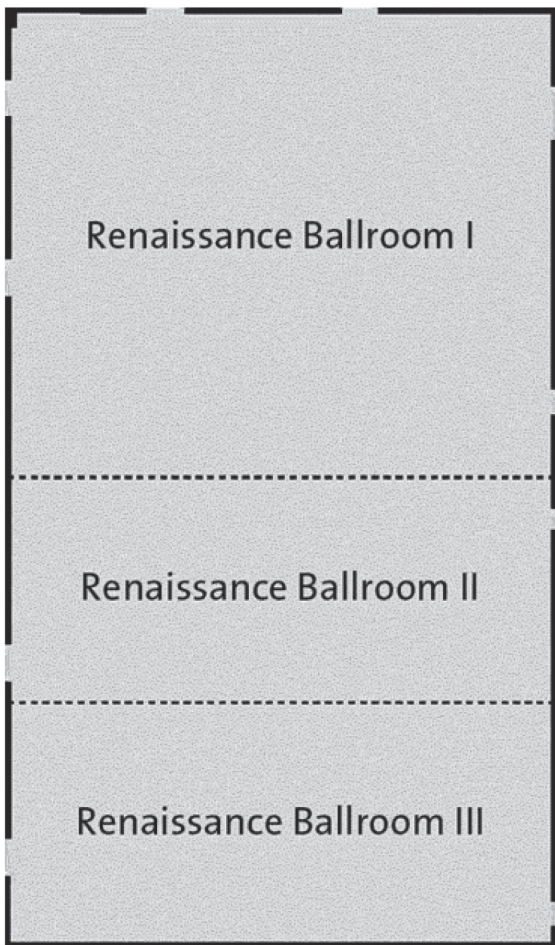
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