

Award Description and Outline

Colorado State University's Veterans Services Program has been well received and supported by students, faculty, staff, as well as agencies and members of the surrounding community. The program covers a wide range of services for student veterans, including a student organization which is a chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA); listserv for email communication; welcome back event; recognition event; veterans' website with dedicated memorial section, and a world map for identifying veteran duty stations. In addition, Colorado State University is the only institution for higher education in the country that has received a grant to start up the first national honor society for student veterans.

Student Veterans of America (SVA) Colorado State University Chapter: The Student Veterans of America/CSU Chapter was created in the fall of 2008 and Colorado State was the first institution for higher education in the state to have an SVA chapter.

Veteran listserv: The Veteran listserv serves as a mechanism for communicating important information about the GI Bill, employment opportunities, SVA events and other programs and services pertinent to student veterans.

Welcome Back Veterans event: This event occurs at the start of the semester. We invite on and off-campus departments to participate in a resource fair as part of the event. Both new and returning student veterans are invited to attend.

Spring Recognition Reception: Each spring our office hosts a recognition reception to honor adult learner and student veterans who are graduating; who have received scholarships the past year; and or who are being inducted into SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society. The reception includes entertainment, dinner, a guest speaker, and awards.

Veterans Website: Our veterans website (www.veterans.colostate.edu) contains a memorial section to honor any soldier that made the ultimate sacrifice. Faculty, staff and students may submit information about their family member or friend who lost their life in service. It also contains other Information such as how to apply to CSU, what to do when called up for deployment, and resources that are available on and off-campus to facilitate veteran's academic success.

SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society (<http://salute.colostate.edu/>): SALUTE is an acronym for Service – Academics – Leadership – Unity – Tribute – Excellence. The students who are inducted into membership in SALUTE represent every slice of American military and veterans in higher education, at two and four year institutions. Members include retirees, disabled veterans, active duty military, ROTC, National Guard and reservists returning to higher education, starting second careers, or helping fund their college careers with military service. SALUTE sets minimum standards for selecting students to be honored. SALUTE permits each chartered institution to define additional criteria according to their local chapter. This approach will allow for a vast array of military and veteran students to be honored each year all across the country at diverse institutions. Each student accepted into SALUTE will receive a lapel pin, a diploma seal, military style challenge coin, and a membership certificate suitable for framing.