Promoting Veteran Student Success on Campus

Emily Mire, MPH, CHES
Coordinator, Student Services
Promoting Veteran Student Success on Campus

• By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:
  • Discuss the unique needs of student veterans in higher education.
  • Explore best practices for helping student veterans succeed in graduate and professional education.
  • Identify services and resources to help student veterans be successful in classroom, clinical, and community environments.
Student Veterans

• Higher education in the United States will soon have the opportunity to serve more than 2 million military veterans who have been to Iraq and Afghanistan.

• Differences in population
  • Non-traditional age
  • Delayed entry into college
  • Often first generation
  • Served in combat environments
Issues of Concern

- Mental health
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder
  - Anxiety/Depression
  - Substance Abuse
  - Suicide
- Transition
- Benefits
Classroom Best Practices

• Insight and suggestions to help veterans achieve their academic goals and objectives

• Assist in achieving veteran cultural competence
Classroom Best Practices (Examples)

• Unless the course content dictates talking about military service or the war, it is best to refrain from expressing such opinions in class.

• Discipline and commitment are strong values for many veterans. Hearing the complaints of other students over due dates, the need for more time to prepare for an exam, or about the difficulty of the course may frustrate them.

• Higher education is a very different system structure and culture of that of the military. Help veteran students navigate the system by listening to their frustration and guide them toward advisors or others who can help.

• Consider random (self-selected) rather than assigned classroom seating.

Adapted from Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
Key Variables for Success

- Relationships
- Social support
- Having alternatives on campus when problems arise
Helping Student Veterans at UNTHSC

- National Resources
- Community Resources
- Faculty/Staff
- Students
Helping Student Veterans at UNTHSC

• **Students**
  - Collaboration between Student Services and Enrollment Services
  - Focus groups
  - Student Veterans Association
  - Commissioning

• **Faculty/Staff**
  - Collaboration with Center for Learning and Development
  - Faculty/Staff meetings
  - CARE Team
Helping Student Veterans at UNTHSC

• Community Resources
  • Local VA Hospital
  • Vet Center: http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/
    • Student support/campus-wide education

• National Resources
  • GI Bill Information: http://www.gibill.va.gov/
  • Veteran’s Crisis Line
    • 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)
    • Text to 838255
    • http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/
What You Can Do to Help

• Know the facts
• Observe
• Educate
• Refer

Questions?

- Contact Information:
  - Emily.Mire@unthsc.edu
References


