Student Veteran Success at the University of Washington

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Quick Facts

• Since 2008-2009, the University of Washington has experienced a 108% increase in veteran enrollment, with a current enrollment of 1,344 veterans

• Our student veterans:
  – 40% graduate and professional programs
  – 20% female
  – 92% Washington state residents
  – 3.04 average undergraduate GPA (spring 2013)
  – 80% above the age of 25
  – 220 different majors

• For 2012-13, 1,200 veterans and dependents were certified for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits - an increase of 144% since implementation in August 2009
Objectives

• Provide a Welcoming and Safe Space
• Create Community and promote Camaraderie
• Support Educational and Career goals
• Supportive and culturally competent Faculty / Staff
• Peer Mentorship opportunities
• Veteran **Effective**, not just veteran friendly
Best Practices and Highlights

Career, networking and veteran student support services

• Career Fairs and **networking** opportunities with select employers
• **Peer Advisor** in Campus Career Center
• **Vet Corps Navigators** on campus
• **Alumni mentorship** and networking events
• **Research** opportunities—summer REV program
• **Access** to Campus Career Centers for UW student veteran alumni free of charge
• **Resume Book**—connecting employers to veterans
Innovative programming

- **Focus on transition to higher education Transition Service Center**: At JBLM, implemented a program of career counseling and academic advising in AACAP with a focus on raising awareness about all public college and university options in State of Washington.

- **VIBE**: The Veterans Incubator for Better Entrepreneurship identifies entrepreneurial talent in veterans and supports early-stage business development as they earn a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

- **Master’s in Cybersecurity and Leadership**: Created at the request of soldiers in the cybersecurity unit at Camp Murray; one of the few master’s programs in the nation to prepare high-level leaders with deep expertise in cybersecurity.
TRANSITIONS TO THE WORKFORCE

Future Initiatives

• Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for Veterans

• Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion

• Establish statewide association of Veteran Services program directors to promote best practices

• What is possible...Realize your potential? campaign
Thank you.

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