VITAL TRAINING MODULE: YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED RE STUDENT VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

In October 2017, Jorja Waybrant, Co-Chair of the Veterans SIG, presented at the Higher Education National Conference in Kansas City. The purpose of the presentation was to share the findings of a recent study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to explore the campus experiences of student veterans. The study considered student veterans to be those who were military veterans or active duty service members, or who had a spouse or caregiver of a veteran or service member. This discussion served to bring awareness to the information and resources regarding disability accommodations for student veterans on campus. The study found that student veterans face challenges in accessing disability services on campus and in navigating the academic environment. The study also highlighted the importance of understanding the lived experiences of student veterans with disabilities, as well as the need for institutional support to address these challenges.

Several key points were discussed:

- **Lack of Knowledge about Disability Services**: Veterans and their families often lack knowledge about the types of support and resources available to them on campus.
- **Proactive Advising Methods**: Utilizing proactive advising methods, such as the VA’s Pre-Enrollment Counseling Program, can help veterans become familiar with campus resources and services.
- **Student Veterans and Military-Connected Students**: There is a need for tailored support for veterans and military-connected students.
- **VA’s Pre-Enrollment Counseling Program**: This program provides support to veterans and military-connected students before they enroll in college, helping them understand the resources available on campus.

The study results are based on data collected from a large national sample of student veterans and are intended to inform institutions about the need for better support systems for student veterans with disabilities. The findings suggest that institutions should prioritize creating a welcoming and accessible environment for student veterans, and that resources such as the VA’s Pre-Enrollment Counseling Program can be effective in bridging the gap between veterans and campus support.

**DISABILITY SERVICES LUNCHEON (L5A UPDATE)**

American University
Washington, D.C.

In October 2017, the Disability Services LUNCHEON (L5A UPDATE) was held at American University in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by the American Council on Education (ACE) in collaboration with the Washington, D.C. chapter of the ACE Disability Services Network (DSN). The event was sponsored by the ACE Disability Services Network (DSN) and co-organized by the National Center for Postsecondary Disability Policy (NCPDP) and the American Council on Education (ACE).

The event was attended by over 200 participants from across the United States, including representatives from universities, colleges, and other higher education institutions. The event featured keynote speakers who discussed the latest developments in disability services and best practices for supporting student veterans on campus.

**AHEAD-VETERANS NEWSFEED**

At the end of January, AHEAD began migrating the website to a new platform. The new platform creates an internal “community” for AHEAD members, with members who login at no cost to access an organized set of resources, such as integrated listservs used by each SIG, the ability to share files, links and profiles information, and reconnect.

The communities offer a real opportunity to create an internal community for AHEAD members, with members who login at no cost to access an organized set of resources, such as integrated listservs used by each SIG, the ability to share files, links and profiles information, and reconnect.

Each SIG has its own library for sharing files, links and information. With the new platform, AHEAD members can now access an organized set of resources, such as integrated listservs used by each SIG, the ability to share files, links and profiles information, and reconnect.

The only limitation is that we can’t do it beyond “higher ed.” The platform was designed to support the efforts of AHEAD members in their work with students on campus, with particular focus on student veterans.

The new platform also includes a new “profile” function, which requires everyone to re-profile to access the new platform. This means that AHEAD members must log in at no cost to access the new platform.

**PAYOUTS FOR VETERANS EMPLOYEES (PAVE)**

PAVE is a program of Portland State University (PSU), which provides employment opportunities for veterans, service members, and their families. PAVE is supported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Council on Education (ACE) Disability Services Network (DSN). The program offers paid internships and full-time employment opportunities for veterans, service members, and their families. The program is designed to help veterans and service members transition into the workforce and succeed in their careers.

In addition to providing employment opportunities, PAVE also offers training and support to help veterans and service members develop the skills they need to succeed in the workplace. The program is administered by the Portland State University (PSU) Office of Disability Services and the Portland State University (PSU) Office of Veterans Affairs.

Visit the Portland State University (PSU) website for more information about the program and how to apply.

For more information contact Dr. Mariah Bloom at mbloom@pdx.edu or Dr. Bruce Fauth at bfauth@pdx.edu.

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