

AHEAD-VETERANS NEWSFEED

A tri-annual newsletter brought to you by the AHEAD—Veterans Special Interest Group

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2018

AHEAD Conference Proposal Round 2 Deadline—October 15 This is a good time to report and present on your work with student veterans with disabilities

Top stories:



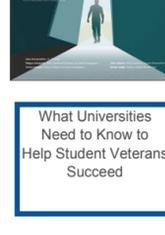
Inside Higher Ed: Survey on Campus Supports for Student Veterans



Disability Services Liaison (DSL) Update



Book Promoting Successful Integration



What Universities Need to Know to Help Student Veterans Succeed

INSIDE HIGHER ED: SURVEY ON CAMPUS SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT VETERANS

Inside Higher Ed has a short item about campus supports for student veterans. Through the article and available links you can access a free download to the Kognito's survey results and report: [Survey on Campus Supports for Student Veterans](#)

DISABILITY SERVICES LIAISON (DSL)

The DSL program continues to grow as campuses support this effective, no-cost veteran outreach plan. GI Bill users can be paid by the VA workstudy program. This peer-based approach bridges a gap within the veteran culture and normalizes the help-seeking behavior of student veterans. The DSL makes warm introductions to Disability Services staff. The significance of this stems from a disconnect on how veterans perceive disability as they transition from the military and into higher ed. Online training modules will be available in January 2019, which provides consistent information that DSLs need to know. Many campuses have begun implementing the position as a leadership project. One of the benefits is having access to current trends and cultural competency training opportunities for faculty and staff. If your campus is interested in learning more or would like information on how to implement a DSL, contact the AHEAD-Veterans SIG Chair, Mr. Dan Standage at: dan_standage@studentveterans.org or going to disability.studentveterans.org.

BOOK: PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION

Promoting Successful Integration is now available in a pdf format [as a free download](#). The book published by Office of The Surgeon General, US Army Medical Department Center and School, Borden Institute, and Health Readiness Center of Excellence.

With regard to disability, this book highlights some significant advances in the way medical professionals, and especially military medicine, are approaching disability. While the medical-model traditionally views disability through a lens of deficit, the rehabilitation model looks at how disability affects the many facets of life. For perspective, this type of thinking wasn't prevalent in the military and veteran spaces a decade ago.

To all the college campuses that are actively engaging the medical schools through Disability Studies and your Disability Services Office, your work is appearing in military medicine. Very happy to see the progression within these spaces!

2018 RESEARCH FROM SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES—WHAT UNIVERSITIES NEED TO KNOW TO HELP STUDENT VETERANS SUCCEED

Some really powerful and interesting research just published by the organization *Swords To Plowshares*. ["The Path Forward: What Universities Need to Know to Help Student Veterans Succeed"](#) is an absolute must-read for anyone interested in understanding many of the issues that student veterans experience. It's based in participatory action research (PAR) and covers a wide range of topics very objectively and also includes a subjective perspective from the participants. Pages 6 & 7 discuss Disability Services. One thing of note there is the glaring culture gap between student veterans and Disability Services. Each side needs some cultural competency to truly bridge the gap. The Disability Services Liaison (DSL) program mentioned above in this Newsfeed is designed to facilitate that effort.

DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY REFUND

On 11 July 2018 IRS released issue IR-2018-148 of the IRS Newswire addressing overpayment refunds for veterans who paid income taxes for disability severance. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) mailed letters the following week to veterans who were paid disability severance. A tax professional was consulted to ensure veterans wouldn't be unintentionally harmed. The process is incredibly straightforward. Veterans who received a letter from DFAS, include a copy of that letter with the completed form 1040X, write "Veteran Disability Severance" or "St. Clair Claim" at the top, and mail it to the following address. Note there is no eFile option for this specific credit or refund.

Internal Revenue Service
333 W. Pershing Street, Stop 6503, P5
Kansas City, MO 64108

Veterans who didn't receive a letter from DFAS, can find more info by following <http://bit.ly/2M6YXLm> to the announcement. Additional details, including amounts, timeframes, and a link to form 1040X are also available there. Please circulate this info to veterans on your campus—it can help reduce financial stress.

H. R. 5831. TO REQUIRE A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON THE ACCESSION AS AIR FORCE OFFICERS OF CANDIDATES WITH AUDITORY IMPAIRMENTS

H. R. 5831. To require a demonstration program on the accession as Air Force officers of candidates with auditory impairments.

This Act may be cited as the Keith Nolan Air Force Deaf Demonstration Act of 2018. This is a demonstration program on accession of candidates with auditory impairments as Air Force officers. Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall carry out a demonstration program to assess the feasibility and advisability of permitting individuals with auditory impairments (including deafness) to access as officers of the Air Force.

The total number of individuals with auditory impairments who may participate in the demonstration program shall be not fewer than 15 individuals or more than 20 individuals. The individuals who participate in the demonstration program shall include individuals who are deaf and individuals who have a range of other auditory impairments. The significance of this could potentially impact campuses with Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs, requiring ROTC units to collaborate with Disability Services offices. The results of this study could change the landscape of military recruiting as it pertains to disqualification for certain types of disabilities.

SVA 11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE (#NATCON2019)

Student Veterans of America (SVA) is hosting NatCon in DisneyWorld Orlando from 3-5 January 2019. It's the largest gathering of post-9/11 era veterans in the country. With more than 120 partners from the corporate, higher education, nonprofit, and government sector attending, 96 sessions across 7 tracks, and an anticipated 2,000+ attendees from more than 1,525 Chapters nationwide, there's no better place to be in the new year. Exhibitor and general registration opens on 5 September. For more information go to conference.studentveterans.org. The agenda, pictures, and partners from 2018 are there, along with 2019 programming, offerings, and updates.

BUSINESS CASE FOR RECRUITING STUDENT VETERANS

This isn't based on anecdotes, but rather various independent data sources, some public, some private (e.g., a school may report how much they spend on recruitment in an off-the-record conversation) – SVA is pretty careful with data, as you might have noted in our Million Records Project and our National Veteran Education Success Tracker. That all said, here's the basis of the argument:

Currently there are 1.1 million student veterans using some form of education benefits - VA Voc Rehab, Montgomery GI Bill, or Post-9/11 GI Bill. That's almost an identical number as international students (2015/2016 - 1,043,839 including OPT students - source [Enrollment Trends](#).) GI Bill will be about \$14 billion this year for tuition, fees, etc., and international students are about \$32 billion in "economic value" that includes much more than tuition and fees ([NAFSA International Student Economic Value Tool](#)) - we haven't yet seen an economic impact study of GI Bill during usage of the benefit, but if it were similar to the analysis by NAFSA, it would be far higher than \$14 billion because half of student veterans are married, 40% have kids, and dual income households, or dual student households, or those with children contribute more to the economy than a single student. [The Economic Value of International Student Enrollment to the U.S. Economy](#) is available for full review.

Typically foreign students had paid full sticker price as compared to other students. But, the average discount rate for all students and international students is converging. They use the internet for research and demand similar discounts, and sometimes more because they pay in full at times. By contrast, student veterans pay in-state tuition at public schools, but at the full rate without other aid usually, and in private schools pay either the full rate (GI Bill for the full state rate, plus out of pocket for the balance, or if the school is a Yellow Ribbon School, then tuition equivalent to the highest in state, plus half the difference between that and the full rate. So, in New York, about \$23,000 then half of plus half the amount between full tuition and \$23,000 [if \$50,000 then half of \$27,000 or \$13,500 plus \$23,000, or \$36,500]. Compared to a typical discount rate that's compelling, particularly if they also bring family members to college, or even to the local economy.

Also, this year, according to the [Washington Post](#) and [Inside Higher Ed](#), there is a drop in international student enrollments, while student veterans continue to be about steady at 115,000 new admissions each year, and about 100,000 graduating each year. (VA and SVA data on veteran enrollment and graduation.) [Open Doors 2016 Report on International Educational Exchange](#) has some great data on where international students are from, what they study, and so on. The University of Washington does have about 8,000 international students, and at the top 20 institutions with international students, the lowest is about 7,000. However most schools don't have that number of international students, and veterans are comparable at about 3.5 to 4% of all students, distributed across the U.S., and typically stay in their community at MUCH higher rates than international students who return home. In Washington State, about 8% of students are international, and it's in the top 5 states. ([Open Doors 2017 Infographics-International + U.S. Study Abroad](#) - graphic on the right about halfway down).

For some schools, and some states, the economic argument isn't as compelling as for others. For instance, Purdue: "As of the 2015-2016 academic year, international enrollment at Purdue was 23 percent of the total student body, up from 12 percent in 2000. By pairing this growth with an annual \$2,000 international student fee, Purdue has brought in close to \$1 billion in revenues from international students between 2013-14 and 2015-16 academic years, despite the broader tuition freeze." [The Hidden Impact of International Students](#) - 23% of students is significant, and clearly a change brought on by financial decision making that's different than schools that do not attract as many international students.

For average undergraduates, colleges spend about \$2,232 in recruitment per student - much of the expense is buying lists of students, by ACT, SAT, GPA, etc., from high schools. Those lists don't exist for veterans, so no expenditure there. Most universities don't speak to the approach of "if they apply we'll accept the good ones" and spend no money on marketing at all, as self-reported. Two universities we know are in the low single digit millions and they are among the highest. For student numbers at those universities, costs are less than \$2,000 based on the math of what we know. But for most, nothing.

What we've been able to pull together is that roughly \$600 million has been spent on marketing overall, about \$200 million by publics and private not-for-profits, since 2009 for veterans. About \$12 billion is the similar number for international students. The problem is, US universities don't report anywhere centrally on what they spend on international students, but some do report using agents, some report recruiting trips, staff costs, etc., and some report costs for international student centers and focusing on visas for study and so on. So, what we've been able to put together, roughly, are costs in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range per student. (Australia, our most similar peer on who is recruiting from where, is \$4,600. [Analyzing Recruiting Costs](#))

[Side note - in Great Britain they pay "agent fees" of about \$2,725 per student to the person who recruits them and this happens in a lot of places. [The Cost of Agents](#)]

Now, is that perfect math on recruiting costs? No, it's essentially business intelligence putting together as many sources as we can. Several of the public sources are outlined above. So, what else matters here? Academic performance, metrics on outcomes, and wage data. Student veterans perform better than their civilian peers, but not quite as well as international students. GPA 2.94, 3.35, and 3.4 for civilians, veterans, international students. International students study STEM, business, and health, so do student veterans - high demand degrees, more difficult. Student veterans also stay in the U.S., and so their wage and placement data counts in university rankings, too. So, we have an economic argument comparable to international students, better than civilian peers, similar on academics to international, similar on numbers to international. What's different, and why do we make this argument? Because universities are business focused. They need students to pay the full rate. They need graduates. They are also in the business of producing legacies - kids may grow up near their parent's schools if they are student veterans who have chosen schools based on geography. But what we really want? Schools to recognize academic performance, source of income, higher real wages and lower unemployment than their civilian peers, and similar to international, plus potential to become engaged alumni and build local economies instead of coming to school and leaving. This is one of our best arguments to make. SVA is making others, of course, but this is one significant "arrow in the quiver" if you will.

We are always looking for articles or information of interest pertaining to supporting student veterans with disabilities in the higher education landscape. If you are interested in submitting information for publication in the AHEAD-Veterans Newsfeed please contact:

Jorja Waybrant at waybrantj@unca.edu.

AHEAD—Veterans Special Interest Group
<https://www.ahead.org/SIGs/veterans>