

COMBAT BOOTS *to White Jackets* **YOUR VETERAN STUDENT**

Jenna Jelinek
University of Nebraska Medical Center
jenna.jelinek@unmc.edu
o: 402-559-7230 | c: 402-719-9442





**University of Nebraska
Medical Center™**

BREAKTHROUGHS FOR LIFE.®

MILITARY SUCCESS INITIATIVE



UNDERGRADUATE

VETERAN

Someone who has served in the US Armed Forces and whose discharge has been characterized as anything *other than* dishonorable.

Statistics include individuals who are entitled to these benefits other than the veteran alone (spouses, children, etc).

[Exit](#)

GME Veterans Support

Survey on GME Veteran Support

Thank you for participating! The following pages have 7 questions regarding veteran support in GME. If you would like a follow up after this presentation, please leave your name and email address on the last page.

[Next](#)

Powered by

 **SurveyMonkey®**

See how easy it is to [create a survey](#).

Why should I worry about them?

“Among the approximately 800,000 military veterans now attending U.S. colleges, an estimated **88% drop out of school during their first year** and only **3% graduate**”, according a report forwarded by the University of Colorado Denver, citing a March 22, 2012 study by the Colorado Workforce Development Council.” ⁽²⁾

Why should I worry about them?

VA Health System

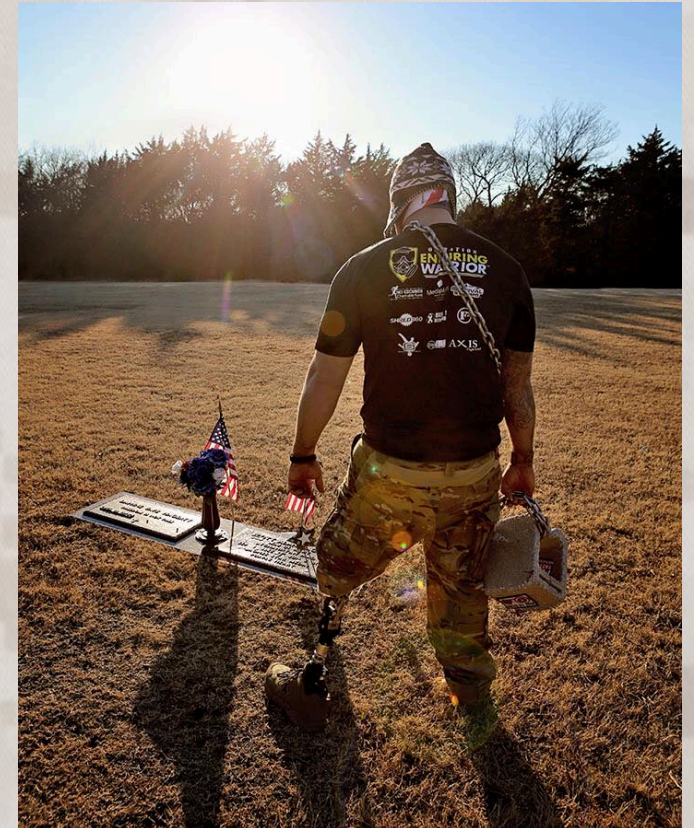
Access to Care
Quality of Care
Women's Health

Reintegration

National Guard
Reserves
Transitioning
Employment

Education

Accessible Learning
Support
Mentoring
Peer Support



Who Are They? What's the Difference?

Active Duty

“More Than” Full Time Job
Maintaining Readiness

Federally Paid/Funded

← Fill in for Active Duty

Commander in Chief - President

“No” Domestic Responsibilities

Often Deployed Overseas/Out of Country

Reserves

“Part Time” Full Time Job

Maintain Readiness / Civilian Job

National Guard

State Paid /

State and Federal Funded

Commander in Chief

– State Governor

Often Deployed In-State

Can Deploy Out of Country

Veteran Status

= 30 days in war zone

No Navy, Marines, or

Coast Guard component

Merchant Marines – Navy Auxiliary – “Mariners”

-Civilians, only considered military during wartime

-Considered veterans only if served in war

Where do they come from?

Active Duty

Can be assigned within the US or internationally

Can be from any state or US territory

Reserves

Assigned unit is within the US or internationally
“loaned out”

Often joined to be close to home

National Guard

Assigned unit is within the US, rarely assigned overseas

Just as with any other population of students, military-affiliated and veteran students come from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds, diverse experiences, educational needs, and support systems.



What's their Problem?

Reintegration and Identity

Who am I now? I can't do this. What's next?

I am too different. What can I do? I can't relate to them.

Who are these people? What? Where will I live?

This is too hard. What about my family?

What is expected of me?

How can I use my skills?

What am I doing? I don't meet their expectations.

There's nothing for me here.

They don't know me. Who can I become?

Where are my Battle Buddies? I'm not supported here.

What's their Problem?

The VA can be a HOT MESS.

Encourage care.

Encourage treatment.

Well body = well mind.

Be supportive.



What's their Problem?

Non-Traditional Students



Unique vantage point

Don't usually stay in dorms

Often have families, school-aged children

Often significantly older than class "peers"

Possibly separated from family or social support

What's their Problem?

Socializing with Student Peers

Different set of values

“Military Humor”

Age Gaps

Different Interests, Hobbies

Importance of peer-to-peer support

-Veterans, Spouses, Family Members
all have different support needs



What's their Problem?

Stereotyping and Social Stigmas



The Public's Perception

Vets with PTSD have anger problems
All veterans have seen combat
“He’s missing a leg so he’s broken.”
“That’s just the way she is now.”

The Vet's Perception

“This community doesn’t support me.”
“The campus environment is volatile for vets.”
“I can’t be another statistic.”
“They think I don’t want to succeed.”

What Do They Want?

What Can I Do About It?

Education

Early recognition of
learning-based difficulties
even in GME

Grades & Performance

Examples:

Attention Difficulties

Situational Awareness



Identify – Assist – Acknowledge

What Do They Want?

What Can I Do About It?

Local Resources

VA Information On-hand

VetSuccess on Campus

Women's Health Center

State or County

Veteran's Services Office

Transition Programs



Identify – Assist – Acknowledge

What Do They Want?

What Can I Do About It?

Campus Resources

Military Support Office

Student Veterans Association

Faculty / staff veterans who can mentor



UCSanDiego
Student Veterans
Organization



**FREE LUNCH
BUFFET**
Transfer Admit Day
Porters Pub
May 7th
11am - 1pm
Email us
studentvets@ucsd.edu

**Welcome All
VETERANS
ACTIVE DUTY and
DEPENDENTS**

Come talk openly with current
student veterans about
**Financial Aid, Campus Life,
and the SVO**

Identify – Assist – Acknowledge

What Do They Want?

What Can I Do About It?

Family Support

Campus Events Include Families

Single Parent Students

Engagement with Peers

Networking with similar
families

Recognize the Families

Giving Back



Identify – Assist – Acknowledge

What Do They Want?

What Can I Do About It?

What Can Your Program Do?



What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

“Our struggles are legitimate.”

Time lapse since last schooling
Suicide/self harm risk with stress
Self Care
Chronic Medical Issues
Pain, Sleep, Anxiety, Anger, Disabilities
Substance Abuse



Service Dogs
Isolation
PTSD
TBI
MST

What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

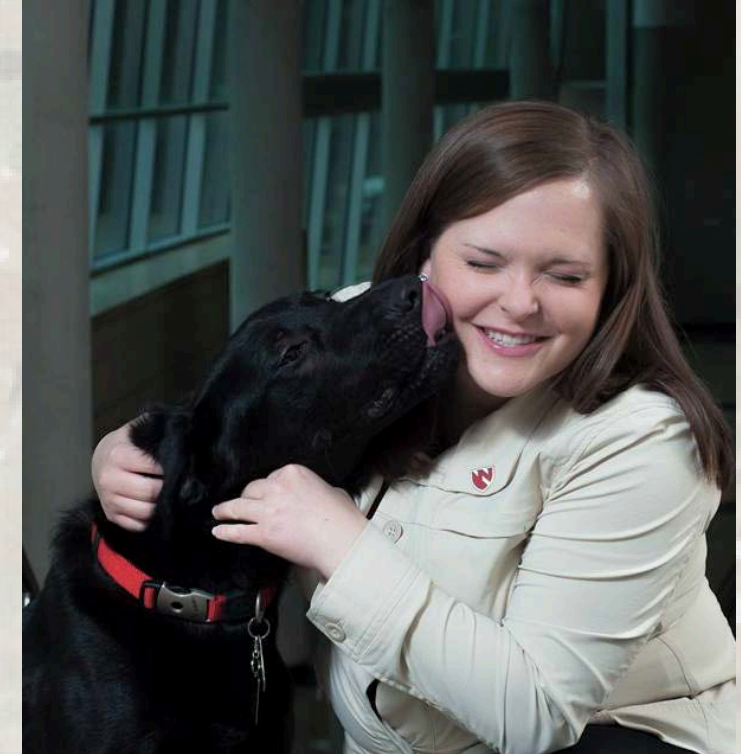
Service Dogs

Covered by the ADA

All non-sterile areas

**Seizures, Migraines, PTSD,
Mobility, Diabetes, etc.**

**Wheelchair? Interpreter?
Glucose Monitor?**



Time Lapse | Suicide & Self Harm | Self Care | Chronic Medical Issues | Substance Abuse

What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

Isolation and Victimization



“Why don’t they ask me for study help?”

“Just because I have PTSD and take my dog everywhere doesn’t mean I’m unapproachable.”

“Everyone always recognizes you every day in the military---they know when you don’t show up. Here I feel like I fell off the grid.”

What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PTSD

Greater with Fatigue | Everyone Has Different Triggers & Manifestations

Not all Soldiers/Sailors/Airmen/Marines have PTSD.

Not everyone who has PTSD is a Soldier/Sailor/Airman/Marine.

Not everyone with PTSD have it from combat.

A significant number of servicemembers with PTSD from combat have experienced incidents that involved children or medical incidents.

Time Lapse | Suicide & Self Harm | Self Care | Chronic Medical Issues

Earl
Granville



Noah Galloway

Post Traumatic Growth



What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

Traumatic Brain Injuries

Loss of Vision, Hearing

Attention Deficits

Sensory Processing

Difficulty with Abstract Reasoning

Not Always Visible



Time Lapse | Suicide & Self Harm | Self Care | Chronic Medical Issues | Substance Abuse

What Do They Want?

Educated Faculty and Staff

Military Sexual Trauma MST

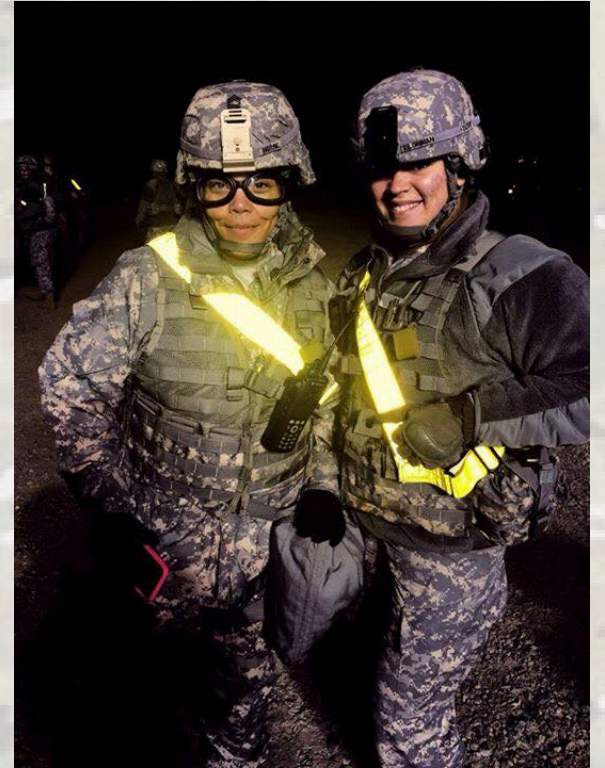
Both male and female

Breach in leadership and/or unit cohesion

Triggers

Same-sex faculty/staff support

*Each VA facility has an MST Coordinator to help establish care at no cost to the veteran despite VA status.



Time Lapse | Suicide & Self Harm | Self Care | Chronic Medical Issues | Substance Abuse

What Does My Veteran Student Bring to the Table?



Ability to lead and follow
Vantage Point

Pride in Training

Compassion to Serve

Ability to Adapt to Change

Strength to Make Quick Decisions

“Real-world” experience

