

2024-25 Veterans Enrollment Report

November 2025



The Nevada System of Higher Education

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Background and Purpose

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is dedicated to supporting student veterans and their families in pursuing their educational goals. This particular student population often faces unique challenges in assimilating back into civilian life. It is the goal of NSHE and its institutions to provide the necessary services to support student veterans in the success of achieving their educational goals.

The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 396.5453. This provision requires the Board of Regents to submit an annual report to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Committee on Education when the Legislature is not in regular session, which includes: (1) the number of students who identify themselves as veterans and who are receiving payments or benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; (2) The gender, retention rate, average age, and most common areas of study of students who are veterans; (3) information about how policy changes may have affected the number of students who are veterans enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education; (4) the number of students who are veterans who graduated during the immediately preceding academic year; and (5) the efforts undertaken by each institution within the System to retain and graduate students who are veterans.

Student Veterans Data

Number of Identified Student Veterans: 7,858

For Academic Year 2024-25, 7,858 student veterans were identified across the seven NSHE teaching institutions. This figure is unduplicated and only captures students whose veterans' benefits were certified by an NSHE institution or who self-identified on an admission application.

Number of Student Veterans Receiving Payments from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: 4,649

For Academic Year 2024-25, 4,649 student veterans were certified by an NSHE institution for the purpose of receiving federal veteran education benefits. This figure is unduplicated and only includes students who have been certified by an NSHE institution to receive benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Percent of Student Veterans by Gender: 56.2 % Male, 43.8% Female

Of the student veterans identified as enrolled at an NSHE institution in Academic Year 2024-25 that provided gender data, 56.2 percent were identified as male and 43.8 percent as female.

Average Age of Enrolled Student Veterans: 28.49 years old

For the identified student veterans enrolled in the 2024-25 academic year, the average age of this student population was 28.49 years old as of September 2024.

Fall to Spring Retention: 83.82%

Of the identified student veterans that were enrolled in Fall 2024, 83.82 percent persisted and enrolled in the Spring 2025 term.

Number of Student Veterans Who Graduated: 1,727

During Academic Year 2024-25, 1,727 student veterans received a degree or certificate. The actual number may be higher as this excludes any veteran who did not receive benefits and/or self-identify as a veteran to the institution.

Areas of Study

State law requires that NSHE report “the most common areas of study among the students who are veterans.” This data is reported by the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) category for student veterans enrolled during the 2024-25 academic year. The CIP codes used in this report are based on a taxonomic scheme that supports the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. The CIP scheme was developed and is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The CIP code is the accepted standard for the federal government on instructional program classifications in higher education and is used in a variety of education related surveys and databases within NSHE and across the country.

The top 15 CIP categories with the highest number of student veterans enrolled are noted in the following table.

| Classification of Instructional Program Category | Number of Students |
|---|--------------------|
| 52-Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services | 1,360 |
| 51-Health Professions and Related Programs | 1,191 |
| 11-Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services | 564 |
| 43-Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services | 488 |
| 42-Psychology | 473 |
| 50-Visual and Performing Arts | 458 |
| 13-Education | 426 |
| 24-Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities | 416 |
| 14-Engineering | 392 |
| 26-Biological and Biomedical Sciences | 255 |
| 45-Social Sciences | 236 |
| 41-Science Technologies/Technicians | 232 |
| 40-Physical Sciences | 210 |
| 44-Public Administration and Social Service Professions | 204 |
| 9-Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs | 140 |

Policy Impact

2024 - 2025 Policy Updates

During the 118th Congress, several veteran educational assistance measures were enacted. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (Public Law 118-210), enacted January 2, 2025, is comprehensive legislation aimed at significantly improving veterans' education support, offering extended financial assistance, user-friendly access, and better guidance on benefit utilization. Key legislative elements impacting student veterans are as follows:

Expanded Eligibility for GI Bill Benefits

- Veterans serving multiple qualifying periods can now combine GI Bill benefits for up to 48 months, up from the previous 36-month limit. This change substantially increases veterans' education funding opportunities, enabling prolonged or multiple educational pursuits.
- Similar to the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, P.L. 118-210 established a temporary program for the family members of an individual who dies from a service-related disability during the 120-day period immediately following the individual's discharge or release from duty in the Armed Forces. Additionally, P.L. 118-210 eliminated the Fry Scholarship delimiting date for all spouses.

Flexibility and Modernization of Programs

- P.L. 118-210 mandates electronic issuance of GI Bill certificates of eligibility and award letters to improve timely access and reduction of paperwork delays. Streamlined forms, better online tools, and enhanced transparency of benefit usage aim to reduce bureaucratic hurdles, increasing veteran engagement and satisfaction.

Protections for Veterans and Accountability of Educational Institutions

- P.L. 118-210 set in place strengthened oversight of educational institutions by using risk-based reviews of schools triggered by various federal or state actions.
- GI Bill-approved programs of education are now required to provide GI Bill participants and veterans with a copy of their official transcript in a digital format if the program of education is offered by an accredited institution of higher learning (IHL).
- Expanded bans on deceptive recruiting practices protect veterans from misleading or aggressive tactics.
- Schools—not veterans—are now required to repay VA tuition overpayments, reducing financial burden on veterans.

Restoration of Benefits and Support for Impacted Students:

- P.L. 118-210 provides restoration of GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits to students affected by school closures or disapprovals.

Introduction of New and Expanded VET TEC Program

- P.L. 118-210 amended and revised the termination of the original pilot for high-technology program (VET TEC 1) by authorizing a new temporary program, VET TEC 2, for training between January 2, 2025, and September 30, 2027. While participation is limited to 4,000 individuals, eligibility requirements do not require a GI Bill.

Impact of P.L. 118-210

The provisions enacted through P.L. 118-210 collectively broaden access to education benefits, offering veterans and their families greater opportunities for higher education and skills training. The improved administrative processes enacted reduce barriers and delays, facilitating smoother benefit usage. Enhanced protections and oversight contribute to higher quality educational experiences and reduce financial and academic risks for veterans. The expanded benefits and safeguards directly support veteran economic mobility and post-service career success by enabling more comprehensive and flexible educational pathways.

Policy History

Nevada Legislation

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.540 provides that the Board of Regents may fix the tuition charges for students at NSHE campuses, but must not charge tuition to certain students, including for example, students who are residents of Nevada. Existing Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 15* (sections for Tuition and Resident Students) of the Handbook recognizes the provisions contained in NRS 396.540.

The 2013 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 260 (Chapter 505, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*), which added “veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged within the 2 years immediately preceding the date of matriculation of the veteran at a university, state college or community college within the System” to the list of students for whom the Board must not charge tuition under NRS 396.540. Subsequently, the 2015 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 76 (Chapter 13, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*) and amended this section of State law to increase the timeframe from two years to five years. Board policy also includes this exemption as set forth by the Nevada Legislature (*Title 4, Chapter 15*).

The 2019 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 427 (Chapter 320, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*) requiring the Nevada System of Higher Education effective July 1, 2019, to waive the payment of registration fees and certain other fees assessed against students within the System who are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been awarded the Purple Heart. This bill also provides that Purple Heart recipients receiving the waiver be deemed bona fide Nevada residents under NRS 396.540. The Board of Regents adopted the provision as set forth by the Nevada Legislature (*Title 4, Chapter 17*).

During the 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, Assembly Bill 165 (Chapter 397, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*) was approved, further amending NRS 396.540. Assembly Bill 165 removed the required five-year limitation for honorably discharged veterans to be considered residents for tuition purposes. With the passage of A.B. 165, the Board of Regents must not charge tuition to an honorably discharged veteran, irrespective of where the veteran has established residency or date of discharge. At its June 2021 meeting, the Board of Regents revised the provisions governing tuition for honorably discharged veterans to comply with the revised provisions of state law enacted under A.B. 165.

Additionally, during the 2021 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, Senate Bill 193 (Chapter 211, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*) was approved, permitting the Board of Regents to require each nursing program and teacher education program within the Nevada System of Higher Education to give preference in admission to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged.

During the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, Assembly Bill 279 (Chapter 471, *Statutes of Nevada 2023*) was approved amending NRS 396.5443 extending the provisions of waiver of payment of registration fees and certain other fees assessed against students who have been awarded the Purple Heart to include, under certain criteria, the child of such veteran. The waiver may be used for ten years after the eligible student turns 18 or, if the

student enrolls prior to turning 18, ten years from that enrollment date. This bill also provides that recipients receiving the waiver be deemed bona fide Nevada residents under NRS 396.540. The Board of Regents (*Title 4, Chapter 17*) adopted the provision as set forth by the Nevada Legislature.

Federal Legislation

The Choice Act

Under Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3230, “Choice Act”), public institutions of higher education that do not offer in-state tuition rates to certain veterans will lose federal veteran educational assistance dollars under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*, which includes the Fry Scholarship) and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*). Specifically, institutions must offer in-state tuition rates to veterans who are living in the state in which the institution is located; served in the active military, naval or air service; are pursuing a course of education with federal education benefits; and enroll in the institution within three years after their discharge from service. In-state tuition must also be offered to certain family members of the veteran or a member of the armed forces who died in the line of duty while on active duty if that family member enrolls within three years after the veteran’s discharge or the service member’s death and is using veteran education benefits.

To ensure NSHE institutions comply with this new federal law and do not risk the loss of federal veteran educational assistance by its students, the Board of Regents adopted provisions necessary to comply with the original 2014 Act, as well as subsequent revisions at the federal level under *Board of Regents’ Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3.12. The adopted policy complies with Section 702 of the “Choice Act” by providing an exemption from tuition charges for a covered individual who enrolls within the specified three-year timeframe. Covered individuals must start their program within three years and then they will be covered for terms after the 3-year mark. In addition, Board policy also extends the requirements of the Choice Act in Nevada to include within the non-resident tuition exemption veterans and dependent beneficiaries who qualify under the Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA) Program (See Chapter 35 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*). The DEA Program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Late in 2018, Congress passed Public Law 115-251, and Section 301 of that legislation further amends 39 U.S.C. 3679(c) “Choice Act” to require that individuals using education assistance under Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31 of Title 38 of the *United States Code*) also be charged the in-state tuition rate. Under this federal amendment, effective for courses, semesters, or terms beginning after March 1, 2019, a public institution of higher learning must charge the in-state rate to Chapter 31 participants, as well as the other categories of individuals already included. When an institution charges these individuals more than the rate for resident students, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is required to disapprove programs of education sponsored by the VA. To ensure compliance with the amended federal law, the Board of Regents adopted provisions to cover the Chapter 31 students under the *Board of Regents’ Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3.12.

In January 2021, Congress passed Public Law 116-315, further amending the Choice Act under 38 U.S.C. 3679(c). Section 1005 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315) removes the three-year time period from date of discharge during which a covered individual must enroll in an institution to receive in-state tuition. Consequently, there is no longer a required time period during which a covered individual must enroll to receive in-state tuition. To ensure NSHE institutions complied with this new amendment to the Choice Act and to not risk the loss of federal veteran education assistance funds, Board of Regents’ policy was amended in June 2021 to comply with 38 U.S.C. 3679(c), as amended by Public Law 116-315. In addition, the Board updated policy to include the provision of Public Law 116-315 for individuals who are covered under the Survivors’ and Dependents Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35 of Title 38 U.S.C.).

Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act 2019

The Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeship Act 2019 (S. 760) enables registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans. Enacted March 2020, this bill requires that the Department of Labor revise its registered apprenticeship programs to include additional program requirements for increasing the access of veterans and their survivors or dependents to such programs. The Department of Labor must acquire written assurance that sponsors of apprenticeship programs: 1.) are aware of the availability of educational assistance for veterans and eligible individuals for use in such programs, 2.) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for such educational assistance for at least each program location that employs or recruits such recipients, and 3.) will not deny a qualified applicant to avoid making a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance. In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor must require program sponsors to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit and to provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit to individuals eligible for educational assistance.

Department of Veteran Affairs Educational Assistance Benefits for Certain Programs of Education Converted to Distance Education

In March 2020, Public Law 16-128 (S. 3503) was enacted to authorize the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reasons of emergency and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued in-person at educational institutions. This includes payment of monthly housing stipends under Chapter 33 as well as subsistence allowances under Chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of Title 38 U.S.C. The same provision covers Chapters 1606 and 1607 of Title 10 U.S.C.

Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act 2020

The Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (H.R. 6322) provides several improvements in the educational assistance benefits under Veteran Administration laws in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situation. This bill addresses education programs and assistance for veterans during the covered period of March 1 through December 21, 2020. The Act authorizes Veterans Affairs to: 1.) continue paying work study allowances during the emergency periods under certain circumstances in which a student is unable to access work for up to four weeks, 2.) prohibit the charge of entitlement of students unable to pursue a program of education due to an emergency situation including temporary school closure or a termination of a course or program of study, and 3.) provide an extension of time limitation for use of entitlement to Chapter 30, Chapter 33 and transferees, and Chapter 31 who are prevented from pursuing a chosen program of education before the designated expiration period due to the closure of the institution under Executive Order of the President. The Act also amends Title 38 Section 3699 by including Chapter 31 students as covered individuals such that entitlement shall not be charged due to the closure of an institution during the covered period. Lastly, the Act provides for an extension of payment of vocational rehabilitation subsistence allowances for certain individuals during the covered period.

Continuing Appropriations Act 2021 and Other Extensions Act

Enacted October of 2020, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021, Section 5202 provides for the extension to the end date of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 from December 21, 2020, to December 21, 2021.

Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act (REMOTE Act)

In December of 2021 the Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions Act (REMOTE Act)(H.R. 5545) was signed into law (Public Law 117-76, 117th Congress). The REMOTE Act extended various

COVID-19 protections for GI Bill students from December 21, 2021 to June 1, 2022. Specifically, the REMOTE Act extended the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 as previously amended by the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2020.

[Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#)

In January 2021, Congress enacted Public Law 116-315, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, which included provisions relating to veteran education benefits and institutions of higher learning. The law provides for access to, and timely accurate delivery of education benefits to veterans, service members and their dependents. Within Public Law 116-315 there are a total of 32 provisions that impact the administration and oversight of VA education benefits. Most notable, the law expands several benefits including: provisions for in-state tuition benefits; Yellow Ribbon benefits to students studying at overseas schools; the period for election to receive benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill®; transfer of entitlement under the Post 9/11 Bill®; and certain qualifying work-study activities. For a comprehensive view of all 32 provisions impacting veterans' education, the VA has available an [Isakson and Roe Fact Sheet](#).

[Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022](#)

The Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 ([H.B. 7939](#)), enacted in January 2023, provides permanent authority for the application of certain flexibilities to assist veterans with their educational assistance benefits during emergency situations (as declared by the President). Specifically, the bill extends certain program adjustments that were implemented during the COVID-19 emergency to other emergency situations that may arise and have an effect on veterans and their educational assistance benefits. The bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to provide educational assistance, including monthly housing stipends or subsistence allowances, for programs of education that have been converted to distance learning due to an emergency or health-related situation; ensures that an educational assistance payment will not be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance or counted against the aggregate period in situations where an individual was unable to complete a course or program due to an emergency situation; extends the time limitation for using educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, Post-9/11 GI Bill, or vocational rehabilitation program when institutions are closed due to an emergency situation or executive order; authorizes the payment of work-study allowances during emergency periods; ensures an educational assistance payment shall not be charged against an individual's entitlement if the individual was unable to complete a course or program due to the temporary closure of an educational institution or the temporary termination of a program by reason of an emergency situation; and adjusts the administration of certain benefits for veterans participating in an apprenticeship or other on-job training.

[Nevada System of Higher Education](#)

In June of 2023, the Board of Regents approved a fee waiver for recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor to recognize and honor recipients that have been awarded the United States' highest award for military valor in action (*Title 4, Chapter 17*). The provisions waive the payment of registration fees and certain other fees assessed against students within the System who have been awarded the medal. In September of 2023, the Board of Regents approved an expansion of the fee waiver to include, under certain circumstances, the child of a recipient of such medal. Recipients receiving the waiver are deemed bona fide Nevada residents under NRS 396.540.

[Impact](#)

In Academic Year 2024-25, 887 new and continuing veterans were deemed residents for tuition purposes. It is expected that with Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 118-210) combined with federal and state residency provisions, the number of veterans and their dependents seeking education in Nevada will continue to grow.

Institutional Efforts

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Introduction

The MVSC supports the vision and academic mission of the university while serving our growing student veteran and military family community by developing a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success. The Military & Veteran Services Center (MVSC) supports the 1,931 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, reservists, Army/Air Force Cadets, military family members and survivors attending UNLV.

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- **Certifications:** During 2024-2025, the MVSC certification team led by the Associate Director of Certifying Operations processed 7,212 certifications, over \$12million in tuition payments and \$28million in housing and various VA stipends.
- UNLV was again ranked as a TOP TEN “Veteran Friendly” university. Source: GIJOBS.COM.

New Initiatives

Certifying Staff shortages: The VA recommends 125 students using benefits per School Certifying Official. We currently serve 2,335 military-affiliated students enrolled at UNLV. For that number of students, the VA recommends 18 SCOs. We have 4.5 SCOs, each serving over 500 students, more than double the recommended number. Due to the continued UNLV hiring freeze - we raised \$160,000 in private donations from the Eleanor Kagi Foundation to fund two LOAs for temporary staff for 1 year to avoid disaster and complete our certification requirements. This gave us 6.5 SCOs, each serving 359 students each. The LOAs expire May 2026.

Continuing Initiatives

- **MVSC - Certifying Operations and Payment Processing:** The MVSC has the continual task of processing the required documents of more than 1,854 GI Bill® recipients in order to access their VA Education Benefits and process their payments.
- **Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE):** UNLV has experienced 9 veteran or military family member suicides since 2013. First and foremost, the PAVE program provides outreach services to address isolation, loneliness, and desperation. The PAVE team provides face-to-face interactions or remote connections at various times. The PAVE team completed the following: (a) outreaches = 2,919, (b) interactions = 354, (c) student veterans assisted = 410, (d) referrals to resources = 154 (tutoring, Veterans office, Academic Advising, etc.), (e) top topics discussed = GI Bill benefits, balancing coursework, registering/changing course, and (f) students of concern = 11.
- **Student Veterans of America (SVA Chapter – Rebel Vets):** The Rebel Vets’ stated mission: “One way to promote your success in college and in your future career is to get involved in your community or join like-minded student organizations. The UNLV Rebel Vets is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to the principle of veterans helping fellow veterans be successful.”
- **VA VetSuccess Partnership:** Since 2013, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has included UNLV as part of the VetSuccess on Campus program. The program was created to provide an experienced VA benefits counselor on campus to work in collaboration with the UNLV Military & Veteran Services Center to assist our growing population of veterans with resources to make sure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met, and to help them reach their education and career goals.

- **Suicide Prevention Efforts:** Because 9 UNLV student veterans and military family members have committed suicide since 2013, the MVSC continues to host “Safe Talk” suicide prevention training. Each training is open to our MVSC staff, PAVE team, student veterans, faculty and staff.
- **COE 303 Veteran Transition Seminar:** UNLV is also addressing suicide prevention with a course created just for student veterans. This new class within the College of Education—a special section of COE 303—is designed to help service members in academia find a sense of comfort, confidence, and belonging.
- **Rebel Vet Transition Orientation:** The MVSC hosted two Rebel Vet Transition Orientations this year, which provided our new veterans with a GI Bill® responsibilities class, information about veteran resources and VA benefits, connection to our peer-to-peer network, and some helpful classes in their journey for academic success.
- **Rebel Vet Graduation Reception:** Since 2012, the Eleanor Kagi Foundation has funded 22 Rebel Vet graduation receptions to honor our 4,567 student veteran graduates. Each Rebel Vet graduate received a Rebel Vet graduation coin; a red, white, and blue cord; and certificates of recognition from the governor and the Nevada delegation. We also conducted a drawing of prizes from the local community.

University of Nevada, Reno

Introduction

Veteran Services at the University of Nevada, Reno provides a wide range of support and referral services for all undergraduate and graduate students who are veterans, currently serving either on active duty or in the Reserve or National Guard. The department also provides services for veterans and family members for college readiness and employment opportunities. Our vision is to graduate the best prepared student veterans and family members by incorporating students' prior military and life experiences with university academic achievements to have a purposeful impact on their personal, career, and civic endeavors while recognizing and celebrating the vast diversity of the population.

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

John Pratt was a national finalist for the Student Veterans of America Student Advisor of the Year. Chai Glenn-Cook received the University's Administrative Faculty of the Year

New Initiatives

- Presentations
 - NAVPA VA conference on best practices Navigating the Complexities of Student Veteran Support with SCO Responsibilities. Co-presented with collaborator from Northern Illinois University.
 - Student Veterans of American National Conference on Veteran Alumni Organization: Service Beyond Graduation
 - NASPA symposium on Military-Connected students conference in collaboration with the Associate Dean of Social Work on An Inclusive Evaluation Capacity Framework for Military-Connected Students' Transition Success: Using a Trauma Informed Approach
 - Western Association of Veteran Educational Specialist Panel on Bridging the Gap—Student Veteran to Alumni Leader in collaborators from Oklahoma State University and University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Department
 - Veteran Services facilitated four VetSmart trainings to the campus
- NSHE Collaborations
 - Military-Connected Transfer Students from Truckee Meadows Community College afternoon. Transfer students spent the afternoon in the VMC and had personalized campus tours with Nevada student veterans to aid in the transition between institutions.
 - Host new staff from Western Nevada College on department procedures, student engagement, and best practices for administrating the VMC.
 - Collaborative approach at Veteran Military Day at the Legislature to express challenges and needs of all NSHE institutions.
 - Coordinated effort with TMCC and UNLV to address concerns with drafted legislative impact to Nevada Guard tuition waiver.
- Community partnerships. Veteran Services provides presentation or representations at community events.
 - Whole Health Fair with VA Hospital of the Sierra Nevada
 - Veterans Homeless Standdown
 - Veterans Block Party to bring awareness to veteran suicide
 - Volunteer at Veterans Guest House
 - Continued upkeep of Veteran Services karma box
 - VVA chapter 989 and Vietnam Remembrance Day
 - NAS Fallon Shades of Strength Run Community Resource Fair
 - VA Town Hall Resource Fair

- Family Member Week to celebrate the family members in our community. The week's events included tabling at the Residence Halls to connect with students who are family members, but not using benefits, a pizza and movie evening and pottery painting afternoon. Additionally, the staff created a family member sticker, which included a dandelion (the family member national flower) embraced by a purple ribbon.
- Expanded fundraising efforts to fund a student veteran emergency fund to support students with unexpected life expenses with participating in University's Day of Giving.
- Salute to Service game in collaboration with Nevada Athletics, ROTC, and Nevada Military Support Alliance, presented a halftime tribute to Nevada's Gold Star Families with student veterans walking the Gold Star flag across the field as names of Nevada's heroes were read.
- Incorporated a Master's of Social Work practicum student on staff to support programming initiatives, create an outreach plan and research Nevada legislation that would impact student veterans
- Hosted a federal contractors employment assistance workshops with VEVRAA and USDOL/OFCCP
- ENGAGE, Veteran Services partnered with Nevada Veterans Alumni chapter to host two keynote speakers, plus a student to speak about their experiences with Military Sexual Trauma (MST). This powerful evening brought awareness and intentional guided conversation regarding MST to both men and women in the military. 12 community and campus resources were available to attendees, plus VA and university counselors on the ready to assist in the processing any attendee that may have been triggered.

Continuing Initiatives

- Facilitated 4 VetFit VA sessions incoming freshman plus transfer students during Nevada Fit week. Entitled Wolf Pack Battle Buddies, Your New Barracks on Campus, we talked about imposter syndrome, when and how to share a military status with faculty, strategies for interacting with younger classmates and resources to utilize to be successful on campus.
- Veterans Week appreciation events
 - 2500 flag planting
 - Flag retirement ceremony
 - ASUN hosted lunch
- Wolf Pack Veterans
 - Summer Bash
 - Football Tailgate, Men's and Women's basketball game, and Men's baseball
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Hike to replace local flags which are unfit in the local area
 - Socials to community connections
 - Three park clean-ups at Crystal Peak Park in Verdi, NV
 - End of the Year Celebration
- Zoom Informational Sessions on GI BILL® for incoming students. Staff scheduled online information sessions and in-person appointments to assist incoming students how to navigate both UNR enrollment and GI Bill® usage.
- At-Risk Student Personalized outreach. Veteran Services office outreached to students with low GPA for intervention, support and information on resources. Veteran Services removed the warning term policy for using GI BILL® benefits to align with university SAP policy.
- Social Wellness and Educational Programs:

- Applying and Funding Graduate School Seminar
 - Degrees and careers in Public Health with the School of Public Health
 - Financial planning
 - March Madness Tournament
 - Nevada baseball game social
 - Webinar on opportunities with employment and federal contracting.
- V.I.T.A.L. Grant. UNR maintains a partnership with the VA Sierra Nevada Hospital to host a VA LCSW on campus. The VA LCSW provides mental health/ well-being care to students.
 - Community Partnerships. Veteran Services continues to provide a private office space for external organizations to bring veteran-related services to campus. Organizations Veteran Services partnered with in 2024-2025 include NV DETR/ Job Connect for resume writing, Vietnam Veterans of America 989, Nevada Department of Veteran Services, Veterans Guest House, VA Hospital of the Sierra Nevada, Microsoft, Panasonic, Horsemanship for Heroes, Work for Warriors, Reserve Assistance Advisor Federal Contractor (RCTAA), David J. Drakulich Foundation, Amazon Inc, Adopt-a-Dental, and Katie Grace Foundation.
 - Collaborated with Athletics for Salute to Service games for basketball, baseball, and football.

Nevada State University

Introduction

Nevada State remains intensely committed to providing our student veterans with an exceptional and supportive educational experience. Nevada State continues to foster increasing levels of support and engagement for our student veterans. Led by our Veterans Affairs Coordinator and our Coordinator of Academic Advising (a former member of the Air Force), Nevada State's over-arching goal is to promote better outcomes for student veterans, including improved retention and graduation rates. To this end, NS continues to develop and refine initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of this population. Our initiatives address several different facets of the student experience, including the allocation of physical space (a Veterans' Lounge), the provision of financial support (including emergency funding support), and community-building opportunities (the "ScorpionVets" club).

New Initiatives

- Over the last few years the proportion of new initiatives has lessened, primarily because our focus has shifted from the development of new initiatives – which was essential as we established our programming – to the maintenance and refinement of those efforts. Consequently, our foremost new initiative has been the creation of virtual meetings/consultations that aim to provide quality support to veteran students. We initially established this effort as necessity during the pandemic, but then realized that it can play an important and effective role in expanding access to our students. Moving forward, we plan to continue expanding and improving our programs and services that support student veterans at Nevada State University. Since the last reporting, the university has made progress in a variety of new initiatives, which are outlined in this section.
 - Best practices for online learning
 - Effective Email Communication in light of the provision of many services and courses in a distance format
 - Keeping fit physically and mentally
 - Social activities (e.g. playing trivia via Kahoot.it)
 - Generalized question and answer sessions
 - Partners with the Department of Veterans Affairs—Community Engagement Suicide Prevention
 - New Veterans Student Worker
 - Efforts being made to retain and graduate students who are veterans through retention and other related programs
- With the creation and launch of the Student Transition and Retention (STAR) unit, Nevada State University continues to demonstrate its commitment to offering students a well-rounded, student-centered experience. STAR has a focus on outreach and direct support to Vets. With the STAR unit, all students will be able to hear and feel “we support you, see you, and will walk with you” through programs, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to their success. STAR is a student-ready resource that will provide guidance throughout the student’s journey at Nevada State. Working across various departments to elevate student success, STAR will be a bridge between students and services ensuring timely, meaningful connections to academic, wellness, financial, and career resources. It is a resource hub for leadership development grounded in wellness, networking, and community.

Continuing Initiatives

- **Nevada State ScorpionVets**
The Nevada State University ScorpionVets Club focuses on promoting awareness of veteran issues, supporting an institutional culture of inclusion, facilitating the integration of veterans into the Nevada State community, and providing camaraderie for veterans. Nevada State viewed the development of the student organization as the most important step in facilitating more robust services, providing an opportunity for student veterans to increase their activity level on campus. This group is actively fundraising to develop a foundation to support programming. In addition, their organization has been officially recognized by the Student Veterans of America.
- **Veterans' Lounge**
Based on feedback from members of the NSU ScorpionVets Club, we adapted the veterans' lounge to be more attractive and accessible for veterans. This has resulted in an increased utilization of the designated space, and the student veterans are now working to expand their space on our campus (however, available space remains incredibly limited at present, both for veterans and across the campus as a whole).
Submitting Grant proposal upgrade computer and other equipment
- **NSU Ruck March**
The NSU Student Veterans' Club holds an annual Ruck March each spring semester. In addition to NSU faculty and staff, UNLV Student Veterans and other veteran organizations in the community participate.
- **Priority Registration**
Student veterans now receive priority course registration. This helps to ensure that the certification process is expedited, which results in veterans receiving their benefits and funding in time for registration processing
- **Red, White, and Blue Honor Cords**
Student veteran graduates are honored by obtaining NSU's Red, White, and Blue Honor Cords for veterans.
- **Emergency Funds**
Nevada State received funds to help support veterans in need of emergency financial assistance. Applicants were reviewed by the ScorpionVet officers and advisors and selected for support based on degree of need. Though the amount of funding was modest, this effort addresses a critical area of need for our student population.
- **Volunteer Efforts with US Vets***
Nevada State University ScorpionVets continue to be active within the veterans' community in the valley. In past years ScorpionVets have volunteered at the Boulder City Veterans' Home Olympics, providing support and camaraderie for the veterans living in the home. They have also hosted formal flag ceremonies that involve Nevada State administrators, students, faculty and staff, as well as community organizations and dignitaries from the City of Henderson.
- **Work Student Program**
Using enrolled veteran and military connected students to provide administrative support to the Veterans Affairs Coordinator. This program is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **Peer Mentorship**
This program pairs new student veterans or dependent students with a current veteran or dependent student to mentor them from the first year of college to graduation and beyond. The mentorship provides guidance to students to help them successfully navigate the college experience at Nevada State, including assistance with registration, advising, support services, student life, NSSA, and NSC software applications. The mentor is expected to organize monthly activities for mentees.

- **Professional Development**
Nevada State has sent student veterans to attend the Student Veterans of America National Conference in Orlando, FL. By participating in the conference, students have an opportunity to network with other student veterans as well as learn more about available resources. Also, student veterans have attended the NASPA Symposium on Military-Connected Students which focuses on effective strategies to serve and support the success of veterans and other military-connected students.
- **Nevada State Veterans Webpage**
The NSU website now has a specific page for student veterans regarding their benefits. The page also lists important external support contact information.

College of Southern Nevada

Introduction

The Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS) Center supports the College of Southern Nevada's mission to empower our students and communities to achieve, succeed, and prosper by providing exceptional services, programs, and learning experiences for current and former service members and their dependents. Our efforts shape and support a seamless transition to civilian life.

Our vision is to be the preeminent military and veteran service provider among institutions of higher learning in Nevada.

The center's primary goals include efficiently and effectively administering U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs education programs; improving and better tracking of persistence, retention, and graduation rates for VA beneficiaries; and creating and implementing transformational programming that increases opportunities for student veteran success.

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

The VA beneficiary population grew by 15.9%—from 1,369 in 2023–2024 to 1,587 in 2024–2025—following increased recruitment efforts

New Initiatives

- **Retention Efforts:** The CSN VETS Center executed a focused retention strategy for its new Fall 2024 student cohort. This initiative leveraged targeted engagement events, specific messaging campaigns, and increased dedicated academic advising. The Center successfully secured a 50% continuous enrollment rate for this population from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025.
- **VETS Advising Group Assignment and Online Scheduling:** This year, the VETS Center implemented strategic enhancements to ensure our VA beneficiaries receive consistently expert and accessible support. We refined the advising model by specializing in advisor assignments, thereby connecting students directly with staff who possess deep expertise in VA benefits. This assignment is designated at the point of admissions and triggers specialized onboarding communication. Furthermore, we increased the visibility and clarity of all advising resources through continuous communication updates. Most significantly, we streamlined access by integrating with the institutional online scheduling system, providing beneficiaries with a simple, integrated platform for booking appointments.
- **Focus on Digital Transformation and Access:** The CSN VETS Center is actively leveraging the launch of the new CRM system to drive a comprehensive digital transformation of our services. Our primary goal is to extend accessible, fully remote support to key student populations, including deployed service members, out-of-state veterans, and those preparing to relocate to the Las Vegas area. To ensure a seamless transition, the VETS Center engaged directly in the development process to guarantee that remote offerings mirror the quality and best practices of our in-person services. We have already launched the online appointment scheduling system and look forward to further enhancing the military admissions application process.
- **Strategic Expansion and Targeted Outreach:** The VETS Center significantly expanded the institutional identification of military-connected students within our enrollment data, which now formally includes Active Duty, National Guard, and Reservist personnel. This data expansion supports targeted outreach and service delivery. To engage these populations directly, the VETS Center maintains an active presence on base, attending both the installation-wide Education Fair and Open House events. Furthermore, we

established a strong collaborative relationship with the George W. Dunaway Army Reserve Center to ensure consistent messaging and effectively showcase the comprehensive services and expertise we offer military members. This collaboration extends to the Nellis campus, where we partner to increase enrollment among personnel eligible to access the base. We have cross-trained Nellis staff to accurately identify current and former service members and inform them of additional benefits they can utilize at CSN.

Continuing Initiatives

- **FYE Events Collaboration:** The CSN VETS Center continues collaborating with the First Year Experience (FYE) program to ensure veteran-specific resources are integrated into campus-wide events. By consistently providing on-site academic advising and essential VA benefits information during FYE programming, we work to ensure a seamless transition for veteran students. This ongoing partnership allows VA beneficiaries to connect with peers, build relationships with campus partners, explore resources, and establish their benefits while fully engaging in the college experience. For the academic year 2024-2025, VETS attended 9 FYE events.
- **Veteran Academic Advising:** The CSN VETS Center offers personalized academic advising exclusively for student veterans and their dependents. We provide both in-person and phone advising options so students can always choose the method that best suits their needs. Our dedicated advisors are consistently available to continue to educate students on updated policies regarding VA education benefits.
- **Retention Degree Assistance:** With limited advising appointments, to enhance student retention, the VETS Center offered convenient walk-in support for returning students who were not changing their majors. By providing access to recent degree audits and consultations with School Certifying Officials, we helped students make informed decisions about course selection, ensuring their academic progress aligns with degree requirements and enrollment rate goals. This personalized support empowers students to stay on track, maximize their benefits, and successfully complete their degree programs.
- **Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL):** A collaborative effort between the VA Medical Center and CSN designed to support our student Veterans. VITAL helps Veterans overcome challenges, adjust to the academic environment, and successfully complete their educational goals by offering personalized assistance, resources, and support.
- **VETSsuccess on Campus (VSOC):** The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative designed to facilitate a successful transition to college life for Veterans, Servicemembers, and their dependents. CSN has a dedicated VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) directly on campus. VSOC ensures coordinated delivery of essential services. These on-campus experts provide benefits assistance, counseling, and peer support to help students overcome challenges, resolve issues quickly, and complete their education prepared for viable careers.

Great Basin College

Introduction

The Veterans Resource Center at Great Basin College strives to provide our military affiliated students with the best resources and opportunities to succeed in higher education.

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Our 2024-2025 Academic Year saw the highest number of Military Affiliated Students graduates since Spring 2019. We hired a part time VRC Administrative Assistant to assist with day-to-day tasks and help provide a more present role in the community.

New Initiatives

- VR&E (Veterans Readiness and Employment; Chapter 31) take over. Invoicing is now done by VRC staff to help streamline the process and create that true “One Stop Shop” feeling for VA educational benefits.
- EmployNV Career Coach Veterans Program representative comes to the VRC once a week to offer assistance to any Veterans and/or family members who are looking for work or need assistance with their job search.

Continuing Initiatives

- Continue collaboration with Admissions and Records to process Joint Service Transcripts to provide Boot Camp Credit to our student veterans.
- Continue to utilize tracking system via Google Sheets to track student demographic data, while also maintaining degree progress and any academic warning/VA Suspensions.
- Continue efforts to provide early enrollment notifications to students to encourage early enrollment and guarantee spots in courses.
- Establish a greater emphasis on internal academic advising that focuses more closely on the needs and requirements of veterans.
- Continue to host Memorial Day BBQ and Veterans Day Luncheon.
- Continue to share office spaces with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services to cover all things VA benefits related in one general location.

Truckee Meadows Community College

Introduction

The mission of Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Veteran Services is to support student veterans and military-connected students as they transition from military service to college life. We are committed to helping them stay on track, graduate, and reach their career goals. Our team continuously identifies student needs and seeks opportunities to strengthen and expand our services.

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

The Major General Ronald J. Bath Veterans and Families Center experienced significant growth and engagement throughout the 2024–25 academic year, averaging more than 800 visits per term. The redesigned layout created a more welcoming and efficient environment, allowing TMCC Veteran Services to better support student veterans, dependents, and community members. The VFC now functions as a true one-stop hub where students can access academic advising, computer and study resources, and veteran-specific support in a single location. The improved space also enabled greater collaboration with community partners and on-campus departments, expanding outreach and service capacity. Through these enhancements, the center continues to strengthen TMCC's commitment to helping military-connected students successfully transition to college life, achieve their educational goals, and stay connected to a supportive community.

New Initiatives

- **UNR Veterans Transfer Day:** Held once each semester, UNR Veterans Transfer Day helps military-connected students navigate the transfer process to the University of Nevada, Reno. The event offers students the opportunity to meet the staff at UNR's Military and Veterans Center, learn about available resources, and receive personalized guidance to ensure a smooth transition to the university.
- **Onward Ops:** TMCC Veteran Services collaborates with Onward Ops, an evidence-based national program designed to support transitioning service members. The initiative connects participants with certified sponsors up to a year before separation, providing personalized guidance, local resource connections, and career preparation tools. Through this proactive approach, TMCC helps strengthen reintegration outcomes for Nevada's service members and their families, ensuring continued community connection and long-term success after military service.
- **Veteran Entrepreneur Library:** The Veteran Entrepreneur Library at TMCC is a partnership with the Nevada Veterans and Outreach Center, which serves as a dedicated resource hub where veterans can connect, collaborate, and explore entrepreneurship. The library provides access to curated business and startup materials, supports workshops and meetups, and celebrates the achievements of local veteran entrepreneurs. Operating on an honor system and open during campus hours, the library strengthens the veteran business ecosystem by linking students with community partners, entrepreneur service organizations, and veteran support agencies.

Continuing Initiatives

- **Major General Ronald J. Bath Veterans and Families Center (VFC)** – Formerly known as the Veterans Resource Center, the Major General Ronald J. Bath Veterans and Families Center (VFC) serves as a central hub for connection and support, averaging over 800 visits each term. The center offers study and lounge spaces, a computer lab with free printing, and offices for veteran-specific support services.
- **Professional Development Initiative** – Each semester, TMCC Veteran Services partners with different community organizations to deliver a series of veteran-specific professional development workshops and job preparation classes for student veterans and their dependents.

- Veteran Job and Resource Fair –Held each fall and spring semesters, the Veteran Job Resource Fair is designed specifically for veterans and their families. The event hosts approximately 50-60 employers and community organizations that provide employment opportunities and essential resources for veterans.
- Veteran Academic Advisors: TMCC employs four academic advisors dedicated to supporting military-connected students. Having dedicated advisors ensures that students receive personalized guidance and a comprehensive education plan to support timely graduation
- Veterans Pre-Admission Associate: The Veterans Pre-Admission Associate serves as an intake coordinator and manages the updating of military transcripts in accordance with SB 457. This position is vital to the mission of Veteran Services and helps ensure the department maintains a high quality of service for student veterans.
- Early Enrollment: TMCC offers priority registration to student veterans and eligible dependents, a program in place since Spring 2013. Priority registration ensures students can enroll in required courses without delays, helping to prevent interruptions in their GI Bill benefits.
- Application Fee Waiver: TMCC recognizes the skills, experiences, and diversity that U.S. Military Veterans bring to campus. In honor of their service, the college waives the admissions application fee for all honorably discharged U.S. Military Veterans, a policy in effect since the Fall 2017 semester.
- SB 457 Compliance: As of August 1, 2017, TMCC fully complies with SB 457. The college updated its website to reflect the bill and provides a detailed list of all accepted military credits, including their corresponding ACE exhibit numbers for reference.
- V.I.T.A.L. Initiative: In partnership with the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System through the V.I.T.A.L. Initiative. A VA social worker is on campus twice a week to provide mental health support and promote the well-being and academic success of student veterans.
- Veteran Outreach Events: Veteran Services hosts outreach events each semester to build community and connection among student veterans. These events help veterans reconnect and share the camaraderie of military life. The department also partners with community organizations to offer workshops that strengthen faculty and staff understanding of military and veteran culture.
- Purple Heart School: On May 2, 2018, Truckee Meadows Community College became the first designated Purple Heart College in the State of Nevada. This designation reflects TMCC's commitment to supporting combat-wounded students and includes a formal proclamation and a dedicated parking space reserved for Purple Heart recipients.
- VetSmart Training: Veteran Services offers Military and Veteran Culture Training that explores the history, structure, and culture of the U.S. Armed Forces. The training helps participants understand service branch differences, military experiences, and resources.

Western Nevada College

Introduction

Western Nevada College is committed to serving the veterans of our community. This commitment is personified by our Veteran Services department. The Veteran Services department is a collaborative effort of the Veterans Resource Coordinator, Financial Assistance, Counseling Services, Admissions and Records and a volunteer Academic Faculty member. At Western Nevada College, our mission is to aid the student veteran in the transition from military service to higher education by providing support and guidance during the application, admissions, and academic processes. Each member of the Western Nevada College team has a role to play in the success of our student veterans and the family members of veterans. Western Nevada College's Veteran Services Department provides wrap around services from initial intake to graduation. Each veteran student or their dependent receives services and assistance, including:

- WNC new student orientation
- WNC Disability Support Services
- WNC food pantry
- WNC Wildcat Wellness
- Access to tutoring and academic coaches
- Assistance in the admission application and registration
- Financial aid assistance
- VA Work Study Program
- Private study area and room for veterans to study, gather, and collaborate
- Computers for student veterans/ dependents to use
- Advisement including selections of classes to ensure classes are eligible for veteran educational benefits
- Support from the Veteran Academic Counselor for any veteran student falling below the Satisfactory Academic Progress standard
- Student veteran campus events
- Veterans Club re-established - WNC Wildcat Vets
- Connection to external veteran resources: Disabled American Veterans, Nevada Job Connect, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, Etc.
- Access to Veteran Advocate and Veteran Service Officer
- Intervention for students who receive veteran educational benefits to ensure any withdrawal from courses receive counseling on how the withdrawal may affect their benefits and academic plan

Brief of the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- Events Hosted:
 - End of Fall Semester Pizza Party
 - Donuts and Coffee Day
 - Veterans Day BBQ
 - 9/11 Stair Climb Remembrance
 - Bridges of Support: One-Day Conference for Faculty & Staff on Best Practices for Veteran Student Engagement
- Hired new VRC coordinator on April 1, 2025. (Position was vacant from July 1, 2024-March 31, 2025.)

New Initiatives

- Created a satellite Veteran Resource Center on WNC's Fallon Campus.

Continuing Initiatives

- The Veterans Resource Center provides:
 - A central location for student veterans to connect with academic, social and outreach resources geared towards veterans.
 - Guidance for student veterans and family members through the adjustment of military life and higher education.
 - Dedicated quiet study area computers and equipment to assist those pursuing their degree or certification.
 - A home for the Wildcat Veterans Club.
 - Academic Counseling Intervention Meetings with at risk students.
 - VA Work Study opportunities.

- Academic Advising & Access has a primary counselor dedicated to supporting student veterans for academic and/or personal difficulty.

- WNC is a Purple Heart College in recognition of service men and women who have received the Purple Heart decoration and as such has designated "Purple Heart" parking for combat-wounded service members at Carson, Douglas, and Fallon campus locations.

- The Certifying Official in the Financial Assistance Office works with those using VA Educational Benefits to ensure certifications are processed in a timely manner.