

Veterans Educational Training (VET)

Veteran Challenges in Academia

Introduction

Challenges?

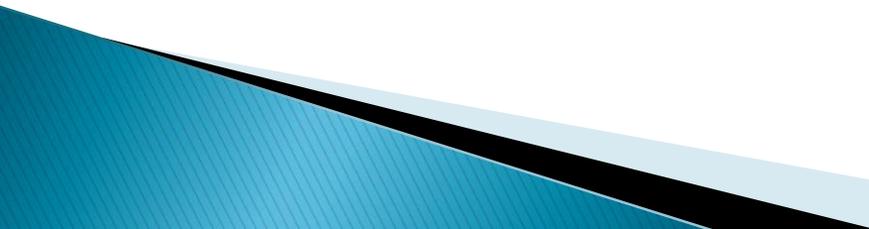
What to expect?

What Veterans Education Training (VET) does?

Challenges Statistics

- 55,739 Veterans in ND
- 6,415 Veterans in Ward County
- 237 Minot State Veteran Students (Spring 2015)
- Veteran homeless rate decreased 17.2% from 2009-2012, still approximately 62,619 average daily (U.S.)

(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 2014)



Challenges

Statistics

(Northwest MN, ND, Northern SD)

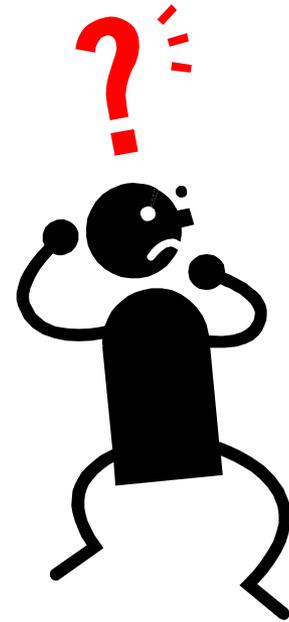
- 118,582 Veterans in “Target Area”
- Did not complete high school (Over age of 25): 12.6%
- Completed high school – no postsecondary education: 34.06%
- Incomplete postsecondary education: 32.76%
- Complete postsecondary education degree: 20.49%
- VET Average grade level starting: (college entry is 12.9) 10.3 math, 10.5 language, 11.5 reading

U.S. Census Bureau, (n.d.)

Challenges

What Program(s) am I Eligible For?

- Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill)
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehab)
- Chapter 32 (VEAP)
- Chapter 33 (Post 911 GI Bill)
- Chapter 35
- AD, Guard, Reserve TA
- Kickers
- Yellow Ribbon Programs
- FAFSA
- Job Service Programs
- Scholarships (just to name a few)



Wanted!!!!

Who am I?



Look Familiar?

ABOUT US | FACULTY & STAFF | ACADEMICS | COLLEGES & DEPARTMENTS | STUDENT SERVICES | ATHLETICS | VIDEOS | CONTACT US

Minot State UNIVERSITY

Be seen. Be heard.

Veterans Services

Welcome

Welcome to the Minot State University Veterans Center. We appreciate your service! We realize service members, veterans, and their dependents may have questions about educational benefits and how to put them to work for you. Learn more about the benefits related to you by clicking the appropriate link. Please stop in the office (Admin 152) or call us with any questions.

Veteran, Spouse and Dependent

Minot State University Contact

- Andy Heitkamp - Veteran Center Director (701)858-4002 andy.heitkamp@minotstateu.edu
- Pam Hopkins - School Certifying official (701)858-4003 pam.hopkins@minotstateu.edu
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Minot Air Force Base Contact

- Brigitte Mikula Program Coordinator/Advisor (701)727-9044 brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu
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Minot State University Contact

- Andy Heitkamp - Veteran Center Director (701)858-4002 andy.heitkamp@minotstateu.edu



Pictured above left to right Ali Coleman, Pam Hopkins, Andy Heitkamp

Upcoming Events

Apr 21, 2015 - Veterans Services and Outreach

Wanted!!!

Who am I?



Challenges

- May Struggle with effects of deployments, current/past (emotional, physical, social, and occupational)



Challenges

- Have difficulties relating to other students
- Non-Traditional
- Frustration over anti-military sentiments (students/faculty/staff)
- Lack of Structure
- Don't want to be “special”
- Feel invisible on campus
- Lack of sense of community
- Lack of self-advocacy



(University of Texas at Austin, 2012)

Challenges

- Some have unique needs
 - One in six have PTSD, major depression or anxiety
 - 60-80% Blast Injuries Iraq/Afghanistan Vets have/had Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Nearly 40% of recently separated veterans attending college have some kind of disability
 - Question: Largest Physical or Mental Health Disability?

(Fischer, 2010)

Challenges

- PTSD Occurrence
 - PTSD Occurrence civilians 7-8%
 - PTSD Occurrence Vietnam Vets 30%
 - PTSD Occurrence 1st Gulf War (Desert Storm) 10%
 - PTSD Occurrence 2nd Gulf War (OIF, OEF) 11-20%

(U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 2014)

Challenges

- Impacts of PTSD & TBI
 - Musculoskeletal trauma
 - Neurologic trauma
 - Psychological trauma
 - Concentration
 - Short/long term memory loss

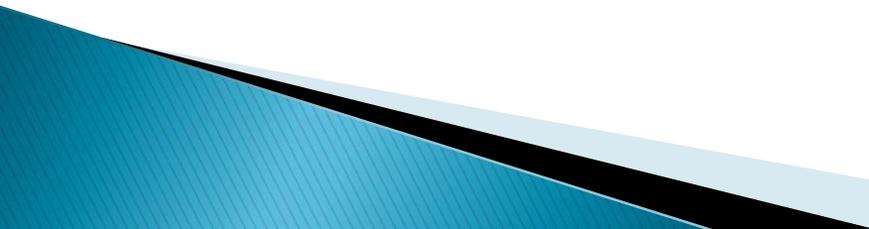
(Sumerall, 2011)

Challenges

➤ Suicide

- 22 Veterans Commit Suicide a day (2013)
- National Guard highest suicide rate 28.1/100,000 (2012)
- Civilian sector suicide rate 12.3/100,000 (2011)
- ND National Guard 16 suicides (2003-2012) (Assist Training)

(Assist Training)



Challenges

- Affects not only the Veteran but also:
 - Spouses
 - Parents
 - Children
 - Friends
 - Neighbors
 - Community

What to Expect

- Want a checklist
- Reluctant to ask for help
- Initially enroll in 12-18 semester credits
- Believe a “C” grade is failing
- Self destructive behavior
- Express comfort in dangerous environments
- Mistrust in counseling and bureaucracies (The Man)

(University of Texas at Austin, 2012)



What VET Does

- Actively seek out Veterans
 - Listen to the Veteran's wants and needs
 - Advise and tutor for certification or degree
 - Provides safe, non-confrontational atmosphere
 - Work with Veteran to apply for applicable funding
 - Advise, counsel and assist in problem solving
 - Proactive on campus, in communities & state
 - Refer to appropriate agencies
- 

Referral Agencies

- College VA Certification Official
- County Veteran Services Officer (CVSO)
- University Counseling Services
- ND Department of Veteran Affairs
- Veterans Administration
- Job Service (Veteran Consultant)
- Mobile Vet Center
- Various applicable help agencies



Conclusion

Challenges?

What to expect?

What Veterans Education Training (VET) does?

Questions?



References

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