

Boots to Broncos – Student Veteran Transition Support

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$ 95,000

Project Director

Name: Kathleen Street
Title: Associate Vice President
Department: Enrollment Services

Co-Project Director

Name:
Title:
Department:

Co-Project Director

Name:
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Project Description

The objective of the program is to enhance the existing campus support systems for student veterans focused on building student engagement and community, recognizing academic achievement, providing scholarship resources and fostering a veteran friendly campus. Built upon the Veteran Friendly model offered by the American Council on Education (ACE), CPP has already created a foundation for good policy and practice. Anecdotal feedback from student vets and national research reflect a need for enhanced support through adequate assistance, support and guidance.

Fostering a Veteran Friendly Campus: A recent nationwide survey revealed that a majority of campus professionals and academic advisors do not feel adequately prepared to serve student veterans. Professional development faculty and staff workshops using Teaching through Turbulence, a training program developed by the Univ. of Maine, will be provided to better educate our community on understanding the reintegration issues faced by today's vets.

Financial and Support Resources: With a time limit to benefits and aid shrinking, some student veterans find themselves unable to fulfill their educational goals due to finances. Additionally, many students returning from service lack the money upfront for the basic necessities of books and supplies, as GI benefits are paid out in arrears. \$250 book scholarships will be offered to students in need. Additionally, funding will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the eOrientation program and Veterans website to ensure current, engaging and time sensitive content.

Building Student Engagement & Community

A successful transition for any student depends on "establishing goals, finding mentors and developing confidants." Student veterans, especially, desire connections similar to the deep camaraderie developed during service. While there are many outlets on campus for veterans to become involved it is through a shared experience that our veterans may best connect. It is proposed that a student veteran lounge/study area and peer mentorship program be established. The lounge would be located in Trailer 13C which Captain Grigsby, the ROTC commander, has agreed to provide staff oversight with a full-time ROTC staff member. Peer mentors will provide information and support and make appropriate referrals to campus services and resources. Federal Work Study geared specifically towards veteran campus employment will be used at \$0 cost.

Recognition: Built upon the success of Colorado State University's Salute program, a national honor society of student veterans and military personnel will be established at CPP, providing campus recognition for outstanding achievement and a valuable leadership opportunity.

Recognition events will include a Student Veteran Graduation Reception for graduates and their families, a Student Veteran Welcome Reception in the fall, and Veteran Day Commemoration.