

University of Wyoming

Marna M. Kuehne Foundation

Veterans Services Center

Marty C. Martinez, CW2 USA (Retired)

James E. and Jill S. Anderson Veterans

Services Center Director

VSC History & Background

- **2009 – UW VP Student Affairs commissions committee to research and develop veteran engagement programming**
- **Spring 2010, VSC Opens in Knight Hall**
- **Fall 2012, gains full-time Project Coordinator**

VSC History & Background

- **Fall 2016, VSC recognized in Top 2% of colleges and universities by Military Advanced Education and Transition Magazine**
- **Fall 2018, New VSC located on 3rd floor of Wyoming Union – funded by private donation**
- **Currently serving 692 military connected students enrolled at UW**

Veterans Services Center

Mission Statement

The Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center at UW will provide support to Service Members, Veterans, and Military Families as they transition from the military to undergraduate and graduate education, employment, and civilian life through timely, relevant and effective services and programming.

Warrior to Scholar

VSC Areas of Focus

- **Access & Skill Transition: first 3 semesters**

Improved admission process, establish relevant policy, provide student advocacy, provide 6 academic courses and tutors

- **Retention & Student Support – sophomore and beyond**

Tutoring program, academic support, student and benefits advising – study groups, computer lab, scholarships, financial emergency assistance

- **Successful integration to employment and community: Jr/Sr**

Resource connection, employment search/resume writing /interview skills, mental and physical wellness programs

Budget Model

- **By Choice – removed from UW budget model**
 - Operation budget - 100% private donation
 - Director position - funded by UW
 - Project Coordinator, Sr – funded by donor x 3 years
- **Allows future allocation of funding**
- **Facilitates partnerships and collaborations with campus/off-campus services and programs**

Student Demographics

- **692 military connected students**
 - 440 Male // 220 Female**
 - 530 benefits // 162 without benefits**
 - Age Range: 17yrs – 78 yrs; Avg Age Freshman 26 yrs**
 - 127 Graduates this semester**
 - Average fall semester: 130 – 150 new/transfer students**
- **184 Dependents utilizing benefits (some could be military members)**
 - **Post 9/11: 87 Chap 35 DEA: 97**
- **100 WY National Guard utilizing NG Tuition Assistance Benefits**

Success and Results

- **Veterans Services Center**
 - 2,100 sq ft private center, fall 2018
 - Student Use: Appx 86 per day, 6800 per semester, over 13,000 hits per year
- **Staffing: 2 FTE Staff, 8 VA Work Study Student Veterans, 3 Student Tutors, 2 Adjunct Professors**
- **60 activities/events per academic year**



Success and Results

- **6 academic courses providing tools for student success, employability, and community integration**
- **Providing VA/Federal/State education benefits briefing to WY ARNG –ETS/Ret/Deploying**
 - **Upcoming for WAY ARNG 2/300 Soldiers**
- **Create opportunities to provide localized support by VA, VetCenters, WY Veterans Commission, on/off-campus organizations**
- **Food Insecurity Program – fed 2200 meals to student veterans; participate in various mental and physical wellness programs: Veterans Talking to Veterans, Lethal Means Safety Programming, Governors Challenge on Veteran Suicide, Wyoming Hunger Initiative**
- **Increased military connected student enrollment by 36% since 2020 to all time high of 692 this past semester.**

Success and Results

- **Degree program exploration**
- **Increased numbers of student veterans utilizing mental and physical wellness programs, launched Buddy Check Woobie Program**
- **Developed WY Veterans in Higher Education Conference – UW, WY Community Colleges, Other Academic and Voc/Tech Schools**
- **Added a military family scholarship, total of 10 Veteran scholarship opportunities totaling \$191,400**
- **Maintaining female military connected students at 30% of population, added Women Veterans Program; increase in number of dependents using parent's VA GI Bill**

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