Mission Accomplished:
Supporting Veteran Student Success

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Welcome!

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Associate Director

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University of South Florida
Guest Presenter

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Veteran Support Coordinator

Office of Veteran Success
University of South Florida
Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the chat box

• Share on social media
  Twitter:   @FLCollegeAccess
            @USFOVS

#FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Florida College Access Network is the heart of a movement to ensure today’s students are prepared for tomorrow’s jobs.

**Our mission:** To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students.

**Our vision:** At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025.
FCAN’s Work

**Research and Data** FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida’s talent pool.

**Local college access networks (LCANs)** LCANs represent 82% of the state’s population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.

**Statewide Initiatives** FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.
Introduction:
Veterans in Florida
9% of Floridians are veterans

- **Population**: 1.5M Floridians age 18 and older are veterans (2017)
- **Military separations**: Florida inbound military separations trailed only Texas and California, with 15,409 service members moving to Florida last year (2018)
- **VA education expenditures**: Nearly $1B of VA expenditures for education & vocational rehab/employment were spent in Florida, 7.5% of national expenditures (2017)

**Data source**:
- US Census Bureau American Community Survey – 5-year estimates 2013-2017
- DOD military separations data, 2018
Florida ranked 3rd in veteran education benefit usage

• 63,397 Florida veterans used education benefits, trailing only Texas and California (2018)

• Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits were the most common

• Over 7,400 dependents also used benefits

Data source:
• US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration Usage Report, 2018
Usage of veteran education benefits has more than doubled in Florida since 2002

Number of Florida Veterans Using Military Benefits

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida veterans perform well in postsecondary education

They earn some college credit or degrees at higher rates than non-veterans, 67% vs. 57.6% overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Veterans</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Non-Veterans</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian population 25 years+</td>
<td>1,440,105</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,920,046</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,360,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>83,799</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>1,703,540</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>1,787,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (or equivalent)</td>
<td>391,918</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>3,774,737</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>4,166,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or Associate’s degree</td>
<td>530,879</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>3,794,360</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>4,325,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
<td>433,509</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>3,647,409</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>4,080,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Total</td>
<td>964,388</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>7,441,769</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>8,406,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source:
- US Census Bureau American Community Survey – 5-year estimates 2013-2017
Poll: What types of support do you currently offer veteran students?
University of South Florida
Office of Veteran Success
(OVS)
• Success and History of the Office

• USF System and OVS Organization

• Student Population / Demographics

• OVS Operational Strategy

• Departmental Impacts
Military Times Best College for Veterans in the Nation:

- 2011-2012 Ranked #8
- 2013 Ranked #4
- 2014-2015 Ranked #5
- 2016 Ranked #2
- 2017 Ranked #1 (Also Ranked #1 by Forbes and Money Magazine)
- 2018 Ranked #2 (Overall) #1 Four-Year Public University
- 2019 Ranked #2 (Overall)
- 2020 Ranked #4

Featured in USA Today Newspaper in 2011
OVS Historical Background

Grant History

- 2009 – VA Renovation Funding - $75,000
- 2012 – Birdies for the Brave - $40,000
- 2014 – JP Morgan Grant - $235,000
- 2015 – Citi Grant - $30,000
- 2018 – Suntrust - $10,000
- 2019 – Anonymous - $50,000

Legislative Appropriation History

- 2015 – Veteran Support - $350,000 (One Time)
- 2016 – Academic / Career Support - $175,000 (Special)
One USF – Geographically Distributed

USF – Tampa (Main) Campus

USF – St. Petersburg Campus

USF – Sarasota-Manatee Campus
**OVS Student Population**

- 23% Active Service Members
- 6% Veterans using GI Bill
- 25% Other Veterans
- 46% Dependents using GI Bill

**Gender**

- 24% Male
- 76% Female

**Age Range**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE RANGE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-64</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Age of USF Veteran:** 34
Student Veteran Demographics (2 of 2)

Campus
- Tampa: 84%
- St. Pete: 10%
- Sarasota-Manatee: 6%

Degree
- UnderGrad: 57%
- Grad: 30%
- Other: 13%

Status
- Full-Time: 64%
- Part-Time: 36%
Veteran Graduations

Graduating Veterans by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduating Veterans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Linear (Graduating Veterans by Year)
**Veteran Success Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METRIC</th>
<th>VALUE*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistence Rate</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Values are averages of last four academic years*
VALUES (Service, Commitment, and Excellence)

MISSION
Provide a seamless transition for our nation's veterans from military life, through campus life into a meaningful career by providing high quality services and opportunities for academic success, personal growth, and professional development.

VISION
Empowering student veterans to achieve their definition of success beyond service.

END STATE
Healthy, graduate veteran with solid prospects for employment in desired career field or new life path.

LINES OF EFFORT

Admissions Support
- New Student Outreach
- Admissions Orientation

Benefits Support
- GI Bill Certification
- Yellow Ribbon
- Scholarships
- Benefits Counseling
- VA Work Study
- Tuition Waivers

Academic Support
- Academic Advising
- Academic Advocacy
- SLS 3407 / SLS 3308
- Academic Outreach
- Tutoring
- ARC Petitions

Wellness
- Alternative Therapies
- Vet Center Liaison
- At Risk Outreach
- Research
- Adjustment Counseling
- Spiritual

Community Building & Partnerships
- Got Your Six
- VA Expo
- Quilts of Valor
- Salute to Service Games
- Honor-A-Bull Awards
- VCARE

Career Support
- Career Counseling
- Internships
- Industry Recon
- Employment Assistance
- Job Postings
- Mentoring

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Healthy, graduate veteran with solid prospects for employment in desired career field or new life path.
• Mandatory orientation (fixes benefits issues, residency changes, “name with a face”)

• We’ve added a total of 20 scholarships to the list of those available to student veterans (most are endowed)

• Tailored two veteran-only 3-credit hour courses for veterans coming in and headed out of the university

• Expanded focus of academic advising to all student veterans, not just those “at-risk”

• Partnered with USF Athletics and Mission BBQ to make student veterans feel a part of the community

• Industry Recon program for careers; gives both sides a “test run” without a lot of strings attached
Programs and Events
• Three student organizations (SALUTE, SAME and SVA)
• Week of Welcome Events
• Salute to Service Partnership with USF Athletics
• VA Outreach Expo
• Member of Mission United Council
• Member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) Military Affairs Committee
• South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
• Tampa Bay Tech Forum
• Bay Area Manufacturers (BAMA)
• Department of Veterans Affairs
• Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association
• SOCOM / CENTCOM / MacDill AFB
Questions?

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Office of Veteran Success  
University of South Florida
Learn More:

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