

PROPOSAL



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Background Information

Historical Background

Dating back to its founding, veterans¹ have played an integral role in the history of the University of Washington (UW). It is important to note that the namesake of our University was a veteran, so too was Brigadier General Isaac Stevens, the territorial governor who successfully advocated for the University's creation. Husky veterans are core contributors to the University's legacy of leadership and excellence. They have served as campus, community, and military leaders since the University was founded.

Currently, the University of Washington Bothell (UWB) enrolls over 200 student veterans and that number continues to grow each year. The influx of veterans occurred when the Veterans Administration announced the Post-9/11 GI Bill that provides separating veterans with new benefits that enable many to attend college upon separation. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan come to an end, the number of service members looking to transition to civilian life will continue to grow, as will the veteran population on campus. Therefore, building programming for student veterans on campus at UWB is now more important than ever.

Vision

The University of Washington Bothell Veteran Life unit will contribute to a campus and community that is inclusive, progressive, and welcoming to all veterans and their dependents, regardless of race, creed, gender identity, or politics. Our unit seeks to establish the University of Washington Bothell as not only a military and veteran friendly institution, but as one of the premier institutions of higher learning for student veterans in the state. This vision is in keeping with the reputation for excellence for which the University of Washington is known.

All Veterans and family members will feel welcome at UWB while obtaining their higher educational degree. Exposure to military culture creates a community of non-traditional students with unique transitional needs back into society. A Veteran will go from orientation to graduation with all the programs and resources necessary to succeed. A Veterans Life Center will be a place where Veterans and family members can go for a centralized place to receive help from staff and other Veterans.

Mission

The mission of the UWB Veteran Life unit is to achieve three main objectives: 1) Create centralized services and programming that supports student veterans and their dependents in their academic endeavors; 2) Grow and strengthen the veteran community and identity by cultivating a sense of pride in the sacrifices that student veterans have made in service to their country; and 3) Represent the unique position and needs of our veteran constituents.

¹ Throughout this report, the term "student veterans" is used to be synonymous with active duty military personnel, reservists, the National Guard, veterans who have previously served in the military, and their dependents who have served their country through their sacrifices of family life.

Program Goals

Programs and Services Currently Serving Veterans

The following are programs and services currently serving veterans at UW Bothell:

The Student Veterans Association (SVA)

UW Bothell's Student Veterans Association was formed in 2010. The SVA led entirely by veterans is dedicated to creating a welcoming campus that acknowledges the challenges of transition from military culture to civilian life by minimizing the difficulties associated with this experience and maximizing the potential for success. The most active group on campus, the SVA continues to collaborate with the administration to bring the challenges and achievements of veterans to light and support their success.

Transition Course for Veterans

The transition course is taught by faculty who are also veterans and UWB's VetCorps Navigator. This course was created to assist student veterans in understanding academic culture. The course introduces valuable resources to help them navigate their experiences on campus.

Priority Registration

All veterans are eligible for priority registration at the University of Washington after their first quarter of attendance.

Career Services

The Career Center is dedicated to serving our veterans to enter the job market. Students receive assistance with resume reviews, interview and job search skills, and are provided with information on career events specific to veterans.

Veterans Services Assistants

Veterans Services is staffed by Veterans Administration Work Study students to assist with certification for benefits and are available to answer questions from veterans on a walk in basis.

Veteran Corp Navigator

A Veteran Corp Navigator from the Washington State Department of Veterans Administration serves as a very rich resource for UW Bothell veterans. Students are able to access information about assistance they may receive through the VA and the community.

Veterans Memorial

The UW Bothell Archway Memorial was created to honor all veterans and was funded entirely by donations. It was dedicated in May 2013.

The UWB Student Veterans Association Challenge Coin

Our challenge coin is presented to every graduating veteran at the end of each quarter to acknowledge their service and achievement.

Recognition

Student veterans are given stoles to wear at all UW Bothell commencement ceremonies. The stoles were designed by the SVA and include the seal for the University of Washington, their status as a veteran, and their branch of service.

Orientation and Transition Program

In 2015, Orientation and Transition Programs launched the New Student Networks program to provide additional support for new students with a unique transition to UW Bothell. A founding identity group was the Veterans New Student Network. Along with the creation of the Veterans Network for new students came a Veteran's Orientation that is a one-hour breakfast session in conjunction with the Transfer Student Advising and Orientation, handouts with UW Bothell, community, and regional resources, a reception at the start of fall quarter, and monthly programming for the veteran community. The Network supports new students through their transition to UW Bothell, with the goal of helping students feel welcomed, find a community, get connected with resources, and hit the ground running.

Key Programs Required to Enhance Veteran Experience

We believe that to better serve our student veterans, there is a need for more substantial programming that occurs throughout the academic year and that students can begin to continually rely upon. In the following section, we have broken down programs, services, and activities by the academic year so that it flows with the needs of students (*please see Appendix A which includes the results from a student veteran survey in which the data collected was used to outline the following programming based on the needs/wants indicated by the student veterans themselves*). Any activity, programming, or service that would require having a student veteran's designated space on campus is noted below:

2017-18 Academic Calendar: Key Program, Activities, and Services Plan

Fall Quarter:

- Welcome Week
 - Opening of dedicated Veteran space ceremony
 - Pre fall welcome info session (in conjunction orientation services) with or all new student veterans
 - Graduate student lunch and info session
 - Veteran New Student Network Reception for all new veterans
- Quarterly open house, at beginning of each quarter (dependent upon having a designated space)
 - Food, alumni invited, service providers invited, faculty and staff invited
- Veteran Appreciation Week
 - Alumni night, networking
 - Veterans recreational activity
 - Campus wide Veteran event to raise awareness and build community
- Education
 - Teaching student Veterans workshop (*see Appendix B which includes the results from the survey sent to UWB faculty where there was an indication and majority interest in more training and knowledge about veterans in the classroom*)
 - Student panel for faculty
 - Grad school applications workshop
 - V.S.O Open house
 - Alumni panel and networking night

Winter Quarter:

- Quarterly open house (dependent on having a designated space)
 - Food, alumni, staff, and faculty invited
 - V.S.O Open house
- Internship fair for Veterans
 - Networking event
- Sponsorship program for holidays
 - Combined holiday dinner
- Veterans night out
 - Families invited, games, food

Spring Quarter:

- Quarterly open house (dependent on having a designated space)
 - Food, alumni, staff, and faculty invited
 - V.S.O Open house
- Outdoor recreational activity
- Memorial Day Activities
 - Annual Veterans Archway clean up and campus BBQ
 - Campus wide event to raise awareness and build community
- Graduation Activities
 - Veterans Ceremony (coins and stoles)
 - Grad night out with families

Summer Quarter:

- Outdoor recreational activities
 - Partner and collaborate with UW Seattle and UW Tacoma

Organizational Short-Term Goals: 1 – 2 Years

The first two years of our unit's existence will be paramount in creating a sustainable veterans program on campus. For the first two years, programming will be focused on developing a unified and accessible network of veteran services on the UW Bothell campus. This task will require meeting with different departments on campus to establish lasting connections that create institutional ties that promote service to the veteran community.

Our short-term goals (1-2 years) include:

- **Hire a full time UWB staff member to run the Veteran Life at UWB** (title: Veteran Life Program Coordinator). Although the Vet Corps Navigator position is an important component of Veteran Services at UWB, it is of the highest priority to hire a full time Veteran Life Program Coordinator to maintain long term stability in order to achieve long term success for the Veteran Life unit
- **Secure and develop a Veteran Space on campus** that is an environment that is welcoming to all student veterans

- **Build a campus resource network** to provide centralized student veteran services
- **Formalize and institutionalize a mentorship program**
New Student Networks has developed a mentorship program for all networks, including veterans, for new students to self-identify and request a mentor within the veteran community. This will launch summer of 2017.
- **Expand student veteran engagement** through increased programming (e.g. educational, professional, social)
- **Develop data and analytics** for student veteran graduation rates in order to better track program success
- **Seek out and grow corporate and organizational partnerships in the community** in order to increase the effectiveness of the academia-to-employment pipeline
- **Cultivate legislative partnerships** and serve as a voice for constituents while building community

Organizational Long-Term Goals: 3+ Years

As our programming matures and accomplishes its short-term goals, we will continue to sustain the programs built in the first two years while beginning to focus on developing more robust programming for student veterans. This will mean an expansion of services on the UWB campus and a collaboration of efforts with a tri-campus initiative. This initiative aims to provide institutional consistency and continuity for all UW student veterans. We seek to make an impact on larger issues that UW student veterans face, such as homelessness, unemployment, and military-to-civilian transition issues.

Our broader goal of addressing challenges that student veterans face will be accomplished by offering the services developed in its first two years, and adding the following goals to its mission:

Our long-term goals (3+ years) include:

- **Collaborate with UW Seattle and Tacoma** to strengthen veteran programming University-wide
- **Participate in statewide military transition workshops on local bases** (e.g. JBLM, Everett, Whidbey Island) and community colleges to improve the transition process for future UWB students
- **Create a family care program for student's veterans** who see the cost of childcare as a barrier to continuing education
- **Engage with the Department of Veterans Affairs** to identify transitional housing that the University can offer to veterans that struggle with homelessness

Strategies to Integrate with Diversity Initiatives

In accordance with the Diversity Action Plan, the UWB Veteran Life will utilize the following strategies to coordinate and integrate diversity initiatives:

- **Increase attendance at other student organization/club activities on campus** to show support and learn about other diverse groups in order to build friendship, community, and understanding on campus
- **Work jointly with other student organizations/clubs on campus** to plan student activities/awareness trainings in order to increase relationships and community bonds at UWB

- **Increase education and awareness of the challenges veterans face** campus wide to include:
 - PTSD
 - Mental Health
 - Military Sexual Trauma

Leveraging Existing Programs

Leveraging Existing Program at UWB

The New Student Networks program is piloting a mentorship program for new students to connect with Faculty/Staff as a mentor. Additionally, Orientation and Transition Programs will develop a training to allow new students in the networks to select a peer and/or UW Bothell alumni mentor. Currently, all veteran students who affiliate with the New Student Networks program are asked the question “How would you like to engage with the New Student Networks” when they register for their Advising and Orientation. One option is to connect with a mentor. When students attend their Veteran Orientation, the Network Lead will identify a mentor to connect the new student with. Only students who self-identify that they are seeking a mentor will be connected.

Learning from Models at Others Institutions

UW Seattle and UW Tacoma have thriving and successful Veteran Life programs that we can learn from. Moving forward, and as we build a more robust student veteran life here at UWB, our team will take full measures to learn and incorporate successful programming from both sister campuses. Programming for next year will involve more tri-campus activities, and we will strive to build a strong University of Washington veteran life throughout the entire system in the years to come.

For short term and long term goals, some of the models that we recommend to incorporate into our programming from our sister campuses include the following:

UW Seattle:

- Full time program director and assistant director of Veteran Life
- PAVE mentor program
- Quarterly visits from VSO’s to help Veterans with benefit claims
- Year round programming
- Established relationships with community partners

UW Tacoma:

- Full time Veteran Life Director
- Quarterly “networking night out” to network and build veteran community off of the campus
- Mentor program

Estimated Operating Budget

Estimated Costs of Program Implementation

If our vision for the Veteran Life at UWB were funded, the budget would contain the following estimated costs:

- **Full time Veteran Life Program Coordinator: \$55,000**
 - Would work under Veteran Services
- **Office Costs: \$2,500 (w/\$4,000 for capital investment)**
 - Supplies (\$1,000)
 - Technology (\$1,000 for yearly updates and maintenance w/\$4,000 for capital investment for computers, printers, etc.)
 - Communications (\$500)
- **Programming: \$4,400**
 - Veterans Appreciation Week Events (\$1,000)
 - Memorial Day Programming (\$1,000)
 - Panels and Workshops (\$500 per quarter)
 - Career
 - Networking
 - Military Transition
 - Annual Veteran Symposium (\$1,000)
 - Veteran Outings (\$400 per quarter)
 - SVA Challenge Coins (\$500)
- **Travel: \$1,000**
 - Annual or semi-annual conference/training for SVA president
- **Emergency Funding: \$2,500**
 - Temporary Funding for Student Emergencies (This will be kept in the budget and may not be used each year but will be there for emergency situations for students)
- **Space Furnishings: \$10,000**
 - Library Development (Professional and Personal Development Books)
 - Study Space Creation
 - Lounge/Safe Zone
 - Alternative grants outside of these amounts will be pursued through private foundations dedicated specifically to veteran space construction (e.g. Home Depot grants for development of Veterans Centers on college campuses)

Conclusion

All members of this task force are grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to envision and prioritize better services and a more supportive campus environment for UW Bothell student veterans. The members of this task force strongly encourage and recommend that space be designated for veterans on this campus in order to make our vision outlined in this proposal a reality (*please see Appendix C for alumnus support letter*). We thank you for this opportunity, for your consideration, and for your service to this nation, as well as this institution.

Appendix A: Summary of Student Veteran Survey Results

Summary of student veteran survey responses

May 17, 2017

An email survey was sent out to all student veterans at UW Bothell in late April of 2017. The survey was compiled by the Veterans' Life Initiative, a group of students, staff, alumni, and faculty pulled together by UWB Chancellor Wolf Yeigh to improve services for veterans on the UWB campus. 25 students responded. Because the Chancellor has access to many of the quantitative data pieces of this survey, this page contains only the results of the certain quantitative questions that correlate with how we developed programming as well as qualitative data collected.

1. Would you use a veteran's space on campus if one was available to you?
(Check yes or no). N=25/25
Yes- 23 (92%) No- 2 (8%)
2. Do you feel that UW Bothell supports your needs as a student veteran?
(Check yes, no, or other) N=25/25
Yes- 13 (52%) No- 3 (12%) Other- 9 (36%)
3. Have you ever encountered any discrimination in the classroom because of your veteran status? N=25/25
(Check yes, no, or other)
Yes- 4 (16%) No- 19 (76%) Other- 2 (8%)
4. Do you feel comfortable self-identifying as a veteran on campus and in the classroom?
(Check yes, no, or other) N=25/25
Yes-18 (72%) No-3 (12%) Other-4 (16%)
5. Do you feel lonely or isolated on campus?
(Check yes, no, or other) N=25/25
Yes- 9 (36%) No-14 (56%) Other-2 (8%)

6. Do you feel faculty and staff understand your needs as a student veteran?

(Check yes or no) N=25/25

Yes-16 (66.7%)

No- 8 (33.3%)

7. What was your biggest challenge when starting school at UWB?

(Long answer response) N=22/25

Responses were:

- Lost, no place to go, had to figure everything out on my own, very limited/lack of resources available
- Adjusting to being a student
- Initial registration and trying to get into the classes I needed to get into
- Understanding why the GI Bill doesn't pay out of state tuition, how to get the rest of my tuition covered. Loans were apparently the only option and the only option supplied for me. Way to be capitalists and encourage student debt
- Getting used to civilian life. Differences in maturity between myself and peers
- Transportation
- Registration. Limited classroom seats
- English. It's my second language
- Knowing your support resources for classes. Like mentor-ship and tutoring
- Not sure
- The political climate has made me unable to trust your institution
- I haven't attended an actual University before
- Getting help from employees at UWB. Not including, Rosa, it is nearly impossible to get help and answers
- Learning how to study again (not memorization)
- No challenges
- Meeting people
- Social just warrior's bigotry directed towards me
- Getting oriented on where classes are, regular UW process of registering, getting the right access to labs, etc.
- None- it has been a very smooth transition
- Scheduling
- The administration that didn't actually care
- Adjusting to classes/professors

8. What are the barriers that keep you from participating in campus activities or groups?
(Long answer response) N=20/25

The responses for this question were:

- Time
 - Time
 - Don't have time outside of class
 - Long commute, many meetings happen when I'm in class
 - The political views and oppressive nature of those I served with, and my impression of most veterans who are not POC
 - Work full time and go to school full time
 - Schedule conflicts
 - Logistics-hour commute by bus to campus
 - There are no barriers. At my age, I have my own network and circle. From my observations, the young students seem to be well adjusted and happy
 - Not knowing where activities are taken place. I want to get involved in clubs but not know where or when they take place
 - Work
 - As a Veteran, and a conservative, your campus has made it completely clear that my opinions are not respected nor at they welcomed
 - I live far away, and I have a lot of things that occupy my free time
 - Class schedule and living far away from campus
 - Never interested
 - My age
 - Not enough time in the day
 - A student body that touts diversity but is militant towards everyone with differing opinions
 - Time/knowledge of events
9. How do you think a Veteran Center on campus would help you to be more academically successful?

(Long answer response) N=20/25

The responses for this question were:

- A place to feel welcome and wanted, where people with similar backgrounds can come to form a sense of community. As non-traditional students, and being exposed to military culture, most Veterans need help to transition back into society. A Veteran Center should be at a minimum, the basic necessity a Veteran can look forward to and feel safe, while trying to attend the UWB
- Dedicated space for study and collaboration
- A place for me to relax and get some studying done, plus meet other veterans

- Maybe?
- Free coffee, a place to use computers, it is easier to get help navigating the VA's rules
- Have a veteran services center that feels more welcoming. Instead of a cubicle in the corner of the room
- Greater sense of belonging (and hopefully coffee and a printer)
- Absolutely! We veterans have unique experiences and challenges that people have a difficult time comprehending. Having a center will provide an area that we can feel comfortable in
- It would be a HUB to get more information and help socialize with other vets than can help adapt to a new environment
- No
- Depends on how well utilized it is. Having people to study with that I can relate to would be cool
- Having a designated location where we can all call our own. This will help greatly on socializing and studying
- It wouldn't
- I could meet with more people and network. I'd feel more comfortable getting advice and help from other vets
- It might
- Not sure
- Yes, it was at my last school and made a huge difference
- Study spaces, interactions with veterans who have succeeded in my area of study

10. Is there anything else you would like to see on campus or like us to know as we build a better and strong Veteran Life at UWB?

(Long answer response) N=13/25

- I would like to see the UWB Vet Center become a reality
- Address the fact that veterans are feeling worried and concerned about this presidency and you are literally the only people who have not reached out to provide support to "your" Veteran community who may be feeling unsafe and unwelcome. Reassuring my feelings of non-identification with the veteran community or veteran support at UWB
- Kayak group
- A dedicated veterans service center
- Nothing to add. Great campus
- More involvement in general and activities
- Fix the politics

- There is limited information passed around campus about veteran events. This does not help if we want to be noticed
- Coffee
- Discounted parking for veterans
- Nothing at this time
- I would like to see actual support for veterans and student like a health center that didn't happen because ASUWB threw as big of a hissy fit as they could and got what they wanted
- Gathering/study spaces for veterans, outdoor/gaming activities etc., help/information/guidance on different ways to help pay for school once the GI Bill is exhausted (i.e. scholarships)

Appendix B: Summary of Faculty Survey Results

Summary of faculty survey responses (quantitative)

May 17, 2017

An email survey was sent out to all faculty at UW Bothell in late April of 2017. The survey was compiled by the Veterans' Life Initiative, a group of students, staff, alumni, and faculty pulled together by UWB Chancellor Wolf Yeigh to improve services for veterans on the UWB campus. 26 faculty responded. This page contains the results of the quantitative data collected. The opposite side contains a summary of the qualitative data collected.

1. What personal familiarity do you have with veterans outside of the classroom?

(Check any and all that apply). N = 26/26

I myself am a veteran or in the military	3	11.3%
My spouse or ex-spouse is a veteran or in the military	2	7.7%
A child of mine is a veteran or in the military	0	0
A parent or sibling is a veteran or in the military	9	34.6%
A close friend or other close family member is a veteran or in the military	11	42.3%
I don't really have any personal familiarity with veterans or the military	7	26.9%
Other	2	7.7%

2. Would you participate in an annual beginning of the year meet and greet with student veterans?

N = 26/26

Yes – 19 (73.1%)

No = 7 (26.9%)

3. Do you believe that Student Veterans positively contribute to your classroom? N = 26/26

Yes = 23 (88.5%)

No – 0

Not sure = 3 (11.5%)

4. Which of the following resources have you utilized in the past with questions or concerns about a student Veteran? N = 26/26

Rosa Lundborg, Veterans Service Manager	11	42.3%
Vetcorps Navigator	0	0
Student Veteran Association	1	3.8%
None	15	57.7%
Other	3	11.5%

5. Do you support the Veterans on campus having their own space on campus to grow a Veteran Life Community? N = 26/26

Yes = 23 (88.5%)

No = 0

Other: 3 (11.5%)

Summary of faculty survey responses (qualitative)

Of the 26 faculty who responded to the survey emailed to all campus faculty, 15 provided one or more comments to the question, “What has been your biggest challenge in regards with Student Veterans?” One additional response was a duplicate submission.

Responses were:

- No challenges (None, No challenges) (6/15)
- Strengths of students who are veterans (7/15)
 - Older age
 - Performance (hard-working; awesome; focused; excellent; valued contributors; some of my best students)
 - Motivation (highly motivated; want to learn; very proactive)
 - Evidence of helpful skills learned in military
 - Diplomatic
 - Focus on completing the job and doing strong work
- Psychological well-being and PTSD (8/15)
 - Identifying students with symptoms of depression/anxiety
 - Concern about needed accommodations
 - Supportive classroom strategies, such as
 - Adding more time for an assignment to be completed
 - Concern whether material might trigger symptoms
 - How to help them meet their academic needs
 - Caring word
- Fitting in with younger students in lower division courses such as Discovery Core series and FYPP math can be challenging (3/15)
- Situational issues (noted not to be exclusive to veteran students) such as long commutes, having families, older age

Appendix C: Letter of Support from Alumnus Ben Wiselogle

To: Chancellor Wolf Yeigh, PhD
From: ben wiselogle, US Navy 2001-2007, UW Bothell 2012, Evans School 2016
Subject: Statement in favor of a veterans space at UW Bothell
Date: 1 March 2017

Dear Chancellor Yeigh,

To begin, please accept my sincere gratitude for your leadership and continued service to our great nation. It is appreciated, and I hope that you know that.

As a proud veteran of the United States Navy and proud alumnus from the University of Washington Bothell, I am writing this letter today with the strongest possible endorsement for a veterans' space on the UW Bothell campus.

You and I viscerally know how unique the experiences of our returning military service members are, and how challenging the transition back to the civilian world can be. Your efforts to make this transition easier are noted and appreciated, but there is more that we can and must do. After all, the military spends months training civilians to become contributing members of the armed services, but mere weeks or sometimes days reintegrating military members back into civilian life.

For good or ill, the process of reintegration today is frequently occurring on college campuses just like UW Bothell, and if we fail to do all that we can, we will jeopardize a whole generation of young veterans who have so much to add to our nation and world after folding up and putting away their military uniforms. Just at UW Bothell, the incredible community there has seen the positive impact that student veterans have had. To illustrate this point, out of the last seven Chancellor's Medal winners, three have been student winners, to include our brothers Sean Ally, Chris McRae, and Ben Studley. US Navy veteran and Evans School MPA candidate Emma Kirby currently is working indefatigably to improve the strength of the community.

Chancellor, the time is now to make a student veterans space at UW Bothell a reality. I know that there is a debate about which needs to come first- community or space-, but having seen the success that sprang from a dedicated space at UW Seattle (*UW Bothell South*), I must weigh in here.

The mental and emotional well being of our veteran brothers and sisters in Seattle saw an immediate boost once they had a space that they could call their own, and authentically be themselves while working to integrate with a student body that in some cases was explicitly hostile to individuals who chose to answer our great nation's call. With this increase in well being came a community that has flowered into something beautiful and active on campus. To demonstrate, many students that would not have felt comfortable without a location that they could be themselves and grow into their roles as civilians again thrived and ended up making up a disproportionate share of the inaugural Husky 100- an award that recognizes 100 high achieving students out of the over 44,000 UW students.

Sir, while pursuing my masters at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, I saw firsthand the dramatic positive shift that occurred after the Office of Student Veteran Life earned its space. I invite you to see the space for yourself, and to see the love and camaraderie that fills that physical space.

I know that you have many competing demands and finite space at UW Bothell, but please do not feel obligated to acquiesce to the loudest voices in the room. Although politically comfortable, it is not right, and does not reflect the US Navy's values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Our brother and sister veterans have earned a space to call their own that can help them to heal, and you will see it thrive once you prioritize it.

I thank you again for your leadership, service, and examples, and please let me know how I can be of service to you and the UW Bothell community that I love so much.

Very Respectfully,

Ben wiselogle
206.949.8635