

**Applicant Name: Alexandria Technical and Community College, MN**

**Brief Project Description:** The major **activities** include:

1. Improve data mining capabilities systems to ensure that all veteran students are identified and receive enhanced services.
2. Hire a CEVSS Project Coordinator to establish the center and serve as the single point-of-contact for providing wraparound services for academic, social, emotional, and career development needs.
3. Hire a Veteran Student Success Coach that will provide peer coaching and support services specifically designed for veteran students, addressing both academic and basic needs.
4. Increase outreach to prospective veterans to promote awareness of unique opportunities available at ATCC, like bridge programs, credit for prior learning, and other specialized services.

Expected **outcomes** from this project will be increased data visibility; increased enrollment of veterans by 12% each year of the grant period; increased persistence and completion by 1.5% each year of the grant; and increase in veteran students seeking wraparound services, prior learning credits, and positions becoming sustainable due to the increased retention of students.

The population served will be veteran students both on-campus and online.

**Summary of Project Goals:** The **goals** of the project are to increase enrollment, persistence, retention, and completion of veteran students through expanded and enhanced one-on-one student coaching with supportive wraparound services that are streamlined to a single point-of-contact. Increased enrollment and retention of veteran students will lead to sustainability of the new positions provided through this grant opportunity. Additionally, the project will establish an enhanced data collection system to accurately identify veteran students and monitor performance, providing a data-driven decision model for the college.

**Applicant Name: Temple College, TX**

**Brief Project Description:** Services and Proposed Activities - (1) Create a Center of Excellence for Veterans Student Success focused on developing sustained relationships with veteran students. (2) Provide coordinated comprehensive supports to improve credential completion. (3) Embed positive incentives to encourage participation. (4) Develop internal and external partnerships to advance success for veteran students.

**Summary of Project Goals:** Anticipated Results - Increased numbers access supports targeted to them. Increased retention rates for veteran students. Increased sense of belongingness among veteran students. Increased 3-year completion rate and Sustained support services after funding ends. Citations include: WWC Practice Guide Effective Advising for Postsecondary Students (2021, Strong Evidence), WWC Practice Guide Designing and Delivering Career Pathways at Community Colleges (2021, Moderate evidence).

**Applicant Name: University Enterprises Corporation at CSUSB, CA**

**Brief Project Description:** California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) will establish a Center of Excellence for Veterans Student Success (CEVSS). The CEVSS program at CSUSB will serve military-connected students by developing programs and services that assist students with the transition from military to civilian life, assist with the transition from two-year to four-year programs, develop literacy in understanding financial aid and military benefits, prepare for post-graduation success or graduate level education, and provide holistic advising that supports the social, emotional, and academic needs of continuing students.

**Summary of Project Goals:**

- 1: Coordination of Veteran services and programming. Establish programs, services, and referral systems that support the academic and holistic needs of military-connected students.
- 2: Career Readiness. Increase awareness of graduate and professional schools, career pathways, and placement opportunities.
- 3: Enrollment. By 2027, increase veteran enrollment at CSUSB by 10%.
- 4: Retention. By 2027, increase military-connected students retention rates by 10%.
- 5: Graduation. By 2027, increase military-connected students graduation rates by 10%.

**Applicant Name: Reedley College, CA**

**Brief Project Description:** Enhance services at a small Veterans Center by 1) Hiring two adjunct counselors and one Coordinator focused on Credit for Prior Learning and Competency-Based Education, 2) increasing academic support services by semester advising, mandatory tutoring if needed, study skills classes, summer orientation to college success, 3) mental health support including mental health topics workshops monthly, veterans support groups weekly, individual counseling; 4) structured pathway to college completion including supportive advising, educational workshop monthly, field trips to universities to promote interest in 4-year degree programs, and 5) focused outreach on bringing more veterans to the college, RC is anticipating an annual growth of 10%.

**Summary of Project Goals:** Veteran student's persistence rates will increase by 6% to 61%, up from 56%; Veteran students will complete/graduate at 30%, up from a 25% current rate.

*Intended Outcomes* for veteran students include higher persistence rates, more relevant units earned annually, more engagement with college services such as financial aid, tutoring and clubs, improved graduation rates, and higher transfer rates to universities.

**Applicant Name: Oklahoma City Community College, OK**

**Brief Project Description:** The primary objective of the CEVSS is to create a centralized hub that streamlines access to comprehensive support services for veteran students. This includes academic advising, career services, mental health counseling, and assistance with veterans' benefits, aiming to improve enrollment, persistence, and completion rates among veterans.

**Summary of Project Goals:**

1. **Establishment of a Veteran Student Support Team:** This team will include representatives from critical institutional offices such as admissions, financial aid, and academic advising, providing tailored support to address the unique needs of veterans.
2. **Dedicated Coordinator:** A Project Director will oversee the program, ensuring effective delivery of services and continuity of care.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regular assessment of veteran student enrollment, persistence, and completion rates will be conducted to measure the impact of the CEVSS and guide continuous improvement.

**Intended Outcomes:**

1. **Increased Enrollment:** The center aims to significantly boost veteran enrollment by providing targeted outreach and streamlined admissions processes.
2. **Enhanced Support Services:** By offering integrated academic and non-academic support, the center will address the holistic needs of veterans, including those transitioning from military to civilian life.
3. **Improved Academic Success:** The CEVSS is designed to increase academic persistence and completion rates of veteran students through proactive and comprehensive support.

## **Applicant Name: Texas Southern University, TX**

**Brief Project Description:** Texas Southern University, a public 4 year HBU, in Houston, Texas, proposes the Texas Southern University Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (TSU CEVSS), a project that will support veteran students success by addressing academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students through collaboration and coordination of services on the TSU campus and within the Harris County area. In Texas, Harris County has the most reported veterans in the entire state at 175,260 for 2023 (va.gov. vetdata). At TSU Fall 2023 a total of 354 identified veterans and 366 military connected students were enrolled at the university. With intention, this project is not a deficit model based on barriers to success, but rather it is based on supports to success. The strategies proposed are primarily based on Bettinger and Baker's work, *The Effects of Student Coaching in College: An Evaluation of a Randomized Experiment in Student Mentoring* (2011), which focused on student coaching interventions.

### **Summary of Project Goals:**

#### **1. Support veteran student success by coordinating services to address academic needs.**

This will be accomplished through the development and implementation of a veteran-specific academic advisor initiative where an Academic Advisor will guide veteran student education plans using T-Claw (mascot Tigers) Navigate360 and prescribed first year scheduling. A cohort specific First Year Seminar course (FYS, for FTICs) or Transfer Success course (TRN, for transfers) for student veterans, the provision of training in online classroom tools and the provision of peer tutoring, for gateway courses will be deployed. Coordination with other TSU units to provide wrap-around, holistic academic support network will occur so that veteran students will have exposure to, and access, TSU TRIO programs, the Tutoring Center, and other resources.

#### **2. Support veteran student success by coordinating services to address financial needs.**

TSU will accomplish this by implementing a career planning initiative that includes workshops on the following topics: making connections between major choices and employment, career exploration, and the identification and joining of professional associations. Micro-internship opportunities will be provided to work with businesses in Houston to develop their career options.

#### **3. Support veteran student success by coordinating services to address physical needs.**

A disability support initiative will be implemented through established TSU units such as Disability Counseling Services.

#### **4. Support veteran student success by coordinating services to address social needs.**

A peer coaching initiative will be implemented where veteran students will staff the TSU CEVSS and provide peer success coaching, and relationship development with the peer veteran students.

**Applicant Name: Miami Dade College, FL**

**Brief Project Description:** Miami Dade College (MDC) proposes to create a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) on the Kendall Campus, which will streamline and integrate veteran resources, academic and student support services, and wraparound services to address veteran students' social, emotional, and academic needs. The objectives of the grant are (1) to increase veteran students' enrollment, retention, and completion rates and (2) to establish the infrastructure to make the program sustainable after completion of the grant period.

**Summary of Project Goals:**

- Creating the physical center at the Kendall Campus.
- Creating a Miami-Dade County community board with veteran agencies and organizations to identify and address veterans' needs as they transition to college.
- Enhancing current and creating and new community partnerships via which MDC can share admissions and enrollment information and assist veterans in becoming enrolled students.
- Providing academic tutoring for veterans.
- Fostering a deep sense of belonging through four community building activities and one center-wide changemaking activity per year.
- Fostering deep connections with faculty members through a faculty mentorship program.
- Fostering deep connections with peers through the peer mentoring program.
- Providing holistic wraparound services that address the social and emotional needs of veterans.
- Streamlining credit opportunities outside of traditional coursework for veterans.
- Training MDC employees via a multi-tiered program that provides faculty, administrators, and student services personnel with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to support veterans at MDC's Kendall Campus.
- Creating a virtual space for veterans, faculty, student services staff, and administrators with information, resources, policies, and procedures.
- Implementing a multi-tiered professional development certification program that teaches faculty, administrators, and student services personnel about the structure and organization of the military and concrete student engagement and success strategies for veterans.

**Applicant Name: University of Hawaii, HI**

**Brief Project Description:** The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) proposes to serve a minimum of 900 student veterans. Through its *UHM Pū`ali Koa (“Warrior”) Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS)* project. The project will be housed in the UHM Office of Veteran Student Services (OVSS), which will implement a “first-stop shop” model that provides comprehensive support services for student veterans in one location with effective linkages to other programs on campus and within the broader community. Services will be tailored to individual student needs rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach. Specifically, the project will expand current staffing of the OVSS to recruit more student veterans to enroll in college and to serve them better; physically situate staff who serve student veterans near each other to improve efficiency and communication, build relationships, and leverage resources; integrate, streamline, and improve services and programming that address student veterans’ physical, psychological, academic, financial, social, and career needs; improve support for student veterans related to enrollment, orientation, transfer, persistence, graduation, and employment; and, strengthen understanding of, minimize challenges for, and leverage the strengths of veteran/military-connected students in Hawai`i and on the Continent.

**Summary of Project Goals:** Over the course of 3 years, Pū`ali Koa will recruit student veterans (including first time college students and transfer students) to enroll in college, support their academic success once they enter college, and enable them to persist in college and graduate in 6 years or less.

- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: Increase the number of student veterans enrolled at UHM by 20%, from 572 student veterans to over 900 student veterans at the end of Year 3.
- COLLEGE PERSISTENCE: Improve the persistence rate of student veterans enrolled at UHM to 83%.
- POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT: Increase the 6th year graduation rate of student veterans enrolled at UHM to 79%.
- INSTITUTIONALIZATION: Institutionalize key components of the UHM CEVSS Program by the end of the funding period.



**Applicant Name: Metropolitan College of New York, NY**

**Brief Project Description:** A Veterans Support Team will be assembled, which will be comprised of representatives from all MCNY offices, to assist and guide the CEVSS Coordinator. All staff and faculty within the College will receive professional development that will train them about veterans' issues, so that they can recognize and manage potential problems. Current data collection methods and reporting on student progress will be enhanced to allow better monitoring of retention and graduation rates of veterans; the CEVSS Coordinator will take the lead in reaching out to veteran students in danger of dropping out and work with the Academic Support Office to find ways to help students resolve their difficulties, remain in the MCNY program, and graduate. The Veteran Support Team, with input from the CEVSS Coordinator, will develop a sustainability plan that will integrate the CEVSS into the fabric of the College and enable MCNY to continue providing service to more veterans in the future and help them achieve success.

**Summary of Project Goals:** The primary goal of the CEVSS at MCNY project is to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success in order to provide veteran students with the supports and services they need, beyond current services offered to all students, to help them transition to an academic environment after their military service has ended, remain in the program, and graduate and embark on successful careers. The CEVSS at MCNY will have offices and provide welcoming gathering spaces for veterans at both MCNY campuses in Manhattan and the Bronx.

A second goal of the CEVSS at MCNY project will be to utilize the improvements in retention and graduation rates for veterans to increase the number of veterans enrolling in MCNY. The CEVSS Coordinator will work with the Admissions staff to expand Outreach and Recruitment activities, visit military bases in the New York area to meet with personnel about to leave military service and talk with them about MCNY's educational opportunities and services offered to veterans; they will also visit veterans' organizations, job fairs, and other venues.

With the additional services and enhancements in place to better serve veteran students, as well as more outreach and recruitment activities targeting veterans, it is anticipated that there will be a 100% increase in veteran enrollments (from the current level of 40 to approximately 100 by the end of the grant cycle), a 50% increase in persistence rates, and a 40% increase in graduation rates during the grant period.

**Applicant Name: Austin Community College District, TX**

**Brief Project Description:** The primary activities proposed are: a) establishment and full staffing of a CEVSS on ACC's campus; b) marketing and public information campaigns to promote interest in undergraduate enrollment at ACC by military-connected residents of the ACC District without degrees and significant use of the CEVSS for enrolled military-connected students; c) provision of targeted, specific counseling to enrolled military-connected students, accompanied by mentoring, coaching, tutoring, and other academic support services; d) provision of professional development services to increase faculty and staff members' ability to serve military-connected students; selection and use of a qualified veterans support team to guide quality improvements in the project; e) implementation of a design to assess the project's overall effectiveness and the advising component's evidence by an independent, outside evaluator; and, f) implementation of sound fund development strategies to ensure project sustainability.

ACC's CEVSS project will serve 2,500+ (unduplicated) enrolled undergraduate students and District residents annually for three years and 7,500 or more over the full project period.

**Summary of Project Goals:** The CEVSS project's goals are to substantially increase the enrollment of veteran and military-connected individuals at Austin Community College (ACC) and significantly increase the academic performance of the veteran and military-connected students enrolled at ACC.

Expected outcomes are higher rates of enrollment by veterans and military-connected residents of ACC's taxing district and higher rates of retention, transfer to 4-year institutions, graduation, and satisfaction with ACC and the services received for these students.

**Applicant Name: Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, KY**

**Brief Project Description:** ECTC proposes to serve veterans, current military, and military connected postsecondary students each fiscal year from the defined target area consisting of twelve Kentucky counties (Breckinridge County, Bullitt County, Grayson County, Green County, Hart County, Hardin County, Larue County, Marion County, Meade County, Nelson County, Taylor County, and Washington County).

**Summary of Project Goals:** The goal of the ECTC Service to Scholars Veteran Project is to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and career skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. A comprehensive program of educational activities will include an academic advising, tutoring, mental health counseling, and career planning component to ease the transition from military service to civilian life.

Support services will also include test preparation for college entrance exams, assistance with college admissions and financial aid applications, assistance with completing the VA benefits paperwork, advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, information on federal student financial aid programs, education to improve economic literacy, intensive basic skills development for successful postsecondary completion, short-term remedial or refresher courses, assistance in securing support services from locally available resources, special services to enable veterans to make a successful transition to postsecondary education, college visits, individualized personal, career and academic counseling, and numerous workshops (e.g., career, financial aid). These services will contribute to increased skill, motivation, and completion of postsecondary education while empowering disadvantaged participants to matriculate and attain their educational objectives.

**Applicant Name: Chemeketa Community College, OR**

**Brief Project Description:** This project will expand and improve existing supports for student veterans at Chemeketa Community College by establishing a model Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) on the Chemeketa campus and providing corresponding support for student veterans. The project will improve student veteran's social, emotional, and academic development by focusing on trauma-informed programming and activities including proactive advising, academic pathway planning, transfer connections, growth mindset training, and financial literacy. To build a sense of belonging, student veterans will be trained as Peer mentors using the Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) program. In order to increase college wide awareness of barriers to success and opportunities to support for student veterans, faculty and staff will participate in Green Zone training.

**Summary of Project Goals:**

1. Increased rate of enrollment, persistence, completion and transfer.
2. Permanently embed support services for veteran students into college planning, operations, and funding.

**Applicant Name: Westfield State University, MA**

**Brief Project Description:** WSU currently offers more than 50 undergraduate and 30 graduate degree programs to around 5,000 students. Designated as a Military Friendly School for over a decade, WSU has 111 student veterans. The proposed program will allow WSU to better serve existing student veterans, primarily through improved mental health services, and to recruit an additional 10-12 student veterans from the surrounding area.

**Summary of Project Goals:** Recruit an additional 10-12 student veterans to attend WSU each year of the project; improve mental wellness for student veterans on the WSU campus; provide a stronger sense of direction toward a career on the part of student veterans; and improve the first-second year retention rate of student veterans to 75% (from a baseline of 67%) and the four-year graduation rate to 50% (from a baseline of 22%).

To meet those goals, WSU will create a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success; develop a veteran student support team with representatives from relevant WSU offices; hire a new Project Coordinator to lead the CEVSS and offer enhanced mental health services and programming to student veterans; continue monitoring the rates of veteran student enrollment, persistence, and completion; and develop a plan to sustain the Center after the funding period. Additional activities include collaborating with local partners to reach and recruit veterans in the area; developing and disseminating promotional materials about using the GI Bill for a college education; offering one-on-one counseling from the Project Coordinator; creating and facilitating support groups for student veterans; developing and offering workshops for WSU faculty and staff; establishing an alumni mentoring program for student veterans; forming dedicated study groups for student veterans and assign tutors to each group; and offering individualized academic advising and interventions for student veterans encountering academic difficulties.