Operation College Promise

Creating Collaborations to Enhance Veteran Student Success on Campus

Completing The Mission: Retaining and Graduating Student Veterans

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Operation College Promise (OCP) was founded as a web-based resource under the umbrella of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) in July 2008 to centralize transition information for vets.

About NJASCU:

• Statutorily created non-profit representing 9 state colleges – not a system
• Enrollment of 105,000 (15,000 vets/servicemembers) – about 50% of annual baccalaureate degrees.

About New Jersey Higher Education:

• Funded at 1996 rates with 30,000 more students
• Low State Support = Higher Tuition (and high cost of living)
• High Outmigration (net 30,000/year)

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TRI-FOLD MISSION

Education

Research

Policy

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
OCP Online Education Network

• The OCP website is a one-stop shop for veterans and veterans service providers

Includes:

• Information on Veterans Benefits
• Campus Veterans Resources
• Community-based Resources
• Transfer Credit Information
• Up-to-date Benefit and Policy Information

Follow us on Twitter “OpCollPromise”

Find us on Facebook “Operation College Promise”

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Projects, Programs and Services

Certification for Veterans’ Service Providers (CVSP) Program
Through the CVSP program and other services, OCP has provided professional training and support to about 300 professionals representing 250 higher education institutions and other agencies in 25 states.

OCP Research
OCP partnered with Pat Tillman Foundation to conduct a Graduation Probability Indices (GPI™) which measures student veteran success on campus and is currently researching best practices for supporting student veterans move from education to employment.

OCP Speaker Series
OCP has hosted several productions including a Warrior Champions screening, The Telling Project, and Into the Fire.

Outreach & Community Events
OCP published a National Field Guide, soon for purchase on Amazon.com

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1. Ramapo College of New Jersey
   Mahwah, NJ
2. William Patterson University
   Wayne, NJ
3. Montclair State University
   Upper Montclair, NJ
4. New Jersey City University
   Jersey City, NJ
5. Kean University
   Union, NJ
6. The College of New Jersey
7. Thomas Edison State College
   Trenton, NJ
8. Rowan University
   Glassboro, NJ
9. Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
   Pomona, NJ
## OCP FRAMEWORK FOR ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING BEFORE

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**August 2008**

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
### OCP FRAMEWORK FOR ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING TODAY

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**March 2012**

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
OCP Collaborations

- Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Wounded Warriors Project (WWP)
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)
- War Related Illness & Injury Study Center (WRIISC)
- The G.I. Go Fund
- New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- New Jersey National Guard
- New Jersey Health Care System
- American Heroes at Work
- Texas State University (San Marcos)
- The Pat Tillman Foundation
- Aurora Foundation
- Texas A&M System
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC)
- The Mission Continues
- “Got Your 6” Campaign

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
• Got Your 6 is a campaign led by the entertainment industry that will help create a new conversation in America, one where veterans and military families are perceived as both leaders and civic assets.

• The campaign is comprised of six pillars: Jobs, Health, Housing, Leadership, Family and Education.

• 50 institutions of higher education have signed a pledge stating, “We pledge on behalf of our institution to implement or enhance resources programs and policies to support our student veteran population.”

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The Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) training curriculum -- the first of its kind in the nation – is the signature component of Operation College Promise programming. The training is intended to prepare veterans' service providers with the essential tools and knowledge to assist veterans succeed in the transition to civilian life.

The inaugural offering of this 2-1/2 day course in June 2010 brought together service providers representing six states and a myriad of agencies, educators, and members of the military. The curriculum was developed on national research and modified according to suggestions and input of participants in the OCP programming.

**Past CVSP Trainings:**
- June 22-24, 2010: Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
- December 1-3, 2010: Ramapo College of New Jersey
- May 25-27, 2011: Texas State University (San Marcos)
- March 6-8, 2012: University of North Carolina (Charlotte)
CERTIFICATE FOR VETERANS’ SERVICE PROVIDERS (CVSP) PROGRAM

Program Content

Module 1 - Military 101: A Primer on Military Culture
Module 2 - What's New, What to Expect - An Update on the Status of the Post 9/11 GI Bill
Module 3 - Serving My Country - A Student Veterans Panel
Module 4 - Cracking the Code of Military Credit and Experience Transfer
Module 5 - Invisible Injuries of Contemporary Warfare
Module 6 - Resources for Veterans in Transition
Module 7 - Promising Practices in Veteran Support Services: A National Perspective

Program concludes with team exercises and presentations followed by a visit to a local military installation or other appropriate venue, as available.
### CVSP ATTENDEES 2010-2011

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CVSP ATTENDEES 2012

Appalachian State University
Caldwell Community College & Tech Institute
East Carolina University
Edgecombe Community College
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College
Georgia Perimeter College
Guilford College
Macon State College
Montreat College
National College
North Carolina State University

Randolph Community College
Savannah State University
South Piedmont Community College
Stanly Community College
Surry Community College
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of North Carolina Asheville
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Pembroke
Wake Technical Community College
Western Carolina University
Western Piedmont Community College

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CVSP ATTENDEES BY STATE

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CERTIFICATE FOR VETERANS’ SERVICE PROVIDERS (CVSP) PROGRAM

“To attend a conference as we just experienced was a pleasure. It was absolutely terrific and one of the best I have attended,” Bob Philpott, Coast Guard, Retired, Cape Fear Community College

“As a military family member, I’ve always sought out ways to help veterans. This program gave me the confidence and information needed to reach out to our collegiate military students,” DaNeetra Kersee, University of North Texas

“This was a very worthwhile workshop with outstanding presenters and up-to-date information for attendees... well worth the trip,” Lee Cox, South Plains College

“As a veteran, I am truly grateful to have folks like you in my corner. Thank you for all you do,” Amy Line, Veteran/University of Maine

NEXT CVSP -- SAN ANTONIO, TX
NOVEMBER 28-30TH 2012!

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To evaluate the impact that CVSP programming has on participants, OCP has developed a veterans' Graduation Probability Indices (GPI) to better track the progress of veteran students while taking into account their unique needs and circumstances.

The GPI will assist OCP in gathering higher education completion rates in those institutions that participate in the CVSP program.

Methodology

- GPA
- Credits Earned vs Credits Pursued
- Retention from semester to semester
- Utilization of campuses services
- OCP National Field Guide Framework
Completing the Mission: A Pilot Study of Veteran Students’ Progress Toward Degree Attainment in the Post 9/11 Era

As the enrollment of military-affiliated students continue to surge at campuses across the country, OCP and the Arizona-based Pat Tillman Foundation released a paper reviewing their progress toward degree completion for a pilot population.

The paper uses OCP's Graduation Probability Indices (GPI) to provide a snapshot of veteran students’ progress toward degree attainment. 

Completing the Mission: A Pilot Study of Veteran Students' Progress Toward Degree Attainment in the Post 9/11 Era

Research Overview

• A total of about 200 students were selected at random and evaluated during the 2010-2011 academic year that were attending one of seven public institutions across the country (90% were full-time students).

• The institutions participating were: Montclair State University, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Texas State University-San Marcos, Arizona State University, Mississippi State University and the University of South Florida.

• Collectively they have about 185,000 students and 6,400 veterans – 3.5% of the total population.
Research Findings

• Evaluating the progress of student veteran degree attainment is an emerging science; this is the first such multi-state, cross-institutional evaluation.

• Among the seven institutions surveyed, approximately 6,000 veterans, dependents, or servicemembers have taken advantage of education benefits, and the sample cohort revealed they are progressing toward degrees consistently or more rapidly than their traditional peers in the categories that compose the GPI™.

• Veteran students had, on average, high GPAs (3.04) and better retention rates (94%) than their traditional student peers and their course loads were comparable. 71% achieved all credits pursued and averaged 24 credits/year.

• Furthermore, they were utilizing, albeit at varying degrees, services provided on campus which were designed to support their success (AVG 605/Mean 86%).
Next Steps

2012 Completing the Mission Report

• 6–year longitudinal study of 50 participating institutions
• Increase the number of student veterans included to 1500
• Survey institutions on veteran-specific campus services
• Assess graduation rates for military-affiliated students with 72 months of enrolling with VA education benefits.

Further Research
• Evaluate Tillman Military Scholars success toward a degree, compared to their peer military students.
Policies to Assist Veterans Transition
Condensed Degree Programs

• VETeach
  (Passed NJ Legislature, signed on April 5, 2012)

• VETengineer
  (Pending in NJ Legislature)

• VEThealth, VETbiz and VETpsych
  (Currently Being Drafted)

Mark Your Calendars:
“Veterans Education Awareness Week”
(November 11-17, 2012)
Operation College Promise

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John T. Powers, Consultant, Operation Vets LLC
   National Outreach Director, Operation College Promise (OCP)

Lauren Del Ricci, Outreach Specialist, Operation College Promise (OCP)

Bryan Adams, Marketing Specialist, Operation College Promise (OCP)
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NJ Association of State Colleges & Universities (NJASCU)
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