



Veterans Workgroup

Purpose



- **Ensure the MUS continues to excel as a veteran friendly system by providing services, financial aid, and instruction necessary for today's veterans to successfully access and complete college**

The Numbers



- Enrollment of veterans in the MUS has doubled over the past five years and is projected to double again over the next five years (UM – 800+, MSU 500+, MSU-Billings 200+, MSU-GF 100+, UMW 100+)
- 8-10 percent of the total student population is expected to be veterans in the next 5 years making them our largest identifiable target group

Necessity



- **Veterans issues such as the “Principles of Excellence” and the related “Financial Aid Shopping Sheeting”**
 - Executive Order 13607 established principles of excellence for educational institutions serving veterans and family members
- **Regent interest in making sure we as a system are “Veteran Friendly”**

Participants



- **Jeffrey Krauss – Regent, Bozeman**
- **Bruce Knutson – Veterans Liaison for Senator Tester**
- **Brenda York – Director of Veterans and Disability Services at MSU-Bozeman**
- **Ricki Jones – Financial Aid Director at UM-Western**
- **Justin Rapp – Veterans Coordinator at UM-Missoula**
- **Jack Bailey – Veterans Education Program Manager at Office of Public Instruction**
- **Luke Petriccione – Veterans Upward Bound**
- **Julie Rummel – Financial Aid and Veterans Specialist at MSU-Great Falls**
- **OCHE Staff – Jessica Brubaker, Ron Muffick**

Principles of Excellence



- **Participating institutions agree they will provide veterans and their eligible family members specific services**
- **MUS campuses are in the process of agreeing to the Principles of Excellence for Veterans**
 - Standardized Cost Form – Financial Aid Shopping Sheet
 - Federal Aid Information
 - Recruiting - no incentive compensation
 - Accreditation
 - Readmission
 - Treatment of Refunds
 - Academic and Financial Counseling Points of Contact
 - Individual Education Planning

Reporting Requirements



- **Campus workload to increase due to adoption of Principles of Excellence**
- **Additional reporting requirements on top of the additional workload managing Post 9/11 GI Benefits**
- **Post 9/11 GI Benefits include additional administrative burdens on campuses**
 - Determining eligibility of veterans and assignees (family)
 - Determining level of benefits (before the Post 9/11 GI Bill schools had less accountability to the VA)

Approach



- Determine best practices to ensure we as a system are veteran friendly and provide the necessary services to veterans
- Determine gaps in services or other areas that could be improved
- Determine areas where a system or legislative initiative could assist in improving services, in filling gaps in services or improving consistency for veterans throughout the system

System-Wide Solutions



- A coordinated approach to all veterans that enter the system that includes a holistic support system for veterans which addresses veteran specific needs in the areas of engagement, academic counseling, academic support, financial aid and financial literacy, counseling and tutoring services
- A consistent system approach to veterans issues and veterans policies which provide comparable levels of service at all system campuses

Best Practices for Campuses



- **Veterans Advisory Board on each campus**
- **Dedicated veterans space**
- **Professional level administrator overseeing veterans services**
- **Central point of contact for veterans**
- **Upgrade of campus online veterans information**
- **Veterans specific assistance for admissions and enrollment (veterans friendly policies)**
- **Peer mentoring and student veterans organizations to engage veterans, partnering with student government**
- **Academic support services**
- **Disability, health and mental health services**
- **Housing assistance**
- **Faculty and staff training on veterans issues**
- **Career services**
- **Partner with tribal colleges to reach Native American veterans**
- **Review transferability of military training and courses**



Questions?