Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT
Establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success to provide a single point of contact to coordinate comprehensive support services for veteran students.

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$450,000 Over Three Years

**Breakdown**
- **150 Students Maximum/year**
  - $450,000 for three years
  - $150,000 per year
  - $1000 each student per year
  - $333 per student each semester

**Budget**
- **Staffing**: 48%
- **Student Employment**: 7%
- **Travel (Meetings & University Visits)**: 6%
- **Supplies (Printing, Consumable, Paper, etc.)**: 5%
- **Events (Recruitment, Orientation, Recognition)**: 5%
- **Indirect Costs**: 5%
Currently, 593 veteran students have self-identified at Bakersfield College with 130 having certified for VA benefits through the VRC.

Our goal is to recruit those who are not yet enrolled and support current students with the greatest need.

• Lack of or unclear goals
• Lack of mentors with a military-service background
• Lack of self-confidence in academic setting
• Service-connected disabilities
• Difficulty in transitioning to civilian life
• Difficulty adjusting to campus culture
• Trouble relating to younger students
• Reluctancy to ask for help
• Need for intensive and proactive academic advising:

STRUCTURE
Eligibility

150 veteran students per year with the highest need as evidenced by transcripts, test scores, interview and assessment. Total served 450 students over the life of the grant.

- Identified as veterans (DD214)
- Enrolled in Fall semester who demonstrate academic need based on grades
- Have multiple measure indicating needed support
- Continuing students who have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or lower and/or
- Students with disability status
Goals:

Increase enrollment each academic year throughout grant period and beyond.

- Outreach and recruitment (military installations, community events, CalVet lists)
- Onboarding assistance
- Credit transfer with maximum transferability of units through Credit for Prior Learning
- Housing referrals
- Community resource referrals
- Financial aid application assistance
- Connection with BC student support services
Goals:

PERSISTENCE (retention)

Increase the current rate of veteran student persistence.

- Structured first semester experience
- Minimum of three advising contact per term
- Ongoing assessment of progress through use of faculty progress report and Starfish
- Early warning intervention
- Career planning
- Veteran peer to peer mentoring program
- Individualized CSEP
- Individual and group tutoring
- Focus on momentum points
- Completion coaching community
- Integrated academic support services
Goals:

**COMPLETION**

Veteran student participants served each year through CEVSS will graduate with associate’s degree or certificate within 2 years.

- STRUCTURED Y1-Y3 services
- Internships
- Ongoing intrusive counseling
- Academic advising
- Monitored CSEP
- Career planning
- Math and English workshops
- Individual tutoring
- Early warning intervention
- Annual academic achievement recognition ceremony
- Graduation evaluation
- Military Occupational Specialty/Joint Service transcript credit evaluation
Goals:

**COMPLETION**

Veteran students served through CEVSS will receive an associate’s degree or certificate and transfer to a four-year institution within three years.

- Transfer guidance activities
- Financial literacy workshops
- Early graduation evaluation for transfer alignment and mapping
- Coordination with veterans services at CSU and UC systems
- Annual university campus visits
Additional Events and Services

- Weeklong summer orientation
  - Skills for college success
  - Effective communication
  - Time management
  - Library research
  - Faculty engagement
  - Campus departments and resources
- Needs assessment
- Monitoring plan
- Minimum 3 advising meetings per term (450 meetings per term)
- Priority registration
- Cultural events
- Newsletter
Questions?