

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 29, 2013

VetSuccess Now Serving Veterans at 94 Campuses Nationwide

Provides On-Campus Support to Veterans Transitioning to Student Life

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is expanding the availability of services through the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program to an additional 62 new locations this fall – bringing the number of VSOC schools across the country to 94.

"VetSuccess on Campus is an innovative approach to help Veterans in the often difficult transition from military service to academic life," said Allison A. Hickey, VA's Under Secretary for Benefits. "Placing experienced VA counselors directly on college campuses strengthens VA's partnership with institutions of higher learning and creates myriad opportunities to help Veterans succeed."

This expansion triples the number of on-campus VA vocational rehabilitation counselors available to help ease Veterans' transition to student life and assist them in achieving their educational and career goals through VA's Post-9/11 GI Bill and other education benefit programs.

The counselors maintain close relationships with local <u>VA Vet Centers</u> and <u>VA medical facilities</u>, referring Veterans as needed for counseling or medical services and providing assistance enrolling in and applying for VA medical and nonmedical benefits. Partner schools provide on-campus office space for the VA counselors.

Since the inception of the Post-9/11 GI Bill four years ago, VA has issued about \$30 billion in payments to help nearly 1 million Servicemembers, Veterans and family members pursue their education.

VA has signed agreements with the following schools as part of the FY13 expansion:

- 1. American River College (CA)
- 2. Austin Community College (TX)

- Austin Peay State University Clarksville (TN)
- 4. Bellevue University (NE)

- 5. Bluegrass Community College (KY)
- California State University Long Beach
- California State University Los Angeles
- 8. Central Texas College
- 9. Citrus College (CA)
- 10. East Carolina University
- 11. ECPI University (VA)
- 12. Florida International University
- 13. Florida State College at Jacksonville
- 14. Florida State University
- 15. George Mason (VA)
- 16. George Washington University (DC)
- 17. Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)
- 18. Hawaii Pacific University
- 19. Houston Community College (TX)
- 20. Irvine Valley College (VA)
- 21. Johnson County Comm. College (KS)
- 22. LA City College (CA)
- 23. Leeward Community College (HI)
- 24. Liberty University (VA)
- Lone Star College System –
 University Park (TX)
- 26. Long Beach City College (CA)
- 27. Middlesex Community College (NJ)
- 28. Midlands Technical College (SC)
- 29. Mira Costa College (CA)
- 30. Mt. San Antonio College (CA)
- Northern Virginia Community
 College- Alexandria

- Northern Virginia Community
 College Annandale
- 33. Northwest Arkansas College
- 34. Northwest Florida State College
- 35. The Ohio State University
- 36. Old Dominion University (VA)
- 37. Pasadena City College (CA)
- 38. Portland Community College (OR)
- 39. Rutgers (NJ)
- 40. Saddleback College (CA)
- 41. San Antonio College (TX)
- 42. Santa Fe Community College (FL)
- 43. Southwestern Illinois College
- 44. St. Leo University
- 45. Syracuse University
- 46. Tallahassee Community College (FL)
- 47. Texas A&M University
- 48. Troy University (AL)
- 49. University of Alabama
- 50. University of Arkansas
- 51. University of Cincinnati (OH)
- 52. University of Florida
- 53. University of Houston (TX)
- 54. University of Illinois (Champaign)
- 55. University of Hawaii Manoa
- 56. University of Kentucky
- 57. University of Nebraska
- 58. University of Nevada Las Vegas
- 59. University of Texas Arlington
- 60. University of West Florida
- 61. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 62. Webster University St. Louis (MO)

VSOC began in June 2009 with a pilot at the University of South Florida and expanded to San Diego State University and Cleveland State within six months. The program continued to grow with five additional locations in 2011 and 24 by 2012.

Partner schools are selected for the size of their student Veteran population and proximity to a VA Regional Office, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service office, Vet Center or VA medical center, among other factors.

For more information on the VetSuccess program, go to http://www.vetsuccess.gov.

#

From: Secor, Kevin

To: <u>Undisclosed recipients:</u>

Subject: VA"s VetSuccess Expands to More Campuses

Date: Friday, August 30, 2013 1:30:45 AM

Attachments: VSOC Expansion.docx

VetSuccess Now Serving Veterans at 94 Campuses Nationwide

Provides On-Campus Support to Veterans Transitioning to Student Life

WASHINGTON (Aug. 29, 2013) – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is expanding the availability of services through the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program to an additional 62 new locations this fall – bringing the number of VSOC schools across the country to 94.

"VetSuccess on Campus is an innovative approach to help Veterans in the often difficult transition from military service to academic life," said Allison A. Hickey, VA's Under Secretary for Benefits. "Placing experienced VA counselors directly on college campuses strengthens VA's partnership with institutions of higher learning and creates myriad opportunities to help Veterans succeed."

This expansion triples the number of on-campus VA vocational rehabilitation counselors available to help ease Veterans' transition to student life and assist them in achieving their educational and career goals through VA's Post-9/11 GI Bill and other education benefit programs.

The counselors maintain close relationships with local <u>VA Vet Centers</u> and <u>VA medical facilities</u>, referring Veterans as needed for counseling or medical services and providing assistance enrolling in and applying for VA medical and nonmedical benefits. Partner schools provide on-campus office space for the VA counselors.

Since the inception of the Post-9/11 GI Bill four years ago, VA has issued about \$30 billion in payments to help nearly 1 million Servicemembers, Veterans and family members pursue their education.

VA has signed agreements with the following schools as part of the FY13 expansion:

- 1. American River College (CA)
- 2. Austin Community College (TX)
- 3. Austin Peay State University Clarksville (TN)
- 4. Bellevue University (NE)
- 5. Bluegrass Community College (KY)
- 6. California State University Long Beach
- 7. California State University Los Angeles
- 8. Central Texas College
- 9. Citrus College (CA)
- 10. East Carolina University
- 11. ECPI University (VA)

- 12. Florida International University
- 13. Florida State College at Jacksonville
- 14. Florida State University
- 15. George Mason (VA)
- 16. George Washington University (DC)
- 17. Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)
- 18. Hawaii Pacific University
- 19. Houston Community College (TX)
- 20. Irvine Valley College (VA)
- 21. Johnson County Comm. College (KS)
- 22. LA City College (CA)
- 23. Leeward Community College (HI)
- 24. Liberty University (VA)
- 25. Lone Star College System University Park (TX)
- 26. Long Beach City College (CA)
- 27. Middlesex Community College (NJ)
- 28. Midlands Technical College (SC)
- 29. Mira Costa College (CA)
- 30. Mt. San Antonio College (CA)
- 31. Northern Virginia Community College- Alexandria
- 32. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale
- 33. Northwest Arkansas College
- 34. Northwest Florida State College
- 35. The Ohio State University
- 36. Old Dominion University (VA)
- 37. Pasadena City College (CA)
- 38. Portland Community College (OR)
- 39. Rutgers (NJ)
- 40. Saddleback College (CA)
- 41. San Antonio College (TX)
- 42. Santa Fe Community College (FL)
- 43. Southwestern Illinois College
- 44. St. Leo University
- 45. Syracuse University
- 46. Tallahassee Community College (FL)
- 47. Texas A&M University
- 48. Troy University (AL)
- 49. University of Alabama
- 50. University of Arkansas
- 51. University of Cincinnati (OH)
- 52. University of Florida
- 53. University of Houston (TX)
- 54. University of Illinois (Champaign)
- 55. University of Hawaii Manoa
- 56. University of Kentucky
- 57. University of Nebraska
- 58. University of Nevada Las Vegas
- 59. University of Texas Arlington

- 60. University of West Florida
- 61. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- 62. Webster University St. Louis (MO)

VSOC began in June 2009 with a pilot at the University of South Florida and expanded to San Diego State University and Cleveland State within six months. The program continued to grow with five additional locations in 2011 and 24 by 2012.

Partner schools are selected for the size of their student Veteran population and proximity to a VA Regional Office, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service office, Vet Center or VA medical center, among other factors.

For more information on the VetSuccess program, go to http://www.vetsuccess.gov.