

Colleagues:

Having returned last night from speaking at the Council of College & Military Educators (CCME) Conference in San Diego, I thought it appropriate to provide everyone some additional information on our VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program. While in San Diego I also had the opportunity to visit one of our first VSOC campuses at San Diego State University, meet the Veteran counselors, talk with the President and Vice President and visit with a number of SDSU Veteran students.

As you know, Veteran students transitioning from military service to civilian educational pursuits may face unique challenges adjusting to college setting and may benefit from supportive services to deal with this adjustment. For example, Veteran students are typically older than traditional college freshman and may feel isolated on a mainstream college campus. Many Veteran students are also learning to navigate the array of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services while balancing the demands of school and family.

In an effort to address these needs, VA created the VSOC program, and has placed trained counselors at 32 college and university campuses in 16 states. VSOC is a collaborative program between VA and an educational institution that allows VA to assign experienced counselors to assist the growing number of Veterans on college campuses. VSOC counselors provide resources to help ensure every Veteran achieves his or her academic goals and secures meaningful careers. VSOC counselors collaborate with VA school certifying officials, perform outreach, and communicate with Veteran students to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met, enabling them to maintain pursuit of their education and career goals. VSOC counselors counsel Veteran students and their dependents on what VA benefits may be available to them, how to access those benefits, how to get mentoring or help with academics, and how to connect with healthcare providers and other services on campus. VSOC counselors also regularly provide adjustment counseling and career exploration services, as well as VA entitlement determinations and testing.

VA developed selection criteria for future VSOC locations. Criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- Size of Veteran population (800-1200 is the target goal), or a collaboration of local colleges/universities that add up to the target number
- Proximity to a VA facility (preferably within a 25 mile radius)
- Projected growth of Veteran student enrollment
- Adequate accessible space for the VSOC counselor to conduct private Veteran counseling

Attached is a list of current VSOC campuses. We hope to continue to expand the program as resources become available.

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Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) - VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

- **FY 2011:** VSOC became active on **8 campuses:**

University of South Florida, Tampa (Florida)	Community College of Rhode Island (Rhode Island)
San Diego State University (California)	Rhode Island College (Rhode Island)
Cleveland State University (Ohio)	Arizona State (Arizona)
Salt Lake Community College (Utah)	Texas A&M – Central Texas (Texas)

- **FY 2012:** VSOC expanded to a total of **24 additional campuses** for a total of 32 campuses:

Eastern Michigan University (Michigan)	Kellogg Community College (Michigan)
Western Michigan University (Michigan)	Washtenaw Community College (Michigan)
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Michigan)	Kalamazoo Valley Community College (Michigan)
Norfolk State University (Virginia)	Sam Houston State University (Texas)
University of Texas-San Antonio College (Texas)	University Of Maryland University (Maryland)
Tarrant County College District, South (Texas)	Tarrant County College District, NE (Texas)
Eastern Kentucky State University (Kentucky)	University of Utah (Utah)
Central New Mexico Community College (New Mexico)	University of New Mexico (New Mexico)
University of Alaska-Anchorage (Alaska)	Boise State University (Idaho)
Middle Tennessee State University (Tennessee)	Portland State University (Washington)
Tidewater Community College at 4 campuses: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach (Virginia)	