Elevate Vets: Advocacy and Support for Military-Connected Students

September 22, 2022

Resources will be available on the MHEC website post-event.
Submit questions in the Q&A.
Please complete our survey.

This presentation is being recorded.
MCMC Contact

Sara Appel
Director of M-SARA
(612) 677-2778
saraa@mhec.org
About MHEC

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) was legislatively created and serves the Midwest census region (12 states)
- Governed by 60 commissioners plus commissioner alternates
- One of four regional higher education compacts (MHEC, WICHE, SREB, NEBHE)
- MHEC convenes higher education institutions, state agencies, federal agencies, and key not-for-profit organizations to share promising practices, policies and legislation related to the success of military-connected students in meeting their educational goals.
MHEC Resources on Military-Connected Students

Searching for prior presentations? Check out our past 34 recorded webinars at https://mhec.org/mcmc.

How can I be kept in the loop for future learning opportunities and news? Sign up at https://www.mhec.org/subscribe.
Today’s Presenters

Will Hubbard  
Vice President for Veterans and Military Policy  
Veterans Education Success

Barmak Nassirian  
Vice President for Higher Education Policy  
Veterans Education Success

Joshua Rider  
Executive Director Center for Adult and Veteran Services  
Kent State University
Proudly Introducing: The ElevateVets Network

Presenters:

**Barmak Nassirian**, VP for Higher Education Policy
Veterans Education Success

**Will Hubbard**, VP for Veterans & Military Policy
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**Joshua Rider**, Executive Director
Center for Adult and Veteran Services, Kent State University

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Who We Are

We are bipartisan policy experts, academic researchers, lawyers and advocates. We are veterans and non-veterans dedicated to bridging the military-civilian divide to ensure career and education success for military families. We provide:

- **Free Help for Military-Connected Students**: Free legal services, advice, and college and career counseling for the GI Bill.

- **Research & Reports**: Non-partisan research on issues of concern to student veterans, including student outcomes and federal oversight.

- **Bipartisan Policy Advocacy**: Non-partisan assistance to policymakers to improve higher education quality and veterans’ success and to protect the integrity of the GI Bill.

- **Civic Engagement**: Helping veterans participate in their democracy by engaging government officials and the media.

- **Legal Advocacy**: Free legal assistance for military-connected students and whistleblowers, and legal work building cases to stop college consumer fraud.
Our Mission

Veterans Education Success works on a bipartisan basis to advance higher education success for veterans, service members, and military families, and to protect the integrity and promise of the GI Bill® and other federal postsecondary education programs.
Legislative Overview

• **90/10 Loophole.** The [last hurdle](#) has been cleared, and we await the Department of Education’s promulgation of a final rule.

• **Veteran Readiness & Employment.** Much improvement to the VR&E program is required still. For more on this, check out our recent [written testimony](#).

• **85/15 Rule.** After many months of debate, the President signed the *Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 (S. 4458)* into law.
A Brief Timeline of 85/15

January: Isakson-Roe Act signed into law

February: VA announces in the Federal Register a “call for input”

July 1: Original reset date (shifted to October 1)

November: Veterans Affairs Committees call for more clarity

June: VA announces 85-15 ‘reset’

June: Bicameral introduction of Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022

August: Bill passed Congress and is signed into law (Aug 26)

2021

2022
Looking Ahead

• **Raising the Floor.** With ongoing examples such as ITT Tech, Westwood, Retail Ready, and House of Prayer, efforts to establish minimum standards through statutory and regulatory mechanisms are ongoing.

• **GI Bill Restoration.** Veterans who were defrauded out of their hard-earned GI Bill benefits should have a chance to get them back, just like Title IV students can make a Borrower Defense claim.
Introducing: Elevate Vets

• Intended as a resource for higher education professionals involved in administering programs funded by the DoD or VA and providing services to military connected students.

• Professional Development and Training

• The platform contains up-to-date information on regulations, guidance, or enforcement policies by the agencies.

• An evolving site based on stakeholder input and feedback to meet the needs of higher education professionals.

• 3 Engagement Points
  ○ Elevate Vets Page
  ○ Elevate Vets Network
  ○ Listserv
Elevate Vets Advisory Board

Joshua Rider
Board Chair. Executive Director, Center for Adult and Veteran Services, Kent State University

Mike Carrell
VP, Strategy & University Engagement, National Veterans Leadership Foundation

Kevin Cullen
Asst. Vice Provost and Chief of Staff, Ohio State University

William “Billy” Francis
Director, Student Veterans Center, Florida State University

Beth Morgan
Director, The Center for Veteran Transition and Integration, Columbia University

Terence Nelson
VETS Program Coordinator/Counselor at Saddleback College

Terrell Odom
Director, Office for Military-Affiliated Communities, The University of Chicago

Jerry Smith
Director, Office of Veteran Services and Director, Texas A&M University System

Marshall Thomas
Director, Active Duty and Veterans Affairs at California State University

Janine Wert
Director, Military and Veterans Services, UMass Lowell
The purpose of the Elevate Vets Advisory Board is to produce content that raises the awareness and understanding of higher education administrators. The content and working groups shall aid universities in supporting military connected students and lead to higher retention and graduation rates.
The Elevate Vets Network

- The **online community** for higher education professionals
- Providing news, updates, and a place to share best practices
- Designed to enable peer support by building connections with other professional working with military connected students
- A hub to launch workgroups around topics of specific relevance to higher education professionals

**We are interested in creating working groups on public policy, a self-audit process for School Certifying Officials, and one centered around veteran graduation rate comparisons.**
Join the Elevate Vets Listserv

https://lists.elevatevets.org/mailman/listinfo/elevatevets

The ElevateVets list is a private listserv for campus veterans benefits administrators and college officials interested in advancing educational opportunities for veterans and military-connected students.

Just use the link above to subscribe!

We Want to Hear From You!

Barmak Nassirian  Barmak@VetsEdSuccess.org
Will Hubbard      Will@VetsEdSuccess.org
Joshua Rider     Jrider@kent.edu
Questions?
Feedback?