



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Veterans' Affairs

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DATE: August 27, 2018

TO: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senate Veterans and
Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Legislative Administrator

FROM: Mitch Sparks, Acting Director
sparksm@odva.state.or.us

Legislative Report: SB 143 Campus Veterans Resource Grant Program Implementation

Link to Report: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Reports.aspx>

Contact: Laurie Skillman, ODVA Senior Policy Advisory on this report and related reporting at laurie.skillman@state.or.us

Overview

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is pleased to submit this Legislative Report on the implementation of the Campus Veterans Resource Grant program created under [Senate Bill 143 \(2017\)](#) that provided \$1 million in grant funds to ODVA to be awarded to public universities and community colleges for campus veteran resource centers and programs, including campus veteran resource coordinators. SB 143 directs ODVA to prepare a legislative report on the implementation of the grant program and additional steps required to expand the program during the 2019-21 Biennium. In addition, SB 143 directs the Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee to provide an additional Legislative Report.

Purpose of the Grant Program

The purpose of the Campus Veterans Grant Program is to expand veteran resource centers and programs to help veterans:

- 1) Successfully transition from military service to college life;
- 2) Succeed in college and complete educational goals; and
- 3) Transition from college to the workforce and the community.

Uses of Grant Funds

SB 143 limited the use of funds to expanding and enhancing existing campus veteran resource centers to:

- Recruit and employ campus veteran resource coordinators who can serve as liaisons to provide advocacy, understanding and resource connections for veterans.
- Attract veterans to enroll in/attend programs at community colleges/public universities.
- Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational goals.
- Provide resources to college administrators, faculty, and staff to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans.
- Refer campus veterans to local county veterans' service officers for benefits.
- Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life.

Implementation, Grant Awards and Outcomes

ODVA had never developed and implemented a grant program and all processes and procedures need to be developed. The first step was to develop an implementation plan and set up systems and processes (*Attachment A: Detailed Implementation Timeline*). Before ODVA could issue a Request for Grant Proposals, the following processes needed to be completed:

- Develop timeline
- Write and publish administrative rules
- Develop mailing list of key individuals at all Oregon community college and public universities
- Contact all community colleges and public universities; send notices about the grant program (*Attachment B: Notice to Oregon Community Colleges and Public Universities*)
- Develop the requirements for the grant proposals (form and content of proposals, statutory requirements, scoring requirements, documents needed, etc.)
- Develop 26-page Request for Grant Proposal
- Establish Grant Proposal Evaluation Committee
- Create Grant contracts

The deadline for community college and public universities to submit grant proposals was November 1, 2017.

An eight-member grant evaluation committee was established that included three members of the ODVA Advisory Committee, two ODVA staff members, a member of the Oregon National Guard, one outside veteran, and a private university registrar. The Evaluation Committee review all application and then met on December 12, 2017 to consider the grant proposals from the 14 public universities and community colleges that submitted proposals. Note: There are 25 community colleges and public universities in Oregon; some community colleges do not have a enough veterans to support a campus veteran program.

On December 19, 2018, ODVA sent award letters sent to successful Proposers with grant contracts and funds were deployed in early January, 2018.

The public universities and community colleges requested a total of \$1,109,851. The evaluation committee awarded \$1 million to 14 schools and Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs disbursed the funds on December 20, 2017.

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program Funds Awarded		
School	Total Request	Total Award
Blue Mountain CC - Pendleton	\$81,000	\$50,500
Chemeketa CC - Salem	\$32,429	\$32,429
Clackamas CC - Oregon City	\$85,683	\$85,683
Eastern Oregon University – La Grande	\$33,732	\$33,732
Klamath CC - Klamath Falls	\$89,997	\$85,896
Lane CC - Eugene	\$100,000	\$100,000
Linn-Benton CC - Albany	\$98,900	\$92,900
Mt. Hood CC - Gresham	\$83,720	\$60,720
Oregon State University - Corvallis	\$98,251	\$78,251
Portland CC - Portland	\$100,000	\$85,000
Rogue CC - Grants Pass	\$100,000	\$100,000
Southwestern Oregon CC - Coos Bay	\$54,092	\$54,092
University of Oregon - Eugene	\$65,347	\$54,097
Western Oregon University - Monmouth	\$86,700	\$86,700
Total Amount Requested/Awarded	\$1,109,851	\$1,000,000

Although the program is only into its seventh month of operation, the schools have reported a number of positive outcomes in their first quarterly reports and reviewed by the coordinator in April 2018 (*Attachment C: Initial Outcomes and Photographs*). These outcomes included:

- Two schools established new veteran resource centers (VRC); a third school is in construction.
- Eight schools completed upgrades to existing VRC's; two other schools are in progress.
- Four schools recruited and hired new Campus Veteran Outreach Coordinators.
- Two schools purchased and implemented training software to increase awareness of student veteran needs for staff and faculty members.
- Two schools started a new college entry course specifically designed for student veterans.
- Four schools hosted several outreach events which include job fair and career orientations.
- One school reported a 5% increase in student veteran enrollment since receiving grant funds.
- Four schools are jointly hosting a statewide student veteran conference in September 2018, with guest speakers and workshops to assist veterans through school and transition to the workforce.

ODVA Campus Student Veteran Coordinator

On November 1, 2017, Bob Small became the ODVA Campus Student Veteran Coordinator to manage the implementation of the grant program and to facilitate and coordinate supportive services for veterans at all community colleges and universities in Oregon. Mr. Small works within the ODVA Statewide Veterans' Services Division (SVS).

The responsibilities of the Campus Student Veteran Coordinator include: 1) Review and maintain all grant quarterly reports to ensure grant funds are utilized within the scope of the legislation; 2) Establish a network of campus veteran resource offices in the state of Oregon; 3) Provide Training and guidance on best practices to advocate and mentor student veterans who are enrolled, or veterans who are completing their degree requirements; 4) Provide direct liaison with the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs Education Liaison Representative, County Veteran Service Offices, and other stakeholders to maximize the ability for campus veteran resource coordinators throughout the state to effectively advocate for student veterans; 5) Provide ongoing and annual training to campus veteran coordinator staff on state education benefits, VA education benefits, and best practices for veteran student engagement.

Over the last nine months, Mr. Small has visited the campuses of eight grant recipient and two non-grant recipients to advise the veteran service coordinators on best practices for student veteran engagement and review applicable grant implementation. Grant recipients visited included: Chemeketa CC; Klamath CC; Lane CC; Linn-Benton CC; Oregon State University; Portland CC; Rogue CC and Western Oregon University. Non-grant schools visited included Southern Oregon University and Oregon Institute of Technology. Non Grant Recipient

Mr. Small coordinated with the US Department of Veterans Affairs Education Liaison Representative to provide statewide workshops in six locations, to train veteran resource personnel on latest updates on federal VA and Oregon education benefits in cooperation with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Oregon National Guard Education Service Office. These meetings and sessions were in Pendleton, Bend, Klamath Falls, Ashland, Salem and Portland.

Additionally, Mr. Small has been working closely with campus veteran coordinators from Chemeketa Community College, Western Oregon University, Oregon State University, and Linn-Benton Community College to plan and organize a statewide Oregon Student Veteran Conference to be held at Western Oregon University September 28th through 30th. This conference will provide veteran students with valuable information related to academic success, community resources, and career information to help ensure a successful transition after their academic completion.

Mr. Small also attended three outreach events offering resources and contact information related to community colleges and university campuses and veteran education benefits, including the Run To Remember 5K Event in Salem, the ODVA Oregon Veteran Exposition in Medford, and the Mid-Willamette Valley Veterans Stand-Down in Salem.

Expanding the Program: 2019-21 Biennium

Currently, the provisions of Senate Bill 143 creating the program sunset on January 2, 2020. ODVA is proposing legislation to eliminate the sunset provision in order to continue the program. (*Attachment C: Chapter 731, Oregon Laws 2017—See Section 5*).

The Campus Veteran Grant Program already shows signs of great success. ODVA recommends funding for the 2019-21 biennium with the following priorities, in order of priority:

1. Veteran resource coordinators.
2. Projects and activities oriented toward transitioning to the workforce.
3. Innovative projects to enhance student veteran engagement.
4. Improvements or expansion of existing veteran resource centers (remodeling, equipment and furniture upgrades, etc.)
5. Allow eligible schools to apply for grant funds that did not apply during the 2017-19 Biennium.

Attachments

Attachment A: Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program Implementation Timeline

Attachment B: Notice to Oregon Community Colleges and Public Universities

Attachment C: Initial Outcomes of the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grants

Photographs of Campus Veteran Resource Centers

Attachment D: Chapter 731, Oregon Laws 2017 (Senate Bill 143)

**Attachment A:
Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program Implementation Timeline**

Senate Bill 143 (2017) became effective on August 15, 2017.

July – September 2017

- Developed timeline
- Developed 26-page Request for Grant Proposal
- Developed and wrote administrative rules
- Developed mailing list of key individuals at all Oregon community college and public universities, including the President, campus veteran coordinators, and the US Department of Veterans Affairs Certifying Official at that school
- Grant Proposal Evaluation Committee established

September 2017

- Prepared and sent a notice to Oregon all individuals on the community colleges and public universities the mailing list about the campus veteran resource center grant program and detailed information on the request for grant proposals (*See Exhibit B: Notice to Oregon Community Colleges and Public Universities*)

October 2017

- October 1-9: Administrative rules filed
- October 10: Request for Grant Proposal sent to call community colleges and public universities
- October through November: Responded to questions from proposers via email

November 2017

- November 1: ODVA Campus Student Veteran Coordinator position filled
- November 8: All proposer question of the grant proposal due
- November 21: Closing date for submitting proposals no later than 3:00 pm PST
- November 28: All grant proposals sent to eight-member Evaluation Committee

December 2017

- December 12: Grant Proposal Evaluation Committee meets and determines awards
- December 19: Award letters sent to successful Proposers with contracts

January 2018

- Grant contracts signed and funds sent to recipients

January 2018 – July 2019

- Grant recipient Quarterly Report due dates 2018: First quarter: April 30, 2018. Second quarter: July 31, 2018. Third quarter: October 31, 2018. Fourth quarter: January 31, 2019.
- Grant recipient Quarterly Report due dates 2019: First quarter: April 30, 2019. Second quarter: July 31, 2019; no later than August 31, 2019
- ODVA reports to interim legislative committees on implementation and further steps to expand the program during the 2019-2021 biennium. Due: No later than August 31, 2018
- Advisory Committee shall review and consider the grant program, quarterly reports, and the ODVA report and report to the interim legislative committees on evaluation of merits of the grant programs, how grants were awarded and how grant funds were used. The report must address funding priorities and recommend legislation. Due: No later than September 15, 2018

Attachment B:

Notice to Oregon Community Colleges and Public Universities

The following notice was sent on letterhead from Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs :

Notice to Oregon Community Colleges and Public Universities

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program Information on the Request for Grant Proposals

September 28, 2017

On October 10, 2017, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) will issue a Request for Grant Proposals for the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is November 21, 2017. Only Oregon community colleges and public universities are eligible to apply for a grant.

Background

The 2017 Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 143, establishing a \$1 million grant program to expand campus veteran resource centers on the campuses of Oregon community colleges and public universities. SB 143: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB143>

The purpose of the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program ("Grant Program") is to augment existing campus programs that help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college and complete educational goals, and transition from college to the workforce in the community.

The bill requires ODVA to develop and implement the grant program and award multiple one-time grants on a competitive basis. The Legislature also allocated funds to ODVA to hire a Statewide Campus Veteran Coordinator to oversee the program and provide training and technical assistance to campus veteran resource coordinators.

Only Oregon community colleges and public universities (grant "Proposers") may apply for a grant. Each community college or university may submit only one grant proposal. A grant proposal may include more than one project; however, the proposal must describe the goals, objectives, outcome measures and requested award amount for each project.

The maximum grant award is \$100,000. Grants will be awarded for an 18-month term and funds must be used during the period January 2018 through June 2019. If a Grant Proposal includes more than one project, grants may be awarded to some, all or none of the individual projects. Successful applicants must submit quarterly reports that demonstrate measureable outcomes.

Purposes of Campus Veterans Resource Center Programs

The purposes of Campus Veterans Resource Center Programs are to help Oregon veterans successfully transition during three important stages: 1) from military service to college life; 2) during college and completion of a certificate or degree program; and 3) from college to the workforce and community.

The veteran resource centers provide a place for veterans to get assistance and support from campus resource coordinators, connect with other veterans, study, and network. A veteran resource center provides a veteran with a “home base” on campus. Campus veteran resource coordinators help veterans transition to campus life, support them while completing their education, and assist in the transition from the campus to the workforce. Campus veteran resource coordinators provide support and connect veterans with local state county and federal resources. Resource coordinators serve as a critical link to the county veteran service officers who provide advocacy for veterans obtaining federal benefits.

Current Status of Oregon Campus Veterans Programs: See Exhibit A existing programs.

Eligible Proposers

Only Oregon community colleges and public universities may apply for grant funds. In addition, SB 143 established strict eligibility requirements for applicants, including:

1. At the time of application, the CC/PU must have:
 - A campus veterans resource center; **or**
 - A campus veterans resource coordinator (or *intends to hire* a coordinator prior to the distribution of grant funds); **or**
 - Both a veteran resource center and a coordinator.

2. The CC/PU must provide resources and matching funds and describe these in the budget proposal. Examples. The following list is provided solely to illustrate the possible examples of resources and matching funds and is not meant to limit possibilities:
 - The CC/PU provides or increases space on the campus premises for the veteran resource center.
 - The CC/PU may use up to \$25,000 of grant funds to pay a campus veteran resource coordinator’s salary, if the CC/PU matches at least 50% (\$12,500) for that purpose.
 - The CC/PU may provide computers or furniture.
 - The CC/PU may provide and pay the expenses of a work-study student.
 - The CC/PU may pay the entire salary for the coordinator or an assistant.
 - The CC/PU may provide space and staffing for meals or events.

IMPORTANT: Grant funds cannot be used to supplant existing resources provided by the CC/PU. Grant funds cannot be used to pay salaries of VA Certifying Officials.
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3. The CC/PU must demonstrate its capacity to administer any grant funds awarded and the ability to comply with all applicable federal and state laws.

Grant Proposal Goals, Objectives and Measurable Outcomes

Goals. The grant funds must be used to meet one or more of the three fundamental goals:

1. Successfully transition from the military into an Oregon community college or public university.
2. Succeed in an Oregon CC/PU and complete their educational goals.
3. Successfully transition from college to the workforce and community.

Objectives. In addition to meeting fundamental goals for the program, the grant funds must be used for one or more of the following broad objectives:

- a) Expand and enhance an existing campus resource center on campus premises.
- b) Recruit and employ campus veterans resource coordinators who can serve as liaisons to provide advocacy, understanding and resource connections for veterans.
- c) Attract veterans to enroll in and attend educational programs at the CC/PU.
- d) Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational goals and objectives.
- e) Provide resources to college administrations, faculty and staff to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans and their families.
- f) Refer campus veterans to the local county veteran service officers appointed under ORS 408.410 who assist veterans in obtaining federal and state veteran benefits.
- g) Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life by connecting veterans with workforce and employment resources.

Measurable Outcomes. Grant proposals must include specific measurable outcomes. A measurable outcome is a statement of the intended specific objective (rather than the process for achieving the objective); it is a result that can be measured. The outcome is a statement of the specific result the Proposer intends to achieve.

Exhibit B has some ideas for proposals that are not suggestions or limitations on grant proposals, but are provided to inspire.

Timeline and Dates

Date Issued:	October 10, 2017
Proposals due:	November 21, 2017 by 3:00 pm PST
Award Notices Sent:	December 19, 2017
Grant Period:	January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

The Request for Grant Proposals will be **emailed** to all Oregon community colleges and public universities. In addition, the request will be posted on the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs website, www.oregon.gov/odva. If you know an individual who should be added to the email list about this RFGP, please send their information to me. I will be coordinating the grant process.

Yours,



Laurie Skillman
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Exhibit A: Current Campus Veterans Programs

	Universities	Veteran Center	Veteran Coordinator	Notes
1	Oregon State University	YES	YES	Enrolls over 1,000 veteran students/family members. To 334 Western Oregon State Portland State? And Veterans lounge in the Memorial Union. Veterans resource Center in Snell Hall. Full time coordinator.
2	Portland State University	YES	YES	Full-time director and office manager and three VA federal work-study students who support the transition from “rucksack to backpack.”
3	University of Oregon	YES	Part-time	Center: 4 computers, free printing. Coordinator is a graduate employee at .49 FTE fall-spring plus Student workers. Peer Advisors For Veteran Education program pairs new veterans with returning veterans. Half-day New Student Veteran orientation throughout the year.
4	<i>Oregon Institute of Technology</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Veteran support services embedded into student services programs. Veterans lounge. OIT ranked #2 for Best West Colleges for Veterans by US News & World Report.</i>
5	Southern Oregon University	YES	Part-time	Center has 5 computers, 1 printer. Part-time coordinator is also certifying official. Employ six student veterans. Regular lunches for new veterans. Peer support and a free tutor. Resources for veterans and dependents.
6	Western Oregon University	YES	YES	Veterans Success Center. Free: veterans only parking, MacBook rental, printing, storage lockers, study rooms, lounge area, Internet access. Memorial Day Banquet, new student orientation, monthly newsletter, campus outreach. Onsite county and state resources.
7	Eastern Oregon University	YES	Part-time	Center is a student lounge; computer access. .5 FTE coordinator assists veterans face academic struggles. Free, intro Humanities class taught by a veteran for veterans: “When Two Worlds Collide.”
8	<i>OHSU</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
	TOTALS	6	3 FT 3 PT	

	Community Colleges	Veteran Center	Veteran Coordinator	Notes
1	Portland CC (4 campuses)			
	PCC: Sylvania	YES	YES	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Full-time veteran coordinator.
	PCC: Rock Creek	YES	YES	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Full-time veteran coordinator.
	PCC: Cascade	YES	YES Part-time	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Part-time veteran coordinator.
	<i>PCC: Southeast</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
2	Central Oregon Community College	YES	<i>NO</i>	A place for veterans to relax, connect with other vets, discuss resources and to have a dedicated place. No coordinator.
3	Lane Community College	YES	<i>NO</i>	Center offers PC and Mac computer stations, Internet access Wi-Fi and printer. Lounge study area, notebook computer loan program, and coffee. No coordinator.
4	<i>Rogue Community College</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
5	Chemeketa Community College	NO	YES	Coordinator develops a number of events for veterans and assists with resources.
6	<i>Mt Hood Community College</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
7	Clackamas Community College	YES	YES Part-time	Veteran's coordinator also a certifying official, but primary duties are as coordinator. Second person is primarily certifying official.
8.	Linn-Benton Community College	YES	<i>NO</i>	Veterans Club began 2010, 30-50 members. Offers mentoring/camaraderie. Physical location spring

				2016. No coordinator—volunteer veteran/ faculty advisor.
9.	<i>Umpqua Community College</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
10	<i>Treasure Valley CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
11	<i>Klamath CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
12	<i>Southwestern Oregon CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
13	<i>Clatsop CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
14	<i>Blue Mountain CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
15	<i>Tillamook Bay CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
16	<i>Columbia Gorge CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
17	<i>Oregon Coast CC</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	
	TOTALS	6 CC (8 total)	3 FT 2 PT	Note: Six community colleges have resource centers. PCC has centers on three of its four campuses, for a total of 8 veteran resource centers in Oregon.

Exhibit B: Potential Grant Projects

The purpose of this exhibit is to list potential projects that may be eligible for grant funds. Projects are grouped by fundamental goal of the program.

SB 143 states: Grant recipients may use grant funds for the expansion and enhancement of existing campus veteran resource center programs, including training campus veteran coordinators, purchasing computer and other equipment and supplies, hiring additional staff, hosting veteran events, facilitating access to workforce and community resources that were not previously available and meeting other identified needs for the successful and continued operation of the existing centers and coordinators.

The examples in this section are not limitations on potential projects. Instead, they are provided to inspire.

Goal: Successfully transition from the military into a public university or community college.

- Develop and implement a veteran-specific orientation and welcome program.
 - The orientation may include family members.
 - Include how to use the G.I. Bill for tuition, for housing, and for books.
 - Explain and introduce campus advisors.
 - Describe available services on campus and off-campus.
 - Host an event for new and returning veterans to introduce veterans and their families to each other.
- Develop and implement a program to regularly train campus administration and staff on student veterans. Include how student veterans are different from traditional students, in terms of work experience, families and goals. Include specific needs for veterans.
- Develop and implement a program to train campus veteran coordinator and staff on federal VA related programs.
- Develop and implement a peer-to-peer buddy system or mentoring program for new veterans on campus.
- Develop and implement a job fair to help student veterans find employment during CC/PU, including work-study.

Goal: Student veterans succeed in CC/PU and complete their educational goals.

- Design, develop and create exclusive study areas for veterans. This may include purchasing desks, computers, printers, paper, and supplies.
- Design and implement a veterans' peer-to-peer program. This may include training and recruiting volunteers for the program, employing individuals to run the program, and establishing events.
- Develop, plan, coordinate and implement events for student veterans and their families including:
 - Peer-to-peer events
 - Events to develop and establish social support structures
 - Events to giving student veterans a voice on campus
 - Events designed to provide information on resources

- Events to providing a place for networking
- Events to bring together non-veterans and veterans through informational speakers
- Events that coordinate with County Vet current Service Offices and local partners for advocacy and services
- Develop and implement a food bank within the campus veteran resource center or on campus.
- Develop a program to work with and train professors, administration, and staff individually on veterans issues and to help with individual veterans.
- Develop a program to work with and train professors, administration, and staff to educate them about student veterans culture and specific needs.
- Develop and implement a program for coordinating care for children of veterans.
- Recruit, hire and train staff for the campus veterans resource center, including:
 - Student veteran coordinator
 - Assistant for veteran coordinator
 - Student workers
- Design and establish an ongoing workgroup for student veterans that meets regularly including individuals from the academic staff, administrative staff, student affairs, and veterans.
- Develop a network with other public universities and community colleges on best practices for campus veteran resource centers. This networking could include training.

Goal: Veterans successfully transition from college to the workforce and community.

- Develop and implement job fairs for student veterans.
- Develop and implement training for staff on translating military experience into terms civilians understand.
- Develop and establish a job locator network. The network could include the federal VA, WorkSource Oregon, nonprofits, private include lawyers, campus placement services, resource banks. The project could also include job lists and referrals in the campus veterans resource center.
- Host networking events for student veterans with potential employers. This project could include coordinating with other public universities and community colleges.

Attachment C: Initial Outcomes of the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grants

Fourteen Oregon community colleges and public universities received grant funds. As part of the grant proposal process, recipients were required to write specific, measureable outcomes.

The first Quarterly Reports due on April 30, 2018, and it was evident that there were a number of excellent outcomes. Below is a sample of these outcomes:

Chemeketa Community College

- Opened new Veteran Resource Center (VRC) on April 2, 2018. The old VRC was 196 square feet and the new space is 479 square feet. The center is now located in a high-traffic central location on campus and was equipped with all new furnishings and computer equipment. The increased space enables veteran students to use computer workstations in an open environment and allow outside veteran resource personnel to provide services in an easily accessible area that is familiar with veteran students. Chemeketa CC will provide data on the usage of the space in their third quarter report which follows the fall term enrollment period.
- Held several veteran student events which included job and career fairs and several student engagement events.

Klamath Community College

- Hired Veterans' Outreach Coordinator in May 2018. The position includes coordinating outreach activities to veterans who have not enrolled in a college or university, explaining the benefits of education—including the opportunity for a new job or career field.
- Opened new Veteran Resource Center on June 22, 2018. Klamath CC has never had a VRC. The new center is equipped with new computer work stations and furniture which allows student veterans an area to study and complete homework as well as an area to interact with fellow veteran students. The VRC also encompasses offices of the Veteran Resource Coordinator/Veteran Enrollment Advisor, the VA School Certifying Official, and the Veteran Outreach Coordinator. With these resources in one area, this allows “one stop” access for all the needs of the student veterans. The VRC also provides a space for community resources such as job and career advisors, housing and family service specialists, and Veteran Service Officers to meet with student veterans.
- Purchased “MyMathLab,” a math tutoring software (an online interactive and educational system) and distributed 43 copies to newly enrolled student veterans.
- Purchases text books purchased for a Veteran Lending Library located in the VRC. This text book lending library assists veterans who do not have funds for text books at the beginning of the school term to check out these books until they are able to buy them. This library will be self-sustaining due to the ability of the campus book store to buy back outdated text books and offer updated copies at a reduced cost to the VRC and through donations from other veteran students, faculty, and staff.
- Klamath CC Institutional Research Department reported an increase in student veteran enrollment by five percent for the spring quarter 2018 from spring 2017. Additionally they were able to report a two percent increase for the summer quarter 2018 from summer 2017.

Linn-Benton Community College

- Hired new Veteran Resource Coordinator. This position provides veteran students a single point of contact to help them navigate their academic endeavors and challenges as well as offer

resources for non-academic needs. The coordinator also organizes events and activities to provide information and career resources to veteran students.

- Hired an academic tutor specifically for veteran students who meets with students in the Veteran Resource Center.
- Hosted a “Career Café” career resource event with several state and federal agencies representing a broad range of civil service career opportunities for veterans.

Mount Hood Community College

- Hired new Outreach Specialist for Veteran Services. The Veteran Outreach Coordinator is working with outside community resources which have identified veterans that may be potential students for enrollment. This position also provides a point of contact for community resources to assist student veterans with non-academic needs.
- Completed upgrades to the Veteran Resource Center, including new paint and finishes, seven new computers and a printer, new furniture, and a new coffee making system.
- Mt Hood CC will be providing data showing increase of veteran student activity when information is compiled.
- Developed and completed a curriculum for a veteran specific course “HD 208-Career and Life Planning for Veterans” which addresses the many challenges veterans face when transitioning from college to the work force. This veteran specific designed course is scheduled to be offered for the summer 2018 quarter.
- Scheduled veteran specific in-service training for faculty and staff to help understand the challenges that veterans may experience with the transition from military service to college life.

Oregon State University

- Supported the attendance of veteran resource personnel to the NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) for professional development training.
- Purchased new ADA compliant furniture for the Veteran Resource Center
- Completed computer station upgrades.
- Purchased “Kognito” software program. This software program is an interactive role-play simulation for veteran peer, faculty, and staff members that builds military cultural competency and appreciation for the challenges faced by student veterans, and prepares users to lead real-life conversations with students struggling to adjust to college life.
- Developed a student veteran-specific orientation that helps student veterans navigate through their first quarter of college experience. The student veterans are introduced to the veteran services staff, academic counselors, Disability Access Service personnel, and VA education benefits staff. This helps veteran students through the process of registration and the transition into college life.

Rogue Community College

- Opened a new Veteran Resource Center. The VRC project involved the renovation of an unused space on campus and was completed on March 31, 2018. The previous area was very small and could accommodate only a small number of people. The new VRC has two separate areas. One of the areas is a large meeting room with a conference table to facilitate student veteran meetings and functions and is staffed by the part-time VRC Coordinator, work study students, and student employees. The other areas in the VRC are a computer lab and study room which provides a quiet area for studying and completing homework.
- Hired new part-time Veterans Resource Center Coordinator. This position assists with the day to day operations of the VRC and oversees student employees working in the VRC.
- Developed and implemented a veteran specific “College Success and Survival” course (CG100V) which introduces veteran students to aspects of academic success centering on strategies for

discipline-specific and delivery-specific study habits. The course includes how to utilize web-based resources and tools. This class also focuses on achieving positive outcomes in the academic environment by using the frameworks of teaching and learning style interactions, college systems understanding, and positive behavior and communication skills. Additionally, it helps students make personal and social adjustments for college success. It focuses on college terms and information; class choice, degree requirements, use of library, and student services; balancing work, school and home demands; financial planning; forming study partnerships; and stress and time management. By developing a veteran specific curriculum, CG100V, rather the general student required course, CG100, this provides vital information which assists veteran students to transition into college life from military service.

- Hosted a career oriented fieldtrip for veteran students to local businesses, which provided a hands on experience to the different aspects of career choices within a certain industry.

South Western Community College

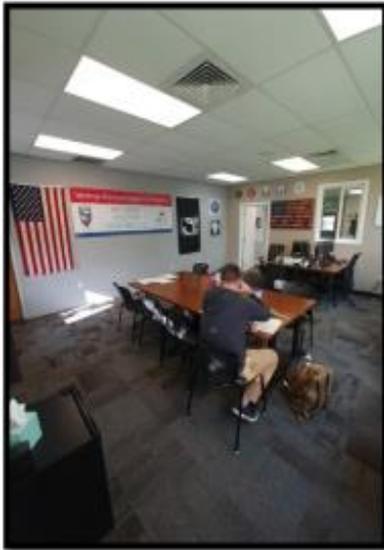
- Completed construction of new Veteran Resource Center. The VRC project was completed and ready for students to use on April 16, 2018. However, the building which the VRC is located is closed due to seismic upgrades and will not open until the fall quarter begins.
- Hired new Veteran Services Coordinator to oversee VRC and coordinate with outside community resources to assist veteran students. The position was initialized with grant funds, but the funding to continue the position beyond the grant period will be incorporated into the school's next FY budget.

Western Oregon University

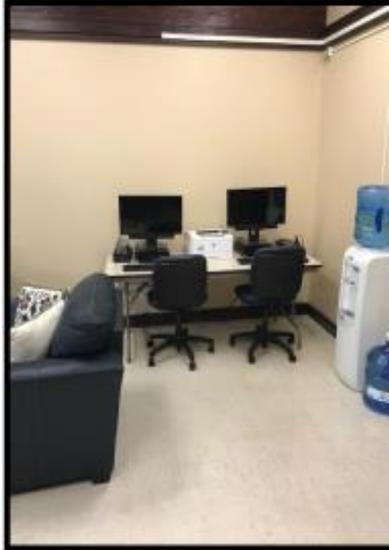
- Completed upgrades and refurnished Veteran Resource Center. This included new paint and veteran oriented décor. New computers were purchased with ADA compliant furniture.
- Several student veteran activities were completed: Event to recognize student veterans academic achievements (Portland Winterhawks Game, March 16, 2018); two veteran LGBTQ events to raise awareness of the LGBTQ veteran community; women's veteran social, to raise awareness and recognize the women student veteran members; Veterans Memorial Day Banquet, May 29, 2018 which brought student veterans together to remember their fallen brothers and sisters in arms and to gather support amongst their peers for their academic accomplishments.

Some of the colleges and universities faced challenges that presented obstacles getting their programs started immediately such as key administrative personnel changes and Human Resources procedures. ODVA's Campus Student Veteran Coordinator worked closely with the campuses facing these issues and progress has been made since the first quarter report. Additionally, there have been other minor obstacles with campuses implementing their programs such as costs of equipment adjustments since the Grant Proposals were submitted and technical problems with construction and renovation complications, computer hardware and software installation, and delivery of products. Overall, ODVA is pleased to report that the grant program has gotten off to a very good start and anticipates continued positive outcomes expected in future quarterly reports

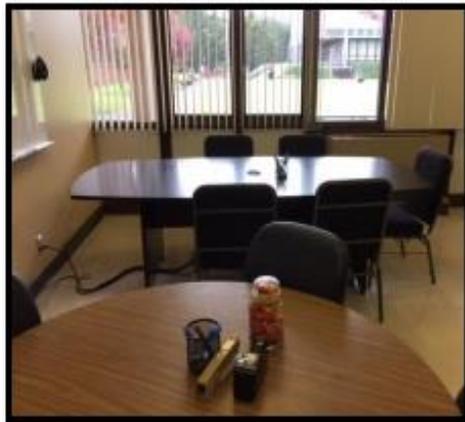
**Photographs of Campus Veteran Resource Centers
(see next page)**



Rogue CC VRC



Southwestern Oregon CC VRC



Southwestern Oregon CC VRC



Western Oregon University
VRC New Computers

Attachment D: Chapter 731, Oregon Laws 2017 (Senate Bill 143)

Note: Sections 1 and 3 to 5, chapter 731, Oregon Laws 2017, provide:

Sec. 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Community college” has the meaning given that term in ORS 341.005.

(b) “Public university” means a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(c) “Veteran” has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

(2) The Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall develop and implement one or more conditional grant programs statewide to expand campus veteran resource centers on the campuses of Oregon community colleges and public universities. The purpose of the grant programs is to augment existing campus programs that help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the community.

(3)(a) The department shall award multiple one-time grants under this section during the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, on a competitive basis to community colleges and public universities based on proposals submitted by the colleges and universities under subsection (5) of this section that:

(A) Expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers on campus premises;

(B) Recruit and employ campus veteran resource coordinators who can serve as liaisons to provide advocacy, understanding and resource connections for veterans;

(C) Attract veterans to enroll in and attend educational programs at community colleges and public universities;

(D) Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational goals and objectives;

(E) Provide resources to college administrations, faculty and staff to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans and their families;

(F) Refer campus veterans to local county veterans’ service officers appointed under ORS 408.410 who assist veterans in obtaining federal and state veteran benefits;

(G) Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life by connecting veterans with workforce and employment resources; and

(H) Provide resources and matching funds in an amount to be determined by the department.

(b) Grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this section for the expansion and enhancement of existing campus veteran resource center programs, including training campus veteran coordinators, purchasing computer and other equipment and supplies, hiring additional staff, hosting veteran events, facilitating access to workforce and community resources that were not previously available and meeting other identified needs for the successful and continued operation of the existing centers and coordinators.

(c) A grant recipient may use up to \$25,000 of grant funds awarded under this section to pay a campus veteran resource coordinator’s salary if the grant recipient commits to matching at least 50 percent of grant funds used for that purpose.

(d) Grant recipients may not use grant funds awarded under this section to duplicate services provided by county veterans’ service officers appointed under ORS 408.410, as described in ORS 406.450. However, grant recipients may use grant funds awarded under this section to

provide additional information and aid that is not available through county veterans' service officers.

(4) A community college or public university may submit a grant proposal under subsection (5) of this section if the community college or public university:

(a) Is located in Oregon;

(b) Has an existing campus veteran resource center or has, or intends to hire prior to the distribution of grant funds, a campus veteran resource coordinator;

(c) Meets, or intends to meet prior to the distribution of grant funds, a majority of the criteria under subsection (3)(a) of this section; and

(d) Demonstrates its capacity to administer any funds awarded under this section in compliance with the requirements of this section and all applicable federal and state laws.

(5) A community college or public university that meets the requirements of subsection (4) of this section may apply for grant funds under this section by submitting a grant proposal to the department in the form determined by the department.

(6) When determining which grant proposals to fund, the department shall make funds available statewide and may:

(a) Give priority to those proposals that the department determines are best designed to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to the workforce and the community; or

(b) Concentrate funds and resources in those areas of the state with the greatest need for veteran assistance programs, as determined by the department.

(7)(a) The department shall award grant funds to a successful applicant in an amount equal to the least of:

(A) The amount supported by the applicant's application;

(B) \$100,000; or

(C) Any other amount determined by the department to further the purpose of the grant program.

(b) The department shall issue a grant award letter to the applicant setting forth a grant recipient's reporting requirements under subsection (8) of this section and describing the restrictions on the use of grant funds under subsection (3) of this section and as may be determined by the department.

(c) The grant recipient may not use grant funds for purposes other than those designated by the department in the recipient's award letter.

(8) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each grant recipient shall provide a program report to the department. The quarterly report must include a narrative of the following:

(a) Summary of program activities;

(b) Description of program successes;

(c) Discussion of challenges the grant recipient has encountered implementing the program;

(d) Accounting of how grant funds have been used; and

(e) Any other information the department requires.

(9) The department may collaborate with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in developing and implementing the programs established under this section.

(10) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from public and private sources to further the purposes of this section.

(11) The department shall adopt rules that prescribe:

(a) The procedures for the grant application process, including grant review and approval;

(b) Grant recipient reporting requirements;

- (c) Measurable goals and outcome requirements;
- (d) Allowable uses of grant funds;
- (e) Procedures for disbursement of grant funds;
- (f) Recordkeeping requirements; and
- (g) Any additional procedures the department determines necessary to implement the provisions of this section. [2017 c.731 §1]

Sec. 3. No later than August 31, 2018, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall report to the interim legislative committees relating to veterans on the implementation of the grant programs established under section 1 of this 2017 Act and on further steps required to expand the programs during the 2019-2021 biennium. The department shall report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 and may include recommendations for legislation. [2017 c.731 §3]

Sec. 4. No later than September 15, 2018, the Advisory Committee appointed under ORS 406.210 shall review and consider the grant programs established under section 1 of this 2017 Act, including the quarterly reports submitted by the grant recipients under section 1 (8) of this 2017 Act and the report prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under section 3 of this 2017 Act, and report to the interim legislative committees relating to veterans. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate the merits of the grant programs, how grants were awarded to community colleges and public universities and how grant funds were used by grant recipients. The report must address funding priorities for implementation of legislation that will accomplish one or more of the purposes and objectives of this 2017 Act and make recommendations for legislation. [2017 c.731 §4]

Sec. 5. Sections 1 to 4 of this 2017 Act are repealed on January 2, 2020. [2017 c.731 §5]