

Veterans Success Initiative

Report to the Board

March 7, 2014

Veterans Success Initiative

Description:

- Ensure that the MUS continues to excel as a veterans friendly system by providing the services and instruction needed for today's veterans to complete college.
- Received \$1M one-time only funding for the 2015 biennium for veterans space and services

Space and Services Funding

- Specific items to be funded:
 - Ensure dedicated space for veterans is available on all campuses
 - Veterans oriented academic and student services, advising, peer mentoring, counseling, and health/mental health services
 - Financial literacy education and outreach activities to engage veterans on campus
 - System-wide veterans website/portal to provide information on veterans benefits and opportunities, admissions and college planning , transfer of military training/courses
 - Enrollment and student success tracking

Allocations

Campus	Funding for 2015 Biennium
UM Missoula	\$ 325,000
MSU Bozeman	\$ 308,095
MSU Billings	\$ 156,825
Great Falls College - MSU	\$ 50,000
MT Tech	\$ 35,000
Flathead Valley CC	\$ 30,000
MSU Northern	\$ 30,000
UM Western	\$ 25,080
Miles CC	\$ 15,000
Total	\$ 975,000.00

Best Practices

- Veterans Advisory Board on each campus
- Dedicated veterans space
- Professional level administrator overseeing veterans services
- Central point of contact for veterans
- Upgrade of campus online veterans information
- Veterans specific assistance for admissions and enrollment (veterans friendly policies)
- Peer mentoring and student veterans organizations to engage veterans, partnering with student government
- Academic support services
- Disability, health and mental health services
- Housing assistance
- Faculty and staff training on veterans issues
- Career services
- Review transferability of military training and courses

Space

- Campuses have developed new veterans specific space or significantly upgraded space
 - MSU Billings, City College, UM-Western and FVCC have all developed new space
 - Montana Tech, Highlands and Great Falls College upgraded their space
 - MSU and UM quality space existed, UM upgrading ADA accessibility

UM-Western

Before



After



Great Falls College

Before



After



FVCC

Before



After



Services

- Veterans Support Coordinator Positions – hired and in place at MSU-Billings and City College, Great Falls College, UM-Western, FVCC
- Student/Peer Mentors, Veteran Mentors – MSU and UM-Western
- Veterans Advisory Boards Developed
- Websites/portals upgraded, social media
- Specific refresher courses for math, writing and other tutoring provided
- Veteran designated community within student residence halls - UM

Services

- Outreach to veterans at job service, through military events at Malmstrom AFB and increased collaboration with the state Department of Military Affairs – Great Falls College
- Veterans Data Warehouse development - UM
- Improved counseling of veterans – student success advising and development of degree plans for veterans, assistance with transfer of credit and registration – UM and MSU-Billings
- Dedicated part-time mental health counselor for veterans office - MSU
- Career fairs including coaching, resume writing, interviewing skills – MSU
- Development of veteran specific virtual campus tours in progress – MSU

Questions?