Veterans Workgroup
• Ensure the MUS continues to excel as a veteran friendly system by providing services, financial aid, and instruction necessary for today’s veterans to successfully access and complete college
Enrollment of veterans in the MUS has doubled over the past five years and is projected to double again over the next five years (UM – 800+, MSU 500+, MSU-Billings 200+, MSU-GF 100+, UMW 100+)

8-10 percent of the total student population is expected to be veterans in the next 5 years making them our largest identifiable target group.
Necessity

- Veterans issues such as the “Principles of Excellence” and the related “Financial Aid Shopping Sheeting”
  - Executive Order 13607 established principles of excellence for educational institutions serving veterans and family members

- Regent interest in making sure we as a system are “Veteran Friendly”
Participants

- Jeffrey Krauss – Regent, Bozeman
- Bruce Knutson – Veterans Liaison for Senator Tester
- Brenda York – Director of Veterans and Disability Services at MSU-Bozeman
- Ricki Jones – Financial Aid Director at UM-Western
- Justin Rapp – Veterans Coordinator at UM-Missoula
- Jack Bailey – Veterans Education Program Manager at Office of Public Instruction
- Luke Petriccione – Veterans Upward Bound
- Julie Rummel – Financial Aid and Veterans Specialist at MSU-Great Falls
- OCHE Staff – Jessica Brubaker, Ron Muffick
Principles of Excellence

- Participating institutions agree they will provide veterans and their eligible family members specific services

- MUS campuses are in the process of agreeing to the Principles of Excellence for Veterans

  - Standardized Cost Form – Financial Aid Shopping Sheet
  - Federal Aid Information
  - Recruiting - no incentive compensation
  - Accreditation
  - Readmission
  - Treatment of Refunds
  - Academic and Financial Counseling Points of Contact
  - Individual Education Planning
Reporting Requirements

- Campus workload to increase due to adoption of Principles of Excellence
- Additional reporting requirements on top of the additional workload managing Post 9/11 GI Benefits
- Post 9/11 GI Benefits include additional administrative burdens on campuses
  - Determining eligibility of veterans and assignees (family)
  - Determining level of benefits (before the Post 9/11 GI Bill schools had less accountability to the VA)
Approach

- Determine best practices to ensure we as a system are veteran friendly and provide the necessary services to veterans
- Determine gaps in services or other areas that could be improved
- Determine areas where a system or legislative initiative could assist in improving services, in filling gaps in services or improving consistency for veterans throughout the system
System-Wide Solutions

- A coordinated approach to all veterans that enter the system that includes a holistic support system for veterans which addresses veteran specific needs in the areas of engagement, academic counseling, academic support, financial aid and financial literacy, counseling and tutoring services
- A consistent system approach to veterans issues and veterans policies which provide comparable levels of service at all system campuses
Best Practices for Campuses

- 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
- Partner with tribal colleges to reach Native American veterans
- Review transferability of military training and courses
Questions?