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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Funding for 2015 Biennium</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UM Missoula</td>
<td>$ 325,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSU Bozeman</td>
<td>$ 308,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSU Billings</td>
<td>$ 156,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Falls College - MSU</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT Tech</td>
<td>$ 35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flathead Valley CC</td>
<td>$ 30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSU Northern</td>
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<tr>
<td>UM Western</td>
<td>$ 25,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miles CC</td>
<td>$ 15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 975,000.00</strong></td>
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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
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?