Military Student Services [newsletter]

Tonya Archey
Western Kentucky University, tonya.archey@wku.edu

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We Are Moving

Military Student Services and the Veterans Resource Center is moving to Suite 408 and room 410 respectively, of Tate Page Hall, in August. It is open to veterans, active duty, Guard, Reserve, ROTC and their family members, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The new location will have a study room in room 410 and a separate lounge with microwave, refrigerator and coffee for student use in room 408J. Free coffee will be available in the lounge. Textbooks for Troops will also be located in room 408C. The move will take place in August and ready for student use by August 26.

Benefit Auction

Military Student Services is planning a benefit auction December 7, 2013, at the Augenstein Alumni Center, from 1-4 p.m. Donations for the auction are currently being accepted by MSS. Suggested items can include gift cards, hand-crafted items such as afghans, quilts and jewelry, services such as lawn or home maintenance, sports memorabilia and more. A list of donation suggestions is available from the MSS office. For more information, contact Teresa Jameson at teresa.jameson201@topper.wku.edu.

Book Donations

The staff of the Military Student Services Veterans’ Resource Center (VRC) would like to thank everyone who donated books for our Textbooks for Troops program. More than 300 books were donated during the book drive held finals week May 6-10. Many faculty, staff and students gave the program a tremendous boost through their donated books. Textbooks are loaned, free of charge, to military veterans, active-duty, Guard, Reserve and ROTC members not currently receiving a book stipend or scholarship. Book donations can be dropped off in the VRC in Tate Page Hall, Room 408C.

“Education is not received. It is achieved”

Albert Einstein
Textbooks for Troops

Program Expands to Military Family Members

The Military Student Services Office will open the Textbooks for Troops program to military family members for the Fall term on a first-come, first-serve basis. Eligible students include family members of Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and veterans, from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Students wishing to use the program must show proof of their parent(s) service by providing a copy of the DD214 or showing a dependent ID card. The Textbooks for Troops request form is available at www.wku.edu/veterans.

The Military Student Services staff conducted a Textbook Donation Drive during Spring finals week. The drive was a great success with tables set up throughout the main campus, South Campus, Ft. Knox, Owensboro, E-Town and Radcliffe. Volunteers from the Army and Air Force ROTC as well as Veterans Upward Bound, provided assistance during the three-day event. WKU students and staff showed their generosity and support for our military community by donating more than 270 books.

CanDoo, the new facility dog for the Veterans Resource Center will be joining WKU in the Fall 2013 semester. Stop by the VRC, TPH 408 to visit him. He comes to us via Smoky Mountain Service Dogs and is a generous gift from the Scariot and Kelly families of Bowling Green.

(From left) Director of Military Student Services Tonya Archey holds the box of entries for Terry Scariot, as he draws the name of the winner for a Kindle Fire during the Textbooks For Troops donation drive in May 2013.
Counseling Services for Veterans

Anyone of us might be going through enough challenges that we need to use counseling services to maintain our focus and balance. Seeking counseling is not a sign of weakness; it is the same as seeking the services of any other professional. In counseling, you do the work but you have a professional there to make the best use of your time and energy.

Counseling on a college campus is both similar and different from counseling in the military. The main similarity is that college counselors hold the same degrees, licenses and qualifications as counselors employed by the military. Counseling is a recognized profession that has strict standards for training in all 50 states. Counselors, Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists all have to hold advanced degrees and licenses no matter where they work.

Counseling on a college campus is different from counseling in the military in that college counselors can provide a higher degree of confidentiality and privacy. While military counselors aspire to confidentiality they must work within the military system and may be required to report information to higher ranking staff. There is a chain of command in the military that supersedes the individual’s right to privacy or confidentiality. This is a condition of enlisting; it is an essential part of military command structure.

College counselors are not required to share client information with anyone unless there is an immediate and clear threat of a client harming self or others, or if there is child, domestic, or elder abuse occurring. Otherwise, everything that is discussed in session remains private. A counselor cannot share what is discussed in session without the client’s permission.

This difference might make seeking counseling on campus a bit easier. You should know that what you talk about is protected by our professional code of ethics and state law. When you call to make an appointment at the WKU Counseling and Testing Center you can request a male or female counselor; we will do our best to match your preference. You can make an appointment by calling 745-3159. We are located on the fourth floor of Potter Hall. We try to make our waiting room comfortable; we have a television on, books and magazines to browse, coffee and other hot drinks available. You can check us out at our web page (wk.edu/heretohelp).

Our motto is that college should be challenging, not overwhelming. College can be hard enough on its own. When you add some of the experiences veterans have gone through, college can be, at times, overwhelming. If you are curious about how WKU Counseling and Testing Services can help, come in for an appointment and see what we are about.

The education of a man is never completed until he dies.

Robert E. Lee
Tuition Rate for Active Duty

The Department of Defense currently offers Tuition Assistance to all branches of the armed forces. For those who have exhausted their DoD Tuition Assistance, Western Kentucky University also offers a special tuition rate of $250 per semester hour for active duty military, Guard and Reserve members in both undergraduate and graduate programs. To use this special rate, you must be admitted to WKU, and unless you use GoArmyEd to pay for tuition, your active duty status must be verified through Military Student Services (TPH408) or the Military Programs Counselor (Ft. Knox, Briscoe Hall Bldg 1174). The cost of the class is the responsibility of the service member.

Stay Informed

Military Listserv

Stay informed of what is happening at Western Kentucky University through the military listserv, http://lists.wku.edu/mailman/listinfo/wku-military. All active duty, Guard, Reserve, veterans and their family members should join this mailing list to get updates on the many programs offered at WKU just for them.

WKU Graduates 110 Military Students

Western Kentucky University graduated its largest number of military students in Spring 2013. Approximately 110 military students received their diplomas.

GoArmyEd

GoArmyEd participants must remember to drop classes in GoArmyEd as well as TopNet. Those not withdrawing from classes in GoArmyEd may have to pay back the Army for their tuition if they fail to drop their classes in the system. For more information, stop by the Veterans Resource Center. Tate Page Hall, Room 408 after August 26.

Hooray For Heroes

Big Red posed with Marine and Army personnel at the May 18th Hooray For Heroes celebration of Armed Forces Day in Radcliff, KY.

Scantrons & Bluebooks

Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Veterans and their children may now pick up scantrons and bluebooks in the Veterans Resource Center, free of charge. The VRC is located in Tate Page Hall, Room 408 after August 26 and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. during Spring and Fall terms, and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. during Summer terms.
Beta Alpha Psi
The Beta Alpha Psi Honor Society held a benefit bake sale for the Military Student Services “Textbooks For Troops” program during the Spring 2013 term. The bake sale raised more than $244. The Veterans Resource Center staff would like to challenge other WKU organizations to conduct similar fund raising efforts.

Save money and time with CLEP
The Veterans Resource Center is offering study assistance to veterans, Active duty, Guard, Reserve, ROTC and their family members. College Level Examination Program tests are available at the WKU Testing and Counseling Center. By successfully completing one exam, testers can save more than $1,000 in tuition and books and 15 weeks of study and homework. For more information, stop by the VRC in TPH 408C, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Those interested can also email Teresa Jameson at teresa.jameson201@topper.wku.edu for more information.

Farewell
The Veterans Resource Center staff would like to bid a fond farewell to Dottie Lake. As the billings expert for GoArmyEd, Dottie went above and beyond the call of duty to assist our soldiers every day. The personal attention she gave to each soldier is critical to our continued success in serving our military. Dottie you will be greatly missed!! May you get the best of everything retirement brings.

SOKY Veterans Council
Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month at the WKU ALIVE Center from 3:15-4:30 p.m. For more information contact nick.wright@wku.edu.

Submissions to the newsletter
Does your organization have news important to the military community at WKU? The Military Student Services newsletter is published once a quarter in January, April, July and October. Submissions can be sent to Teresa Jameson at teresa.jameson201@topper.wku.edu.

WKU PBS nominated for regional Emmy Awards
WKU PBS’ “Special Edition-Outlook with Brian Anderson,” hosted by Barbara Deeb was nominated for an Ohio Valley Regional Emmy Award in the Military Program category. Barbara Deeb is a great friend to the WKU Military Community as she helps promote many of the programs available to them at WKU, including Veterans Upward Bound and the Military Student Services Office which were highlighted in a Fourth of July edition of WKU PBS “Outlook.”

Student Veterans Alliance
The WKU Student Veterans Alliance meets the first Monday of every month at 4:15 p.m., in the Veterans Resource Center! Come down to Tate Page Hall room 410 and check it out. For more information, contact student.veterans@wku.edu.

Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself
John Dewey