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WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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THE TOPPER

SPOTLIGHT ON VETERANS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



Congratulations! The staff of Veterans Upward Bound wish to offer our congratulations to these veterans that have completed our program and entered postsecondary education this spring.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Marlin Bennett | WKU Non-Degree | Greg Stokes | BGTC Culinary Arts |
| Charlie Bingham | WKU Exercise Science | Kenneth Watson | BGTC Auto Maintenance Technology |
| Joseph Botkin | WKU Marketing | Ryan Weilage | WKU Interdisciplinary Studies |
| Aaron Brooker | BGTC Auto Maintenance Technology | Earl Wiefek | WKU Undeclared |
| Scott Bush | BGTC Engineering Technology | Justin Williams | WKU Physics |
| Mark Chapman | BGTC Auto Maintenance Technology | Tom Williams | BGTC Respiratory Care |
| James Dawson | BGTC Air Conditioning Technology | Cary Wolfe | WKU Undeclared |
| Eddie Driver | BGTC Industrial Technology | | |
| Joseph Duvall | BGTC Auto Maintenance Technology | | |
| George Edwards | BGTC Industrial Maintenance | | |
| Alan Eubank | WKU Nursing | | |
| Johnny Ford | BGTC Collision Repair Technology | | |
| William Goble | BGTC Non-Degree | | |
| John Gonzalez | WKU Mechanical Engineering | | |
| Preston Gordon | WKU Music | | |
| Dustin Grimando | WKU Journalism/Broadcasting | | |
| John Henning | Daymar College Paralegal Studies | | |
| Wayne Hickman | WKU Health & Human Services | | |
| Dorothy Isomura | WKU Undeclared | | |
| Phillip Justice | BGTC Undeclared | | |
| Walter Kennedy | BGTC Electrical Engineering | | |
| John Kirkpatrick | BGTC Radiography | | |
| Jason Lindsey | BGTC Radiography | | |
| Mark Montgomery | BGTC Electrical Technology | | |
| John Moss | BGTC Computer & Info Technology | | |
| Andrew Overton | BGTC Air Conditioning Technology | | |
| Tony Page | BGTC Radiography | | |
| Ashley Penn | BGTC Business Administration | | |
| Barry Prude | BGTC Business Administration | | |
| Joshua Rabb | WKU Nursing | | |
| Joe Rampy | BGTC Industrial Maintenance | | |
| Fred Rowe | WKU Healthcare Administration | | |
| Mike Schonschack | BGTC Air Conditioning Technology | | |
| Colin Smith | WKU Sociology | | |
| Frankie Spaulding | BGTC Internet Technologies | | |
| Reginald Thomas | BGTC Electrical Technology | | |

Through the extraordinary combined efforts of Rick Wright, Veterans Upward Bound's counselor/coordinator, and John Rose, financial aid coordinator with Bowling Green Technical College, this is the largest number of veterans to have been recruited and successfully completed VUB's requirements to enter postsecondary education in one semester. The staff of VUB offer our sincere gratitude for Rick and John's remarkable and successful efforts.

Whether seeking new careers or enjoying classes for the sake of meeting new challenges, we hope all these veterans meet with success and fulfillment in their academic endeavors and their lives beyond academia.

VUB has a new director, Davy Stone. Davy has been an instructor with Veterans Upward Bound for 18 years and has prior experience with other TRiO programs as well.



Davy Stone, new VUB Director

You can read more about him on page 4 in the Director's Desk column.

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VETERANS UPWARD BOUND



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VETERANS' HEALTH CARE IN BOWLING GREEN

We at VUB are constantly surprised at the number of other vets we meet that are unaware of the veterans' health care available to them in Bowling Green. The VA provides a standard enhanced health benefits plan available to all enrolled veterans. The plan emphasizes preventive and primary care, and offers a full range of outpatient and inpatient services within the VA health care system.

The local VA health care facility in Bowling Green is Corpcare, located on Wilkinson Trace.

Don't procrastinate in making an application to the VA health care system. Veterans can go to the local American Legion on Thursdays between 9:00am and noon to receive assistance with the application process. If possible, have a copy of your DD214. The American Legion is located at 208 Dishman Lane only a short distance off Russellville Rd.

Corpcare is contracted by the VA to provide primary care services to veterans enrolled in the system. New applicants must make an appointment with a primary care facility such as Corpcare and the scheduled evaluation will take place as soon as one becomes available. Due to the number of veterans now enrolling in the system, this wait could be 1 to 2 months.

Items to know about veterans' eligibility:

- Benefits are based solely on active

military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard (or Merchant Marines during WWII), and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

- Reservists and National Guard members who were called to active duty by a Federal Executive Order may qualify for VA health care benefits. Returning service members who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations have special eligibility for two years following discharge from active duty.
- Health care eligibility is not just for those who served in combat.
- Veterans' health care is not just for service-connected injuries or medical conditions.
- Veterans' health care facilities are not just for men only. VA offers full-service health care to women vets.

- Health Care Assessments
- Screening Tests
- Health Education Programs

Outpatient Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency Outpatient Care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical
- Chiropractic Care
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Inpatient Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency Inpatient Care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Medications and Supplies

- Prescription Medications
- Over-the-Counter Medications

Payment for all health care services is determined by a means test based on your yearly income threshold. The means test is provided yearly to all participants in the VA health care system. Quite often, those veterans with low income (single or with dependents) do receive all services for free. The exception is a minimal co-pay on prescription medications.

The VA will not pay for medications written by a non-VA facility.

With today's soaring health costs, it is comforting to know that veterans have an alternate source for receiving quality health care. Any services that the primary care facility in Bowling Green can not provide is accomplished by a referral to the VA campus in Nashville at Vanderbilt University.

The sooner you can become a participant the sooner you can benefit from health care services that you have rightfully earned as a veteran in service to your country.



Bowling Green's VA Primary Care facility, *Corpcare*, 1110 Wilkinson Trace.

VA's medical benefits package provides the following health care services to all enrolled veterans:

Preventive Care Services

- Immunizations
- Physical Examinations



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a “need analysis” based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to, and processed by, a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education, and the results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application.

FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state,

and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

Nearly every student is eligible for some form of financial aid, including low-interest Federal Stafford and/or parent PLUS loans, regardless of income or circumstances, provided that you:

- ◆ are a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national or an eligible non-citizen;
- ◆ have a valid Social Security Number;
- ◆ have a high school diploma or GED;
- ◆ are registered with the U.S. Selective Service (if you are a male aged 18-25);
- ◆ complete a FAFSA promising to use any federal aid for educational purposes;
- ◆ do not owe refunds on any federal student grants;
- ◆ are not in default on any student loans; and have not been found guilty of the sale or possession of illegal drugs during a period in which federal aid was being received.

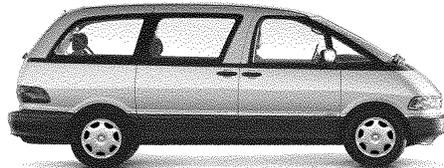
Many states, colleges and universities have filing deadlines that are much earlier—some occurring as early as the first few weeks in January. Additionally, applicants have to pay particular attention to deadline specifics, as some refer to the date by which individual FAFSAs must be *submitted*, while others refer to the date by which individual FAFSAs must be *fully processed* (completed by the federal processor and made available to the school financial aid office).

IMPORTANT: We strongly encourage all students to check with their school’s financial aid office to determine their exact FAFSA deadline requirements, and to file their FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st.

THE TOPPER is published three times yearly by the Veterans Upward Bound Project at *Western Kentucky University*. VUB is funded by a grant from the *U.S. Department of Education*. The opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of either the *U.S. Department of Education* or *WKU*, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

Notes and News

NEED A RIDE?



All veterans needing transportation to the VA Campus in Nashville, TN can catch a ride by contacting the local American Legion Post. Call (270) 781-4046, leave your name and spell it out, and also leave the last 4 of your Social Security number. Don’t forget to provide the date you need the ride. The van leaves from the American Legion Post at 208 Dishman Lane at 7:30 sharp, so don’t be late!

The American Legion is also a great place to get enrolled in the VA Health Care System mentioned in the article on page two of this issue of The Topper. The post is located at 208 Dishman Lane and is opened on Thursdays from the hours of 9am to noon with VA service officers assisting veterans with questions about rights, benefits, or paperwork. Although there is a toll-free number available to call to enroll in the VA Health Care System, a veteran can be on hold for a frustratingly long time before receiving assistance. The service officers at the American Legion post can and will initiate all paperwork thereby expediting the process.

We do suggest that you try to get there early, as it is on a first-come, first-served basis.



THE TOPPER

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The Director's Desk



Greetings!

My name is Davy Stone. I was recently named the new Director of Veterans Upward Bound, although I'm not a new face around here. For the past 18 years, I was a one of the program's instructors, teaching a variety of subjects such as math, English, and computers. I am quite excited about shaping the future of VUB in order to help more and more veterans in south-central Kentucky reach their academic goals.

But before we look to the future, let's take a moment to revisit the past. On December 7th, 2012, VUB at WKU hosted an open house to celebrate the program's twentieth anniversary. We were excited to see so many current participants and friends of the program, but it was especially great to see successful alumni such as Dr. Carl Rogers, a student from the program's very first class 20 years ago.

I'd also like to thank the staffers from Sen. Rand Paul's for attending, and of course we can't forget to thank WKU's mascot Big Red for helping make our celebration a memorable one.



Big Red and VUB director, Davy Stone celebrating Veterans Upward Bound's 20th anniversary.



Important Numbers and Dates

Schella Smith, WKU VA Certifying Official
(270) 745-3732

Stephanie Gabbard, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office
(270) 846-2092

Military Student Services, WKU
(270) 745-5837

John Rose, BGTC VA Certifying Official
(270) 901-1003

Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green
Don "Mac" McGlothlin (270) 746-7265

VA Regional Office, Louisville
(502) 566-4482

VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN
(615) 695-6384

VA Medical Center, Louisville
(502) 287-4000

VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN
(800) 228-4973

Military Records Branch, Frankfort
(502) 607-6040

American Legion, Bowling Green
(270) 781-3574 Veterans Service Officer
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bowling Green
(270) 781-1872

MAR 8 Registration Deadline for ACT, Apr 13

APR 13 ACT Test Date

MAY 3 Registration Deadline for ACT, Jun 8

MAY 3 Last Day of VUB Spring Classes

MAY 4 - 27 VUB Spring Break. No Classroom Services Available.

MAY 4 VUB Awards Banquet at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center

MAY 27 Memorial Day, VUB Closed

MAY 28 First Day of VUB Summer Classes

JUN 8 ACT Test Date

JUL 4 Independence Day, VUB Closed

*Please call early for information on test dates. VUB may pay testing fees, but to do so we must have your application at least six weeks prior to the registration postmark deadline.