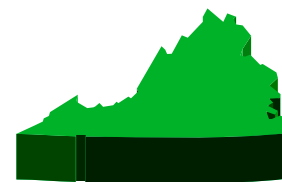


# V.E.T.S. in College Update



VCU-RRTC

August 2011 Volume 1

Virginia Commonwealth University-RRTC, a grantee of the CNI Trust Fund (#10-176), is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation or disability.



Education coaches currently serve **23 active participants**. All participants live within the Commonwealth; **35% of participants live outside of Central Virginia**. Of those currently enrolled in a program of study, the majority of veterans use the GI Bill in order to pay for school; however, a few veterans use employer-sponsored tuition assistance and grants.

## Program Evaluation: Help disseminate supported education for veterans with disabilities in college

In order to ensure the availability and quality of the data and experiences the program has had with veterans over the past two years, the program will be undergoing an internal evaluation designed to answer the following questions:

- 1) How do program administrators effectively engage community liaisons and stakeholders? (Process)
- 2) What internal and external impacts affect participants' goal attainment? (Process)
- 3) How do the program's recruitment strategies affect implementation? (Process)
- 4) To what extent is the program facilitating postsecondary access/persistence for participants? (Summative)
- 5) How satisfied are participants with their experience with the supported education program? (Summative)

The evaluation will primarily use non-experimental methods to gather and collect data due to the limited number of veterans and varying degrees of activity of each individual in the program. Maximum variation, criterion, and snowball sampling methods will be used to gain feedback from veterans, education coaches, and other community stakeholders. Quantitative data is currently being collected on veterans' satisfaction with their program participation and education coaches; this data provides a useful descriptive lens on the relationship between veterans, their education coaches, and the supported education model currently in place. A document analysis of the academic career needs assessment, advisory committee meeting minutes, and other program records will also provide insight to process evaluation questions. As community stakeholders, the program wants your insight! If you would be interested in participating in a confidential interview or want more details about the evaluation, please email [metcalfeyl@vcu.edu](mailto:metcalfeyl@vcu.edu).

## Updates

- Because of budget cuts from our funder, VETS in College is **no longer able to accept new referrals outside of the central Virginia area**. Education coaches will continue their work with veterans outside of the central Virginia area if their participation in the program was established prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Visit our project website:  
<http://www.worksupport.com/VETS/index.cfm>

## Representing VETS in College

- Education coaches/research associates recently presented VETS in College data to the national Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) in Seattle, WA.
- An education coach/research assistant recently attended the Americans with Disabilities Act Technical Assistance Conference where employing veterans with disabilities was a key topic.
- Participants of VETS in College have spoken publicly about their experiences with the program through the "We are Virginia Veterans" blog at [www.wearevirginiaveterans.org](http://www.wearevirginiaveterans.org)
- Participants also collaborated with program personnel on a website aimed at helping Virginia's wounded warriors gain information about going to college.