Working with Veteran Students: The Veteran Community Advocate Program at OSU

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Abbreviations

-VCA → Veteran Community Advocate
-OMVS → Office of Military and Veteran Services
-UA → Undergraduate Admissions
-Vets4Vets → OSU’s local chapter for Student Veterans of America
-SVA → Student Veterans of America
“Through the Veteran Community Advocate (VCA) Program, many of Ohio State’s top veteran students are continuing their service to the university and their fellow veterans on campus. The VCA Program is a vital part of the effort to help connect fellow veterans to resources and experiences that will ensure our veteran students accomplish their new mission - academic and professional success”.

-OSU’s Office of Military & Veteran Services

“The program provides a scholarship/internship to a student-veteran who works with a campus office, with the goal of making the office more veteran-friendly”.

-Student Affairs Today 2017
**Student Services**
- Undergraduate Admissions
- Athletics
- Buckeye Careers
- Career Counseling and Support Services
- Military and Veterans Services
- Off-Campus and Commuter Services
- Parent and Family Relations
- Rec Sports
- Student Activities
- Student Advocacy Center
- Student Legal Services
- Suicide Prevention

**Colleges**
- College of Dentistry
- College or Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences
- College or Social Work (Undergraduate & Graduate)
- Fisher College of Business (Undergraduate & Graduate)
- Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

**Regional Campuses**
- Lima Campus
- Mansfield Campus
- Marion Campus
- Newark Campus
- Wooster Campus

**2017-2018 Participating Departments**
Purpose & Goals

VCA

- Reintegration into the civilian workplace
- Professional Development
- Service to the military and veteran community

Office Lead

- Provide for University Office/College:
  * Knowledge of Military/Veteran issues on campus
  * Translation of office mission into action
Expectations

VCA

OMVS expects each VCA to...
- Have an awareness of what veterans would be likely to participate in
- Give input as a prior military member to the office they work in
- Forge an open line of communication between advocates and the OMVS staff
- On average, work 5 to 10 hours a week
- Fill out and submit funding request forms
- Attend VCA feedback meetings including donor meetings or get-togethers

Office Lead

- Educate VCA on function of office (introductions/tour)
- Work in conjunction with VCA to create programs or learning opportunities
- Formal Coaching at least 2 times a year (Nov & Feb)
- Share feedback with OMVS early if there are concerns
- Ensure that the VCA has regular communication with Office Lead
Responsibilities

- Student first, VCA second
- Day to day
  * Respond to emails, staying in contact with office lead, plan events, provide feedback and support for office employees
- Other responsibilities
  * Offer a military presence (liaison)
- Event Planning
  * $1,000 per Advocate to spend on the military community
  * Social events, introduction to services or programs in the area, chance to connect and build relationships with other military and veteran students
Benefits

For the VCA

- Reintegration into a civilian workplace
- Learning office habits and culture
- Event planning and budget spending
- Communication in a professional setting
- Networking
- My Résumé
- Scholarship

For Each Department

- Having a veteran’s voice in the office
  * Run ideas by VCA
  * Forces us to think about the military and veteran population
- More specific outreach
Looking Ahead

Future Plans

- Planning an open gallery night with the Dublin Arts Council
- Hosting an art workshop with the Arts Coordinator from the Columbus VA hospital
- Taking on more responsibilities in the Undergraduate Admissions office
- Snapshot
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