

# Services for Veteran & Military-Connected Students

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Harper College, Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 17, 2018

Presented by Dr. Travaris Harris,  
Terese Craig & Ferdinand Alfajora



# Agenda

- Veteran & Military-Connected Data
- Veteran & Military-Connected Center Updates
- Student Veterans Association Club Updates
- Fall 2017 Accomplishments
- Spring 2018 Plans
- Marketing Efforts



# Veteran/Military Connected Data

FY 2015 to 2016, 69.5% increase in credentials earned

	2015			2016			
Credential	Military Connected	Veterans	Total	Military Connected	Veterans	Total	Grand Total
Certificate	3	32	35	5	48	53	88
Degree	2	27	29	2	37	39	68
Grand Total	5	59	64	7	85	92	156

## FY 2017

- 520 veterans, reservists, and military-connected students enrolled in CE and credit courses
- 305 students used VA benefits (eg. GI bill, post-911, and Illinois Veterans grant)



# Veteran/Military-Connected Center

Harper College identified space in building A which was renovated and opened in spring 2017. This was made possible through the support and partnership of an anonymous donor, the Student Veterans of America - Vet Center Initiative and The Home Depot Foundation.

Over \*500 visits to the center July - Dec 2017

- Users include both veteran and non-veteran users (eg. military-connected and friends/supporters of veterans)
- Summer usage: primarily recreational – games, tv, hangout space
- Fall usage: 50% computer use/studying & 50% recreational

\*some duplication of students that may have visited more than once in the semester



# Student Veterans Association (SVA)

- The Job Placement Resource Center (JPRC) offered veteran-focused resume writing and interview workshops
- Participated in community service projects including Habitat for Humanity and Feed My Starving Children
- Issued over 400 free flags across campus on Veterans Day and participated in Harper's recognition breakfast
- Three student reps and advisor joined 3,000 attendees at the Student Veterans of America National Conference Jan 4-6, 2018.



# Fall 2017

- **September:** Received preliminary notification of Harper's Military Friendly designation (confirmed December)
- **October:** Hired Veteran Center Coordinator Ferdinand Alfajora, retired Marine with 26 years of active and reserve duty
- **November:** Roll out of new web landing page and additional marketing efforts targeting prospective students including radio, television and email  
[www.harpercollege.edu/veteran](http://www.harpercollege.edu/veteran)
- **December:** Collaborative efforts from admissions, financial aid, advising and student affairs resulted in the first Veteran Info Session with efforts to be repeated spring 2018




# Spring 2018

- Monthly information sessions for prospective students with enrollment staff, financial aid staff, advising, and veteran coordinator present to assist and answer questions
  - Saturday, January 6, 9-11 AM, Building A, Room A243
  - Tuesday, February 20, 5-7 PM, Building Y, Room Y203c
  - Tuesday, March 20, 5-7 PM, Building Y, Room Y203c
  - Tuesday, April 17, 5-7 PM, Building Y, Room Y203c
- Veterans Back to Work Career Fair - January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Center ribbon cutting February 8<sup>th</sup> - 3 PM
- Ongoing planning for college programming and community activities focused on engagement, career readiness, academic success and more!



# Ongoing Marketing Efforts



The graphic features a close-up of a soldier in profile, wearing a camouflage hat, with an American flag in the background. The text 'HARPER COLLEGE 50 Years' is in the top left, with 'PROUD PAST STRONG FUTURE 1967-2017' below it. A blue banner at the bottom reads 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.'

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

**Now, let Harper serve you.**

Harper College supports your success. Services are available for military-connected students (active duty, reservists, veterans and eligible dependents). Many offices also have designated Veteran Services Representatives and Harper has an active Harper Student Veterans Association and a new Veterans Center.

To learn more call 847.925.6679 or visit [harpercollege.edu](http://harpercollege.edu) and search "Veterans."

**Top-Ten Program Areas Veterans Enroll in at Harper College**

1. Health Careers
2. Accounting
3. Business Administration and Management
4. Computer Information Systems
5. Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
6. EMT
7. Engineering
8. Maintenance Technology
9. Paralegal
10. Welding

- Print ad for a special Daily Herald section early fall
- WGN highlights Harper College's expanded services for veterans
- Harper College veteran/military-connected radio spots in an effort to reach prospective students
- New web landing page [www.harpercollege.edu/veteran](http://www.harpercollege.edu/veteran)
- Monthly info sessions, including collaborative outreach with enrollment services at veteran friendly events



# Questions?

## *Thank you*

*for the opportunity to speak with you about the  
exciting programming and services available for  
veteran and military connected students*