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## UHMC Veterans Resource Center 2019-2020 ASSESSMENT REPORT

### MISSION

The primary objectives of the Veterans Resource Center at UH Maui College shall be to advocate on behalf of student Veterans and their dependents in order to ensure their success in higher education.

- The Veterans Resource Center works with Military/Veteran students to ensure their unique needs are met by coordinating with offices of various campus services and community resources.
- The Veterans Resource Center Peer Mentor's provide assistance in coordinating with academic counseling, financial aid, disability accommodations, Veteran benefits information, and additional referrals to campus, local, state and federal resources and services.

### GOALS

Overall Outcomes for the Veterans Resource Center:

- Enrollment: Target key enrollment sectors that are underserved or have recruitment potential to expand access
  - Require all new first time military students to meet a Peer Mentor prior to registration to acquire military admissions checklist.
  - Outreach to local military bases, military education liaisons, and local recruiters.
  - Collaborate with local Veteran organizations and UH system military task force on best practices when working with military/Veteran students.
- High Performance: Identify and change structures and processes that potentially impede student progress or student success
  - Provide guidance, workshops, and trainings to educate the campus community of Veteran needs.
  - Provide necessary technology, equipment, and resources to enhance and encourage success.
- Safe Haven/Transition into Post-Secondary Education: Provide a safe and secure area for the military/Veteran students.

## DEPARTMENT DASHBOARD

- The Veterans Resource Center is the point of contact for many Veteran entering UHMC. We provide specific Veteran college application guidance and mentoring.
- The VRC has logged more than 19,300 open-access hours for Veterans, active duty, reservists, guardsmen, dependents, and other various community supports.

## POINTS OF PRIDE

The Veterans Resource Center has worked diligently with our Military/Veteran students, local Veteran agencies, and campus resources to provide a thorough and well-rounded support service for our students.

- The first VRC in the UH System.
- VRC students have representation through the Student Veterans of America and currently host our own chapter.
- We offer a computer lab, tutoring services, Peer Mentoring, and a safe environment for our military students and Veterans.
- The VRC is well supported and backed by the Maui Vets Center and Maui County Veterans Council, the largest Veteran's council throughout Maui County.

## ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES 2019-2020

### Program Objective 1

Provide access and opportunities for student enrollment: Target key enrollment sectors that are underserved or have recruitment potential to expand access

### Methods and Measures

- Require all new first time military students to meet a Peer Mentor prior to registration to acquire military admissions checklist.
- Outreach to local military bases, military education liaisons, and local recruiters.

### Findings

Reaching out to our local Veteran organization has been the key to our numbers in the VRC. Through the local Veteran organization, we are able to network with various Veterans across Maui County. Key players include local military units and their respective demographics, Maui Vet Center, and the Community Base Outpatient Clinic. There are 3 military units on Maui. Each unit consists of over 120 individuals. Collaborating with our local agencies will help to increase our Veteran numbers.

## Program Objective 2

Increase the participation and completion rates of students, particularly Native Hawaiian, low-income, and those from underserved regions.

NEH Dialogues Grant: Ka Ho'ea Mai Ana: A Warrior's Home Arrival

The NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War discussions will use various expressive genres exploring historic Native Hawaiian warfare as well as modern conflicts to include Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq to facilitate discussions regarding warriors' and soldiers' transitions to civilian life. The program allows a rare opportunity for the community to explore the impact of conflict, war, and return of our soldiers as well as an intimate opportunity for Veterans to explore their personal experiences, reactions, and journey in a safe environment.

### Methods and Measures

- Weekly small group discussion amongst Veterans culminating in a large scale discussion per semester.
- UHMC student Veterans and Veterans from our community participated in the small and large scale discussions.
- Work closely with counseling and admissions and records, to track and follow up with our military/Veteran population.

### Findings

The NEH Dialogues grant was well attended and great discussions topics and experiences were shared by young and old Veterans alike. It was an amazing experience to hear how similar and varying each historical war affected our Soldiers.

Due to the inaccuracies of the current Veteran collection data application, we don't have consistent data on Veteran throughout the UH system. Tracking Veterans is an arduous and tedious task with the need to go through various areas throughout banner and consolidate that data.

## PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The UH System Veteran's Task Force has begun meeting to address system wide Veteran's issues involving data collection, staffing, budgeting, and permanent space. I have been selected to sit on this System wide task force, and with the help of other faculties, staff, and service members we hope to help fix various Veteran's issues system wide. The VRC has been running off of a multi-year Perkins grant that ended in 2020. We are constantly looking for various grants or partnerships within our campus and community to help sustain the VRC.

We are looking to partner with local, State, and Federal agencies to bring the Veteran's Affairs Building to a centralized

area for Maui County. We are hoping to centralize the VA office here at UH Maui College. This opportunity would vastly increase our ability to address Veteran needs and increase our Veteran population for UH Maui College. A centralized location would greatly benefit all parties involved.

- Improve and update our website with all the necessary documents and resources
- Improve our military/Veterans admissions checklist to be consistent with other colleges within the UH system.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR UPCOMING YEAR

<u>2020-2021 Budget Priorities</u>						
Unit Abbreviations: SA=Student Affairs						
<u>Unit Rank</u>	<u>Theme Rank</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>New/ Existing</u>	<u>Compliance/ Safety</u>	<u>Funding Info</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	Student Success	Peer Mentors Funding for Veterans Resource Center (\$37,531 - 5 PM's x 20 hrs/wk x 52 wks/yr; fringe included)	Non-Existing		NA	Peer Mentors (PMs) are a vital part of the Veterans Resource Center and additional support is necessary. Increasing PM funding will enable the VRC to work more efficiently on high-level assignments with minimal interruption