

# AHEAD-VETERAN NEWSFEED

A tri-annual newsletter brought to you by the AHEAD—Veteran Special Interest Group

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

## Top stories in this newsletter



Leadership Expansion



Collaborative Partner News

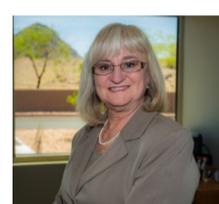


Access to Common Barriers and Effective Solutions to Support Student Veterans



We Need Your Help!

## Leadership Expansion:



In a continued effort to expand the AHEAD-Veteran leadership team, Sandi Patton joined the ranks to serve as Vice-Chair. Sandi has over 30 years' experience as a disability service provider in higher-ed and nearly 10 years working with student veterans. She currently serves as Director of the Disability Resource Center at Nevada State College (NSC). She also Co-Chairs the Veterans' Club at NSC and works closely with the Dean of Students to promote veteran issues. She is on the Nevada Veterans Council, works with the Nellis Air Force Base USO to promote opportunities for active duty and transitioning service men and women and their families, and is a member of Blue Star Mothers. Sandi is one of the earliest SIG members on board and was a contributing presenter for the SIG on the topic of student veterans with disabilities during the 2011 AHEAD Conference in Seattle.

## Collaborative Partner News:



The SIG's collaborative work continues with other national organizations that support student veterans in the postsecondary setting. The number of folks and groups involved in the collaborative meetings has grown since its inception. Partners represent a host of areas and come from the following organizations:

AHEAD—Veteran SIG  
SVA - Student Veterans of America  
NACADA – National Academic Advising Association  
NASPA – Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Ed  
MFRI - Military Family Research Institute  
CCME - Council of College & Military Educators  
NCLCA - National College Learning Center Association

To date, our accomplishments include:

- The creation of an online collaborative workspace under SLACK
- The creation of a Facebook page in December 2016 dedicated to providing answers and solutions to student veterans about disability in education. The page is titled Disability in Education for Veterans and the direct URL is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/diesv/>.

## Access to Common Barriers and Effective Solutions to Support Student Veterans:



NASPA is the leading organization for Student Affairs Professionals in higher-ed. Like the AHEAD Special Interest Group, NASPA has developed a number of constituent groups to provide access to information and resources in a particular subject area. Since fall 2016, the AHEAD-Veteran SIG and team members from the NASPA-Veterans Knowledge Community have been meeting on a regular basis in an collaborative effort to share knowledge, information and resources to better educate veterans on accessing educational opportunities in post-secondary educational environments.

The NASPA-Veterans Knowledge Community has opened opportunities for publication. Their quarterly newsletter is an important source for sharing knowledge on best practices for working with veterans in higher-ed.

In cross-collaboration, SIG team members published an article in the NASPA Veterans KC Newsletter – Winter 2017 edition. *Access to Common Barriers and Effective Solutions to Support Student Veterans*, was authored by Dan Standage and Jorja Waybrant and is available by visiting [https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/kcs/NASPA\\_VKC\\_Winter\\_2017\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/kcs/NASPA_VKC_Winter_2017_Newsletter.pdf).

## We Need Your Help!



**Disability Point of Contact** - Dan Standage continues to create a national disability point of contact database. The project is ongoing and designed to assist student veterans. Thus far, information has been collected for the entire states of California, Washington, Nevada, North Carolina and Ohio schools. If you work/reside outside those states, we would love your help. If you have a statewide or regional AHEAD group that stores this current information and can get a list to us that would be helpful, or, if you are able to contribute information on the name of your school and other contact info via the following link <https://www.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?id=4800341> that would be great. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dan Standage at [dan.standage@studentveterans.org](mailto:dan.standage@studentveterans.org). Thank you!

**Disability Services Liaison** - A few student veterans have begun implementing the Disability Services Liaison position on their campuses. These positions are funded by the VA Workstudy Program and serve to connect veterans with disabilities to disability services on campus. Dan is working one-on-one with these students to get the position established, and then providing some initial training to address the most immediate needs. A toolkit is in the works to turn the process into a turnkey solution for new startups. Later on, the toolkit will also be used for continuing education, providing up-to-date information on current trends, statistics, and resources. If you have a student veteran who is interested in being a liaison, send an email to Dan Standage at [dan.standage@studentveterans.org](mailto:dan.standage@studentveterans.org).

**We are always looking for articles or information of interest pertaining to supporting student veterans with disabilities in the higher education landscape. If you are interested in submitting information for publication in the AHEAD-Veteran Newsfeed please contact: Jorja Waybrant at [waybrantj@uncc.edu](mailto:waybrantj@uncc.edu).**

**AHEAD—Veterans Special Interest Group**  
<https://www.ahead.org/SIGs/veterans>