

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Veteran and Military Resource Center (VMRC)

Create Date: 10/07/2025

Due Date: 11/07/2025

Submitter Name: Juanita Murillo Garcia

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Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Shannon Carr

Requested Amount: **\$20,000**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

The Veteran & Military Resource Center (VMRC) received \$87,500 in annual funding for FY2025–2026, which was about \$39,000 less than the original request of \$127,044. Most of the approved allocation supports essential full-time staff wages and benefits, leaving limited flexibility for programming, outreach, and events. The remaining \$14,400 in operational funds must cover all supplies and student engagement activities for the entire academic year, leaving an insufficient balance to host the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner at the Museum of Glass. This special allocation request will cover the venue rental, catering, and event materials, expenses that were not foreseeable during the annual budget process. The VMRC serves nearly 20% of UW Tacoma's student population, including veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, and dependents.

The event is staffed by Student Veterans of America (SVA) volunteers, reducing labor costs while providing students with leadership and service experience. In addition, the Museum of Glass, a Blue Star Museum, continues to support UW Tacoma veterans and their families by offering partnership discounts and community space. These requested funds will ensure this important recognition event continues without scaling back, strengthening community connection, inclusion, and belonging for our military-affiliated students, while maintaining the VMRC's commitment to fiscal responsibility and student impact.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The requested funds will directly benefit UW Tacoma's military-connected students, who make up nearly 20% of our student body, as well as the wider campus community. The Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner honors the service and sacrifices of veterans, active-duty members, reservists, and dependents while building a sense of belonging and connection across campus.

All VMRC events, including this one, are hosted in collaboration with other Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and are open to all UW Tacoma students, regardless of military affiliation. Our goal is to bring students together and help our campus community learn more about military culture, customs, and traditions, bridging understanding between military and civilian students in an inclusive and welcoming way. The event also offers leadership and engagement opportunities through the Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter, whose members take the lead in coordinating logistics, managing volunteers, and serving as event hosts. These experiences help students strengthen teamwork, communication, and community-building skills that carry into their academic and career paths. Our ongoing partnership with the Museum of Glass, a proud Blue Star Museum, connects students to a local cultural institution that honors veterans and their families. By supporting this event, SAFC helps sustain a meaningful campus tradition that promotes belonging, understanding, and student leadership, core values of the UW Tacoma experience.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

The Veteran & Military Resource Center (VMRC) has a long track record of being responsible stewards of student funds and following all UW Tacoma and SAFC guidelines. Every dollar from this special allocation will go directly toward supporting students (not staffing) and will be used to cover food, venue, and event materials for the Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner. Planning for this event is already well underway. The Museum of Glass is reserved, catering quotes are ready, and the Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter has committed to provide volunteer staffing and logistics support. This means funds can be used quickly and effectively once approved.

The VMRC has consistently delivered well-attended and impactful programs during Veterans Week, working in partnership with campus departments, RSOs, and community organizations. The Museum of Glass, a Blue Star Museum, continues to support this event with reduced costs and strong collaboration. After the event, the VMRC will provide SAFC with a summary of attendance, outcomes, and expenditures to ensure transparency. Our goal is simple, to make sure these funds directly enhance student belonging, leadership, and community connection. Every detail is planned to ensure funds are well spent, quickly implemented, and truly benefit all UW Tacoma students, not just those connected to the military.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The Veteran & Military Resource Center (VMRC) supports nearly 20% of UW Tacoma’s student population and provides a space where veterans, service members, reservists, and dependents can connect, access resources, and feel part of the campus community. Our focus is on helping students successfully navigate their education benefits while creating opportunities for leadership, service, and belonging. The Veterans Day Ceremony and Dinner is part of Tri-Campus Veterans Week, where UW Tacoma joins UW Seattle and UW Bothell in recognizing those who have served. This event highlights the impact of our student veterans and military-connected students who give back through volunteerism and leadership. Many of our students dedicate countless hours supporting their peers and local organizations, and several received the 2024 Presidential Community Service Silver Award for their outstanding service to the university and the greater Tacoma community.

- Our Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter continues to be one of the strongest in the nation, ranking among the Top 5, for three consecutive years, of more than 1,600 chapters across the U.S. and abroad. This reflects the dedication and teamwork of our student veterans and their allies.
- UW Tacoma has also been recognized by Military Times as a “Best for Vets” College, ranking in the Top 20 nationally for the past two consecutive years and earning the number one spot in Washington State last year. These honors speak to the supportive environment that the VMRC and the university provide for military-connected students.

We know our programs make a difference because students consistently tell us they feel seen, supported, and part of something meaningful. Our events are open to all students and often held in partnership with other RSOs to educate the campus about military culture, customs, and traditions. Through these efforts, the VMRC helps foster community, understanding, and pride across campus.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
	PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Museum of Glass- Venue S003	\$4,525
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	S004	\$475
Food	Georgio's Catering Co S005	\$15,000
	SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$20,000

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$20,000
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$20,000

Supplemental Documents