



Request for 2020/202 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Veteran and Military Resource Center

Create Date: 02/04/2020

Due Date: 02/07/2020

Submitter Name: Juanita Murillo Garcia

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Phone Number: 2536924810

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Karl Smith

Requested Amount: **\$32,900**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Veteran and Military Resource Center (VMRC) is responsible for developing and offering campus programming that benefits our military-connected student population. Military-connected includes any student who is currently serving on active duty, national guard, reserves, veterans, or their family members. Military connected students make up approximately 20% of the UW Tacoma population. The funding provided by this request will be used by the VMRC to enhance services, build community and a sense of belonging, and provide opportunities for personal and career development, all of which aids in the transition into college, retention, and success of military-connected students. Furthermore, many of the events and activities are open to all students and thus have a broader impact on the University community.

Specifically, the funds will support the following:

Mid-Term/End of Term Pizza breaks

Husky Halloween Hangout

Chili Cook-Off Competitions

VMRC Video Game Challenge

Gold Star Luminary Initiative

Veterans Appreciation Week

May Mental Health Conference

Memorial Day Remembrance Event

UWT VMRC's Veterans Graduation Celebration

SVA National Conference

Quarterly Welcome and Orientation Events

Peer Advisors for Veterans Education (Student Staffing)

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

The services and programs provided by VMRC are designed to advance the success academically, professionally, and personally for military-connected students. The work is done in partnership with internal and external campus stakeholders.

The services and programs listed above align with multiple Strategic Plan goals and success indicators. Below is a list of the most notable goals.

Students: Advance student success academically, professionally, and personally.

A. Strengthen persistence to graduation for all student populations.

- F. Increase student awareness of and satisfaction with the availability and accessibility of UW Tacoma resources, support, and infrastructure.
- H. Improve post-graduation success of our alumni as measured by established indicators.

Communities: Partner in advancing strong and diverse communities.

- B. Increase the satisfaction of faculty, staff, students, and community partners with the structures and resources supporting mutually beneficial engagement.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goal 1: Build a community among UW Tacoma's military-connected students. Create opportunities for engagement, participation, and fellowship through our programs and events. In addition, the VMRC staff and SVO students works to increase the staff and student cultural awareness of the unique needs of military connected students. Over the past year the VMRC has collaborated with the following entities:

- UWT Student Veterans Organization
- UWT Veterans Incubator for Better Entrepreneurship (VIBE)
- UWT Office of the Chancellor
- UWT Center for Service and Leadership
- UWT Career Development
- UWT Center for Equity and Inclusion
- Student Support Programs
- UWT Academic Advising Center
- UWT Institute for Global Engagement and Global Honors Program
- UWT Office of Global Affairs
- UWT Registrars Office
- UWT Admissions Office
- UWT Advancement
- UWT Alumni Relations
- UWT Marketing
- UWT Financial Aid Office
- UW Fiscal Services
- UW Alumni Association
- Office of Student Veteran Life, UW Seattle
- Jackson School of International Studies, UW Seattle
- Veterans Services and Disability Resources for Students, UW Bothell
- PLU ROTC
- *Coast Guard* College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI)
- Tacoma Community College
- Bellingham Technical College
- JBLM I Corps and Garrison Command
- 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings
- 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
- Pierce Military Business Alliance
- Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
- Washington State Military Transition Council
- South Sound Military and Communities Partnership

UWT School of:

- IAS
- Institute of Technology
- Milgard School of Business
- Nursing and Healthcare Leadership
- Urban Studies Program

Outcome: The VMRC facilitates numerous activities for campus stakeholders to access and serve military-connected students. Subsequently, the military-connected student population is eager to pay-it-forward and get involved with on-campus and community events and activities. And added benefit is that staff and all students have an increased awareness of the contributions of military connected individuals.

Goal 2: Develop educational programs and increase professional development opportunities for VMRC staff and military-connected students. VMRC staff and military-connected students have attended trainings, workshops, and events designed to meet the needs of military-connected student and the rest of the student body. Staff and students have been involved in national, regional, and local professional development opportunities. Below is a list of those activities.

Student Veterans of America (SVA) National and Regional Conferences, *The National Association of Veteran Program Administrators (NAVPA)*,
The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

Outcome - Our students and staff gain a better understanding of the local, regional, and national resources available to them. Staff has the opportunity to keep up with best practices in order to better serve military-connected students. The University gets to showcase the success of our military-connected students and gains notoriety as a military-friendly campus.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

Since September 1, 2019 the UWT has had over 5,390 student interactions and processed over 2,737 VA students' benefits and waivers to Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve Service members, and military dependents. Over 410 unique students have visited the VMRC. The chart below shows the services students sought while visiting the VMRC.

Benefits	162
Career Counseling	46
Drop-In Session	18
Education Plans	6
General Counseling and Advising	318
Initial Processing	103
Meeting	38
PAVE	7
Payments	32
Residency	3
ROTC/SVO	1
Study Area	197
VMRC Events	38
Grand Total	969

This data is incomplete and does not capture all of the students who attend events.

Quarterly Welcome and Orientation Events - The VMRC hosts open house events that welcome incoming and returning Veterans and Military dependents with challenge coins. These events assist in overcoming cultural barriers. Our incoming students can experience a smooth transition from military life to higher education and receive a UW Tacoma veterans lapel pins. It also an opportunity to meeting the VMRC staff and ensure their Veteran education benefits are serviceable. In addition, our Military-Connected students are provided with information and introduced to the UWT resources.

Our Military-Connected Population has participated in the SVA National Conference since 2017. This year, January 2020, 10 of our Military-Connected students attended and was funding by last year's SAF, Student Committee, and Community Events Funds.

During the quarter, The VMRC conducts social events, UWT students meet staff and learn about our on-campus peer support program (PAVE), career and networking planning opportunities, and partner Veteran support organizations. The following organizations will be in attendance: Wounded Warrior Project, FourBlock, Work of Honor, USO Pathfinder, Travis Manion Foundation, Federal Way and Tacoma Vet Centers, and American Lake VA. Social events included:

Mid-Term/End of Term Pizza breaks- All students are invited to the pizza break; Veterans, spouses, children, ROTC Cadets, friends, family, etc. meet other UWT students.

Husky Halloween Hangout- VMRC & Vet Corps Navigator collaborate with other departments and invites UWT and their families to a pumpkin painting and moving watching night.

Autumn/ Winter Break Events- UWT, SVOUWT, and the VIBE conduct holiday displays, potlucks, and Chili Cook-Off Competitions w/ trophies.

Gold Star Luminary Initiative along the Prairie Line Trail- The Student Veterans Organization and the VMRC honor the sacrifices of military families and pay tribute to the loved ones they lost while serving in the U.S. military by lighting a luminary on the last Sunday in September.

Veterans Appreciation Week - The VMRC partnered with the UW Tri-Campus *Veterans Week* Planning Committee, Career Development, RallyPoint 6, and other local transitioned Veterans to plan and administer a career branding event for our student Veterans. UW Tacoma students are presented with a UW Tacoma challenge pin.

May Mental Health Conference - The VMRC collaborates with our Student Veteran Organization (SVO). The SVO leadership works closely with internal and external organizations to focus on chemical dependency, Wellness, disorders, and Veteran-related post-traumatic stress.

Memorial Day Remembrance - The VMRC & SVO unite with both internal and external organizations to organize, promote, and host an on-campus event that pays tribute to those who died while serving in the U.S. military.

UWT VMRC's Veterans Graduation Celebration - Our annual event that celebrates our current military-connected graduates with their military stoles. This event includes the graduates, current or former students, family, faculty, and staff.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

- Host a quarterly meeting with the Student Veteran Organization (SVO) to address student success, concerns, issues, campus climate, and brainstorm for future programming.
- Meet with the SVO leadership to discuss principles of excellence, keys to veteran success, and the future needs to collaborate on current and upcoming projects.
- Meet with the Veterans Working Group comprised of campus staff, faculty, and students to assist military-connected students in transitioning to higher education, completing their college programs, and obtaining career-ready skills.
- At the end of each quarter, a catalyst survey is used to evaluate our past quarters' events and plan for future activities.
- The VMRC uses sign-in sheets in the front of the office, and Husky ID card scanner During the VMRC social events,
- In the future, the VMRC plans to use a point of contact survey and provide ways for students to give anonymous feedback on the quality of services and programming.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The VMRC provides a safe and supportive home base for military-connected students' academic, personal and professional growth. The work of the VMRC staff is critical to supporting military connected students. Below are the most significant services provided by the VMRC.

Veterans Benefits Advising: Assist military-connected students in accessing benefits and resources mandated by state and federal laws.

Military-Connected Career Development: Support career goals for military connected students through career exploration and job readiness.

Veterans Corps Navigator: Identify and connect military connected students to state and local resources that help them balance their educational and personal goals.

Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE): Current military connected students receive training and a stipend to mentor military-connected students.

The following are the collective outcomes of our efforts.

- The VMRC establishes a stronger community among the Military-Connected students within the UWT campus.
 - Aids in the retention and success of this student population.
 - The VMRC creates a sense of belonging within the university, tri-campus, and the local community.
 - The VMRC provides opportunities for career development.
 - Increased involvement within the regional and national PAVE and SVO programs. UWT students testify to the benefits of the programs, conferences, and services provided by the VMRC Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF FUND UTILIZATION

N/A

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Memorial Day Remembrance Speaker, travel expenses, supplies, and display flags. S001	\$2,500
Travel	SVA, NAVPA, & NASPA National and Regional Conferences registration fees, airlines tickets, hotels, travel expenses, and per diem. S002	\$8,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	UWT VMRC Challenge Coins S003	\$3,000
	UWT Veteran Lapel Pins S004	\$1,000
	UWT Events Winner Trophies (6 per Qrt; 18 total) S005	\$200
	Military stoles for graduates, military spouses, and dependents. S006	\$6,000
	US Stick flags, banner, and awareness signs (Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Suicide Awareness, ect.) S007	\$500
	Gold Star Luminary Candles and Supplies S008	\$100
	VMRC Holiday events, prizes, and seasonal decorations S009	\$2,000
	VMRC business cards, brochures, & UWT VMRC notebooks S010	\$600
	UWT VMRC Peer Advisors Shirts (15 Student-Workers) S011	\$600
	UWT VMRC Patches S012	\$2,000
	Military Family Month (April, May, & Nov.) event with refreshment S013	\$450
Food	Mid-Term/End of Term Pizza breaks- All students are invited to the pizza break; Veterans, spouses, children, ROTC Cadets, friends, family, etc. meet other UWT students. S014	\$1,500
	UWT VMRC's Veterans Graduation Celebration -This event includes the graduates, current or former students, family, faculty, and staff. S015	\$600
	Memorial Day Remembrance event w/ keynote speaker and cater food for ceremony attendees included students, families, and UWT employees. S016	\$800
	Veterans Appreciation Cakes (For each of the 6 U.S. Military Birthdays) S017	\$600
	VMRC ROTC Commissioning ceremony with food, music, refreshments S018	\$150
Equipment	A gaming system for the VMRC Video Game Challenge events. S019	\$300
	Student Desk Tops for the VMRC study area (2 needed) S020	\$1,000
	iPad for surveys in VMRC called the "Happy Or Not" kiosk or SEER Analytics Survey. Cost for kiosk, stand, and software. S021	\$1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$32,900

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$32,900
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$32,900

Supplemental Documents



NATCON 2020 STUDENT FEEDBACK

VMRC staff and military-connected students have attended training, workshops, and events designed to meet the needs of the military-connected students and the rest of the student body.



MILITARY-CONNECTED POPULATION DATA

UWT Military-Connected * Enrollment Population Data