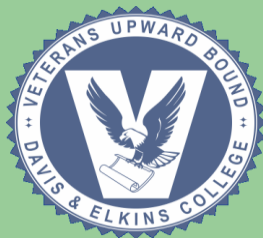


Davis & Elkins Veterans Upward Bound/ www.vubwv.org



Unemployed Veterans Can Receive Assistance with Schooling

There is a new initiative by the Federal government called the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) that offers 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans and pays the Montgomery GI Bill rate, which is currently \$1,473 per month, to veterans who enroll at a VA approved program offered at a community college or technical school. This money will be paid directly to the participant who would then pay the tuition, fees and books. Veterans must enroll in programs that lead to an Associate's Degree, Non-College Degree or a Certification. The program officially starts on July 1, 2012 and veterans must meet certain criteria to qualify. Veterans must be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old, be unemployed, have an other than dishonorable discharge, not be eligible for any other VA

education benefit programs (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance), not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability, and are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program. The Department of Labor will then provide employment assistance to every veteran that participates.

The application process is not currently in place but should be in the near future. Please check with your Veterans Upward Bound Advisor in order to be making informed choices and to get help with refresher classes, the application and enrollment process for any postsecondary school and information on other funds that may be available to you to help with this process.

Concord University is Vet Friendly

Concord was recently rated as the #1 Military Friendly 4-year school in the U. S. by Military Times Edge Magazine. Lisa Spencer, the Senior Financial Aid Advisor at Concord, is also the Veterans Certifying Official. "They looked at our entire veterans program, how we evaluate credits, and the services we provide like scholarships, veterans lounge, and our vet-to-vet mentoring program," said Ms. Spencer. Concord also offers Vet Grad Scholarships from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Ms. Spencer stated that future goals include starting an ROTC Program and to offer veterans a Book Scholarship. At the present time, Concord serves 128 veterans (including dependents of veterans).



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Veterans Day Events at Davis & Elkins College

Veterans Upward Bound participated in two Veterans Day events this year at D&E College. On Thursday (11-10-11) there was a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on the D&E Plaza to be followed by a chapel service at the Robbins Memorial Chapel to honor Veterans Day and remember those who gave their lives for their country. On Friday (11-11-11) there was a celebration at the All Veterans Monument on the corner of Harrison Avenue and All Veterans Drive. As a part of this celebration, the D&E Student Veterans Association received flags from all 5 branches of the military, a POW/MIA flag, and a U.S. flag to help represent the veteran presence on campus. A special veterans' luncheon at the D&E Dining Hall followed the ceremony.



Mark Lanham (above) is a former participant of Veterans Upward Bound and now attends Davis & Elkins College. He is a retired Master Sergeant of the Marines and the current President of the Student Veterans Association at Davis & Elkins College. He spoke at the celebration at the All Veterans Monument in downtown Elkins, WV on Veterans Day (11-11-11).

Veterans Successfully Complete VUB Courses

Veterans Upward Bound participants recently completed another semester of classes. Approximately 40 veterans completed refresher courses in math, English, and computer skills during the 2011 fall semester. 10 classes were held at several sites throughout the Mountain State. Locations included Charleston (University of Charleston & Roark-Sullivan Lifeway Center), Morgantown (South Middle School), Barboursville (WV Veterans Home), Fairmont (Pierpont College), Clarksburg (VAMC), Martinsburg (VAMC), Summersville (WorkForce WV), and Lewisburg (NRCTC). Many of these participants are now enrolled in a college, university, technical school or community college during the spring 2012 semester or are planning to do so during the summer or fall semesters. For those not quite ready for postsecondary education, many of our classes are being offered again. Locations for the spring semester include Fairmont (Pierpont College), Morgantown (South Middle School) and Martinsburg (VAMC), with classes still in the works for Huntington, Lewisburg, and Summersville. We are always looking to expand our services, so other sites are being looked at as potential hosts for VUB classes. Additionally, a full offering of summer classes will be held at several sites

throughout the state, beginning in May. Some of the advantages of VUB classes include small class size (typically 4 or 5 people in a class) and the fact that only veterans are allowed in the classes. Our instructors also utilize SkillsTutor, an online academic skills program that lets each veteran work at his or her own pace. However, for veterans that need academic assistance in a location where we don't have classes, we do offer one-on-one tutoring services. So, we have something for everyone and we strive to make the learning environment comfortable and stress-free for our participants. For more information regarding Veterans Upward Bound classes, to find out if classes are available in your area, or for general information on the Veterans Upward Bound program, please contact Steve Belan at (304) 637-1322 or belans@dewv.edu.



THE VUB MISSION

*To
Assist
and
support
eligible
military
veterans
in
their
quests
for
higher
education*

**D&E VETERANS
UPWARD BOUND**

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FAX:
304-636-1428

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

WWW.VUBWV.ORG



Financial Aid

If you are enrolling in or continuing with school in the fall of 2012 and you are going somewhere that accepts the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you should be completing that application now.

A Few Reminders:

The web address is www.fafsa.ed.gov

To speed up this process complete your taxes for 2011 ASAP

The FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2012

The WV deadline for the Higher Education Grant is April 16, 2012

The WV deadline for The Promise Scholarship is March 1, 2012

Just to be safe you should **complete the FAFSA by March 1, 2012**

VUB staff is always available to assist you with this process

The Campus Connections for VUB

There are many campuses around the state that offer support to VUB. Two that have recently grown in their support of our services are in the Huntington and Charleston areas. Both Marshall University and West Virginia State University have dedicated spaces for VUB and eagerly work with the VUB Academic Advisor to help Veterans looking to enroll. The success rate is greatly improved when the veteran and the school have a VUB staff person available to assist them. Both of these schools are eager to work with and support the mission of VUB, as is their Admissions and Financial Aid staff. Streamlining the process and helping the veteran jump through the hoops benefits the school staff by reducing their work load. Marshall's *MU Vets 4 Vets* and WVSU's *Achievement Vets* programs work to help Veterans make the transition from the military to the civilian world, using higher education as a conduit to involved, secure WV citizens. Both schools focus on the Veteran's transition and needs by offering mentors, peer support, quiet work space (vet only lounges), and staff training on how to best assist and work with transitioning veterans.

About Our Organization...

Veterans Upward Bound is a United States Department of Education TRiO Program dedicated to helping Veterans of the U.S. Military take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. VUB provides services and materials (at no cost to program participants) for the purpose of facilitating enrollment into and successful completion of studies at institutions of higher learning. Veterans throughout West Virginia receive services from our Veterans Upward Bound program, headquartered at Davis & Elkins College since 1990. Former VUB participants have earned degrees from colleges and universities in West Virginia and other states. Veterans Upward Bound is an Equal Opportunity in Education project and, therefore, does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, or disability.