



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #33

Supporting the Establishment of a Veterans Resource Center

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution aims to increase on-campus support for veteran students through the
5 creation of a resource center, knowledgeable staff, and a safe space in order to ensure the effective
6 recruitment, retention, and transition of veteran students.

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8 Sponsored by: Matt Indimine '18, Dustin Liu '19, Seamus Murphy '16, David Outlaw '17
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10 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly is charged “with the authority and the responsibility to examine any
11 matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community.”
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13 **Whereas**, the University counts more than 400 veterans among students, faculty, and staff.
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15 **Whereas**, there is currently no resource center that is specific to the needs of veteran undergraduate
16 students, and as a result these students have reached out to veteran staff to mitigate
17 difficulties.
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19 **Whereas**, veteran students have expressed concerns regarding the lack of support from the
20 administration in the recruitment, support, and transition of veterans to the university
21 setting.
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23 **Whereas**, in 2013, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and
24 the U.S. Department of Defense set forth a voluntary initiative titled “8 Keys to Veterans’
25 Success” which details steps that postsecondary institutions can take to assist Veterans and
26 Service members in transitioning to higher education.
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28 **Whereas**, as of the first of December 2015, 1,958 colleges and universities have committed to
29 supporting veterans as they pursue their education and employment goals.
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31 **Whereas**, other comparable institutions such as Columbia University and Syracuse University house
32 resource centers and have support staff that support the recruitment and retention of
33 veterans through accessible staff members and resources.
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35 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association has been established in efforts to
36 increase communication between veteran students and has indicated a lack of
37 acknowledgement of the challenges that they face.
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39 **Whereas**, both the Student Assembly and the University actively tackle issues facing the diverse
40 communities on campus, yet fail to address the needs of the veteran community.
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42 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that Cornell creates a Student
43 Veteran Resource Center to address the needs of our students that have served our country,
44 and serve as a safe space;
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46 **Be it further resolved**, that this Student Veteran Resource Center be lead by a full-time paid staff
47 member who is a VA-certified official to better connect veteran students with University
48 resources, including but not limited to: Financial Aid, Student and Academic Services, Career
49 Services, and Gannett Health Services.

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51 **Be it finally resolved**, the Student Assembly recommends the University to show a greater amount
52 of support for student veterans by recognizing the challenges that are faced by these
53 individuals.

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55 Respectfully Submitted,

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57 Matt Indimine '18

58 *Chair of Student Assembly Health and Wellness*

59 *Undergraduate Representative, University Assembly*

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61 Dustin Liu, '19

62 *Freshman Representative at-Large, Student Assembly*

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64 Seamus Murphy, '16

65 *Member, Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association*

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67 David Outlaw, '17

68 *Member, Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association*

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71 *(Reviewed by: Health and Wellness Committee, 12/1/2015)*

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Appendix A – 8 Key Steps

The "8 Keys to Veterans' Success" are steps that postsecondary institutions can take to assist Veterans and Service members in transitioning to higher education, completing their college programs, and obtaining career-ready skills.

Postsecondary institutions listed on this site have voluntarily affirmed their support for the 8 Keys. However, a listing here is not a representation or assurance by the U.S. Department of Education that an institution has implemented the 8 Keys or how well it has implemented them, and it does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of these institutions or their policies or programs.

To help you determine whether a school meets your needs or interests, we recommend that you seek out additional information from the school or schools you are considering. You may also wish to seek additional information from current or former students, and other sources.

The 8 Keys

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size).
5. Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.
6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.

<http://www.ed.gov/veterans-and-military-families/8-keys-success-sites>

134 **Appendix B – Syracuse University Programming**

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136 VETERANS CAREER TRANSITION PROGRAM (VCTP)

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138 Transitioning from the military to careers in civilian business/industry, government and other
139 careers often presents two challenges:

140 -How to translate education, experience, skills and training from a military to civilian
141 environment to be a competitive candidate for recruitment and hiring?

142 -How to develop the soft skills necessary to succeed in a civilian corporate or government
143 environment, particularly in business sectors not closely connected to the military?

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145 The Veterans Career Transition Program, operated by the Institute for Veterans and Military
146 Families at Syracuse University, is delivered at no cost to post-9/11 veterans, their spouses, and
147 spouses of active duty military. Paid for in entirety by a grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co, VCTP
148 offers solutions to the above challenges, as well as connections to specific education and training
149 programs, business/industry coalitions focused on veteran employment and information about
150 national and state-level opportunities and benefits for veterans and their families. The Professional
151 Skills Track and the Tech Track are offered through an advisor-led group admitted quarterly, and
152 the Independent Study Track is available for start at any time. Each track is described below.

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154 <http://vets.syr.edu/education/employment-programs/>