PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Student Veterans Survey

A three question survey was opened on December 13, 2012 and closed on January 28th, 2013. It was sent to 529 student veterans, members of the military, and benefit using family members with 153 responses submitted for 28% response rate. The intent of the survey was to acquire an initial snapshot of what is important to students, introduce the position of Coordinator of Military Veteran and Nontraditional Students, and to open a dialogue between student and the coordinator. The following is a survey summation:

Please answer the following questions based upon your experiences as a veteran, member of the military, or an immediate family member while attending Purdue University.

1. *What have you found to be your greatest hurdle?*

   Some of the more pronounced hurdles were:

   - Being a nontraditional student and relating to traditional students; *"My time spent at Purdue as a nontraditional student proved to be the biggest hurdle in adjusting due to the age gap between myself and the vast majority of students."*
   - Problems associated with the GIBILL, the VA, and financial implications due to them; *"The unforeseen circumstances where I get everything in place academically and suitable for my family and something comes about that changes. It made it difficult because they expect me to job [jump] through hoops to try and fix it when I had already had everything set in place."*
   - Balancing school, family, work, and military commitments; *"Splitting time between the Military, Family and School."*
   - Transitioning from the military to campus; *"Adjusting to civilian life."*

   - Having a deployed family member; *"When my family member left overseas and I wanted to help the rest of the family but I was here."*

2. *What have you found to be most rewarding?*

Some of the more pronounced were:

- Assistance provided by the veterans certifying officials; *"The wonderful assistance and friendliness at the VA office!"*
- Access to education provided by the VA and GIBILL; *"Being able to say I attend a prestigious university and not having to worry in the back of my mind about paying for it for the next two decades."*
- The quality of a Purdue education, the experiences provided here, and the relationships developed; *"The college experience, the chance to interact with so many people, and the chance to branch out and to find who I am."*

- The Purdue Student Veterans Organization; *"Being involved with the Student Veteran Organization – seeing that there is a group of individuals who share some of the same life experiences as me."*
- A sense of personal achievement was expressed in many comments; *"The most rewarding experience has been that I am excelling in my classes."*

3. *Please drag and drop the following services to rank your order of importance:*

1. • Knowledge of benefits and resources
2. • Access to information regarding the college and benefits
3. • Camaraderie
4. • Services to help transition from military life to college life
5. • Dedicated space to congregate for academics or social activity
6. • Assistance navigating the college
7. • Access to physical and/or psychological services