

THE 5 STAR CHALLENGE

★ **Commitment from institutional leadership**

The President's Office at each institution will demonstrate its commitment to student veterans/dependents by:

- Signing a commitment to and implementing the **Principles of Excellence** program, as outlined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Signing a commitment to and implementing the **8 Keys to Success** program, as outlined by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- Reemphasizing compliance with **West Virginia's Veteran-Friendly Campus Act** enacted by the West Virginia Legislature.

★ **Access and affordability**

Institutions will foster increased access and affordability by:

- Implementing and actively promoting resident tuition provisions of the Federal Choice Act enacted by Congress;
- Actively promoting and screening for tuition waiver availability for eligible dependents of fallen service members; and
- Ensuring timely execution of VA Yellow Ribbon agreements and applicable Department of Defense Memoranda of Understanding.

★ **Academic support**

Institutions will foster increased academic support by:

- Establishing priority registration for students who are using VA education benefits;
- Ensuring advising staff and student veterans/dependents are aware of specific concerns associated with use of VA education benefits; and
- Collecting and reporting appropriate data to help identify potential obstacles impeding timely graduation.

★ **Cultural and social support**

Institutions will foster increased cultural and social support for student veterans by:

- Ensuring key supportive staff are selected and trained to serve as a resource for veterans and that these staff members are clearly identifiable on campus;
- Providing training to faculty, administrators, and staff to assist them in understanding and meeting the unique needs of student veterans;
- Ensuring that a forum is available for sharing the profound experiences many student veterans/dependents possess in order to promote a culture of awareness, understanding, and support; and
- Connecting student veterans/dependents with one another, staff, and alumni that share a similar background.

★ **Community collaboration**

Institutions will increase collaboration with the community by:

- Identifying and networking with area stakeholders;
- Hosting events on campus to increase awareness of veterans resources and opportunities; and
- Identifying and promoting service opportunities and recreational/social activities that will foster reintegration into the community.