

JMU Military & Veterans Student Center

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Project Budget:

\$25,000

Abstract:

James Madison University has accomplished great things on behalf of our veterans, active military, and dependents over the last several years. This work has been done through the commitment and passion of a small number of JMU volunteers that make up the Veteran Scholars Task Force led by Jennifer Taylor and Nick Swayne. It is time for the University to create a stronger and more well-resourced set of services and supports for our Veteran, Dependent, and Active Military students. We are hoping to build a stronger support system and begin taking a more proactive step in recruiting this community to JMU.

In 2019, College Factual named James Madison University the best college in the United States for providing quality education to veterans. This is not only a great honor, it is an example of the great work of two staff members in the Office of the Registrar and a team of volunteers dedicated to this population. This honor, along with some amazing strides including a Veterans Lounge, have all occurred without any dedicated staff working on behalf of this community.

In the Fall of 2021 the Veteran Scholar Task Force approached Student Affairs and requested that we take the lead in serving this community of students. We are in the transitioning this community currently and that process will be completed in April of 2022. We are committed to growing the support for this community institutionally but we can do more, faster, with your support. JMU has the opportunity to be of service to those who have served and become the model of a veteran friendly campus. We can become a destination for Veterans and can live the Being the Change motto through our recruitment, enrollment, financial support, and graduation of Veteran, Dependent, and Active Military Students.

Project Annual Budget Amount: \$25,000

Personnel – GA Stipend:	\$9,000
Tuition	\$9,250 (covered by Academic Affairs)
National Conference (\$1000/person):	\$6,000
Programming:	\$7,500
▪ Orientation events	
▪ Welcome BBQ	
▪ Veterans Game at JMU Football and Basketball	
▪ Graduation Celebration	

Green Zone/Veteran stickers and map \$500

Identity items (pins, coins, shirts, etc.) \$2,000

Additional information to explain or expand on budgetary needs:

Additional information on programming ideas

1. Orientation welcome event for all new members of the community and current members to build connections and welcome new veteran students
2. Football and basketball game events specifically for Veterans with families - many events can exclude these members of the Veteran community as they are geared to younger audiences so we need to provide at least one event per semester geared toward this population
3. Veteran graduation celebration - additional honor for those graduating where families can attend and support their graduates in a smaller, more intimate setting
4. Veterans Challenge at UREC - athletic event/competition amongst student veterans - potentially grow this to a challenge between JMU ROTC and Veterans
5. Tailgate events at Family and Homecoming weekends for Veterans and their families/alumni.