



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Campus Veteran Coordinator Program



PRESENTED BY

Joe Mah

Campus Veteran Program Coordinator



THE MISSION CONTINUES

SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS IN OREGON SINCE 1945



MISSION

To honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation.



VISION

All veterans and their families thrive in Oregon.



VALUES

Stewardship
Excellence
Respect
Vision
Inclusivity
Commitment
Equity

1 OUT OF 15

OREGONIANS IS A VETERAN



277,405

OREGON VETERAN POPULATION

75% OF OREGON VETERANS SERVED DURING WARTIME



WORLD WAR II

1.5%



KOREAN

6%



VIETNAM

34%



PEACETIME

25%



GULF

13.5%



POST 9/11

20%



13% VETERANS OF COLOR IN OREGON

1.2% Asian | 1.6% Black | 0.3% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 4.4% Hispanic Or Latino | 1% Native American | 4.6% Multiracial



NEARLY **10%**
OF OREGON VETERANS
ARE **WOMEN**



MORE THAN **HALF**
OF OREGON VETERANS
ARE AGED **65 OR OLDER**



AN ESTIMATED **2.5%**
OF OREGON VETERANS
IDENTIFY AS **LGBTQ+**

\$3.41 BILLION

TOTAL FY 21 FEDERAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON



\$1.57 Billion

**Health Care
Expenditures**

-
- » More than 37% of veterans in Oregon are enrolled in health care from the federal VA.



\$1.6 Billion

**Disability Compensation
and Pension Payments**

-
- » Nearly 29% of Oregon veterans are service-connected for injuries incurred in service.



\$133 Million

**Education
Payments**

-
- » In 2021, the average tuition and housing payments made to 8,076 veterans in Oregon was \$16,481.



AGENCY PROGRAMS

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

HOME LOAN PROGRAM

- » **HOME LOAN PROGRAM**
Provides home loans to qualified veterans

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- » **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**
Monitoring of post-secondary institutions through the State Approving Agency function, partnerships with state agencies, tribal governments, counties, and national veterans' service organizations to assist veterans, and grant programs that direct funding to veterans and governmental and non-profit organizations

APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY

- » **APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY**
Claims and appeals assistance to all veterans, and focuses special advocacy assistance to historically underserved communities of veterans including women, LGBTQ+, and houseless veterans

AGING VETERAN SERVICES

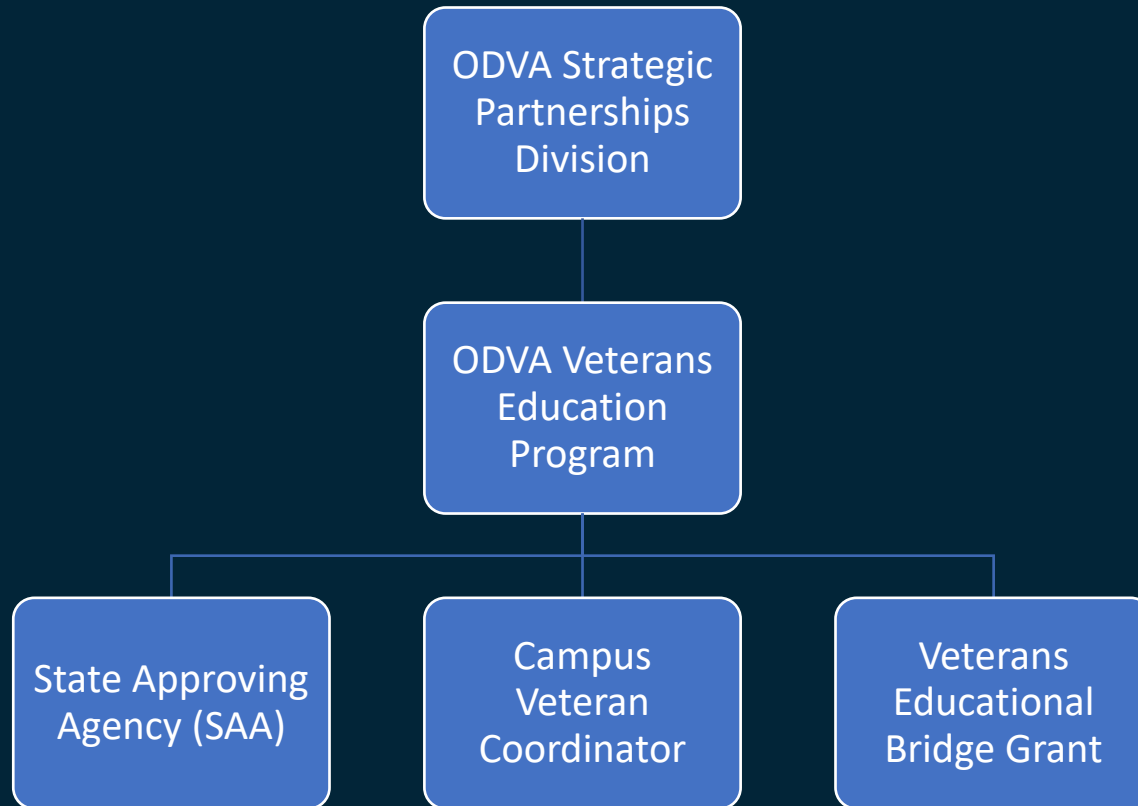
- » **AGING VETERAN SERVICES**
Provides expertise and outreach in aging veterans' benefits and services, veteran volunteer program, and conservatorship and representative payee services

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

- » **OREGON VETERANS' HOMES**
Provides oversight of the two Oregon Veterans' Homes (skilled-nursing and memory care facilities) in The Dalles and Lebanon



ODVA Veterans' Education Program Organization





About Me:



Joe Mah

- Born and raised in the Seattle, WA area
- U.S. Army Veteran of over 4 years, active and reserve
- Deployed 2013 to Afghanistan as part of a Route Clearance Unit
- Moved to Oregon in 2014, worked odd jobs and started education
- Graduated with B.S. in Organizational Communication from University of Portland
- Former Veterans Resource Coordinator at Portland Community College
- Began working for ODVA in April 2020
- I live in Newberg, OR with my partner Jesse, 2 kids, and 2 cats

***“It is my personal goal to see veteran programs
at every institution of higher learning in Oregon!”***



Campus Veteran Coordinator

"The purpose of the Campus Veteran program is to connect and strengthen support for Veterans and their families at Oregon's institutions of higher education. The coordinator is responsible for building a network of Veteran resources, supporting campuses with training and best practices, and organizing initiatives."



Joe Mah

Campus Veteran Coordinator
ODVA Strategic Partnerships

C: 503-400-0540 (*text accepted*)

E: Joseph.MAH@odva.oregon.gov

I can help you with...

- Advocating to your Institution
- Adopting Best Practices
- Locating Resources
- Cultural Competencies
- Improved engagement with students
- Student Veteran Programming

I Also...

- Alert you to new programs
- Help promote your program
- Connect to an Oregon community of Veteran service professionals
- Organize meetings and events



ODVA Coordinator Contact Information

- Jessica Bradley, *Women Veterans Coordinator*
(503) 576-9603
Jessica.BRADLEY@odva.oregon.gov
- James Connolly, (interim) *Houseless Veterans Coordinator*
(971) 388-8219
James.CONNOLLY@odva.oregon.gov
- Ian Michael, *LGBTQ+ Veterans Coordinator*
(971) 720-9016
Ian.MICHAEL@odva.oregon.gov



ODVA Coordinator Contact Information

- Mark Newell, *Veteran Volunteer Coordinator*
(503) 373-2057
veteranvolunteer@odva.state.or.us
- Pat McGuffin & Kim Mckandes
Incarcerated Veterans Coordinators
- Jon Taylor, *Tribal Veteran Coordinator*
(971) 239-6673
Jon.R.Taylor@odva.oregon.gov

Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program

- **Applications are due the 10th of every month** and can be submitted to ODVA through a county or tribal Veteran Services Office **OR** via email to ORVets.BENEFITS@odva.oregon.gov ***please title the email subject line: OVEFAP APPLICATION***
- Provides one- time emergency financial assistance for needs that include but are not limited to:
 - Emergency or temporary housing and related housing expenses
 - Utilities, insurance, house repairs, rent assistance or food
 - Emergency medical or dental expenses
 - Emergency transportation
 - Expenses related to starting a business, such as business licenses or occupational licenses
 - Temporary income after military discharge
 - Legal assistance





STUDENT VETERANS
CAN RECEIVE UP TO
\$5,000
TO COMPLETE THEIR
EDUCATIONAL GOALS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Contact Information:

Diandra Dzib

Bridge Grant Coordinator

Diandra.DZIB@odva.oregon.gov

ebg@odva.oregon.gov



VEBG Eligibility

Eligibility

- Oregon Veteran status as defined by ORS 408.225.
- Oregon residency.

Key Points

- Lifetime maximum of up to \$5000.00.
- Grants can be awarded retroactively.

Application

- Download from our website.
- Application requirements on page 1.
- Submitted online in secure portal



Veterans Educational Bridge Grant

The purpose of this grant program is to provide financial support to veterans and assist them in completing their educational and training goals when they:

Are unable to complete their academic programs on time due to the unavailability of a required class

Are unable to complete their training time due to the unavailability of training hours

Have debt on a student account that prevents registration for upcoming terms.



ODVA Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant

The 2023 Oregon State Legislature allotted \$1,000,000 for the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant. As with earlier iterations of the grant, the purpose of the funding is to expand and enhance existing Campus Veteran Resource Center programs on the campuses of Oregon community colleges and public universities.

Goals of the Grant

Help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life.

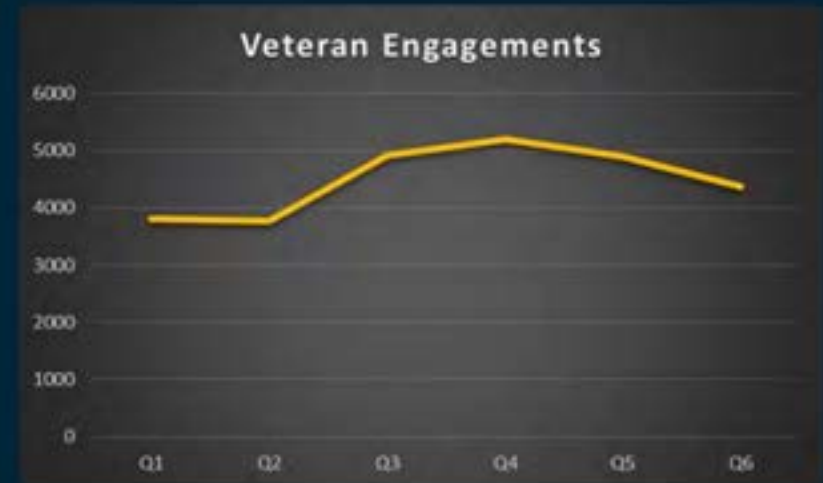
Succeed in college and complete their educational goals.

Transition from college to the workforce and the community.



2021-2023 CVRCG: Veteran Engagements

- Q1 January-March 2022: 3,813
- Q2 April-June 2022: 3,775
- Q3 July-September 2022: 4,923
- Q4 October-December 2022: 5,205
- Q5 January-March 2023: 4,893
- April-June 2023: 4,375



2021-2023 CVRCG Program Highlights



MHCC Earns Gold Status Military Friendly® School Designation for 2022-2023!

With the motto "Serving Those That Served Us," Mt. Hood Community College was recently recognized with the top award status "Gold" by Military Friendly® School in the Large Community College category for the 2022-2023 school year.

"We are happy to help all students find the resources they need and search for new external resources monthly. We strive to understand their needs outside of school to help ease any barriers they may encounter," Student Success Specialist for Veterans Heather Mitchell said.

MHCC was previously awarded the general "military-friendly" designation but was elevated to "Gold Award" status (tying with bronze and silver awards) due to the dedication and determination of our Veterans Services Office and the expertise of Veterans Service Coordinator, Joshua Ray, to empower each Veteran to reach their educational goals while fostering inclusivity.

"Our team advocates for students by communicating with instructors and staff on Veteran students' behalf and by explaining the requirements of their benefits to our Department of Instruction to help inform class scheduling that will accommodate our Veterans," Mitchell said.

For more information, visit militaryfriendly.com or mhcc.edu/VeteransServices



2021-2023 CVRCG Program Highlights

VETERAN CAREER FAIR

WHEN
June 9th, 2022
10am - 2pm



WHERE
Building 2—Student Center
4000 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem, OR 97305

EMPLOYERS ARE CURRENTLY HIRING. BRING YOUR RESUME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO START YOUR CAREER! EMPLOYERS FROM NUMEROUS FIELDS HAVE BEEN INVITED—MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, LAW, TECH



VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY, AND MILITARY CONNECTED SPOUSES

DROP IN TO MEET WITH THE EMPLOYERS



SPONSORS

Chemeketa Community College
WorkSource Oregon
Oregon Dept. Veterans Affairs



2021 Oregon Association of Veterans Schools Certifying Officials
Central Oregon Community College / Redmond Campus
Conference Agenda

WEDNESDAY May 19th, 2022	
8:00-9:00 AM	Arrive, Sign-In, Military Connect Training (Optional)
9:00-9:30 AM	Open Registration / Welcome
9:30-10:00 AM	AGM / Updates for AGM / Networking
10:00-10:30 AM	Breakfast / AGM / Registration
10:30-11:00 AM	Breakfast
11:00-11:30 AM	AGM / Break / AGM
11:30-12:00 PM	Networking / AGM
12:00-12:30 PM	Networking / AGM



Book agreement for Veteran students

I, [REDACTED] agree to have Klamath Community College pay up to \$126.00 for required books from ODVA grant funds.

Under this agreement, I must return ALL books that grant funds were used to the Veterans Services office at the end of each term, so they can be reallocated for use in the Veterans Services lending library.

I understand that I cannot sell back any books that were purchased with these grant funds.

Failure to comply with rule can result in be excluded from participating in this program for future terms.



JACKSON COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES
ON-CAMPUS IN THE STEVENSON UNION
TUESDAY, MAY 2ND
10:00-11:00 AM
NO SIGNUP SPACES



2021-2023 CVRCG Program Highlights



This will be our last monthly newsletter for the 2021-2022 academic year. We will resume sending the newsletter at the beginning of the next academic year.

Featured Campus: University of Oregon

University of Oregon is this month's Featured Campus! Mia and Tyler, co-Team Leaders, have done a great job of putting on lots of fun events with great student turnout. The whole team has worked together well to navigate the many changes over the last few years. Their Peer Advisors do regular outreach and support students in every area of life," says PAVE Program Coordinator Rita Szwedowski.



Mia and Tyler join Maria Kalmback, Nontraditional and Veteran Student Engagement and Success Coordinator, in leading a team of nine Peer Advisors. The team primarily serves the 100 or so veteran student veterans within UO's military-connected community of around 500 students.

The UO team is happy to have the pandemic-induced lull in activities behind them. Mia says that "Now that things are in-person again, responses to PAVE is incredibly positive." "Comparing this term to early 2021, I just feel like there's so much more optimism for the program and getting involved—it's kind of remarkable," Tyler adds.

With more opportunities for in-person outreach and interactions come more chances to directly assist student veterans who are struggling. Mia and Tyler can share numerous examples of instances where they and the Peer Advisors have been able to make a big difference in the lives of fellow students through PAVE.

In one instance, Mia was able to help a student connect with affordable housing and childcare, and now that student is thriving. Another student vet had had trouble accessing various resources at UO. Tyler connected with them and helped that student find and benefit from the food pantry on campus, as well as provided the student with warm handoffs to other much-needed resources on and off campus. "I just find it so rewarding to be able to try actually help other veterans... it kind of gives them that lost like I was given when I needed help," says Tyler.

The UO team has made a deliberate effort to make their military-connected community as inclusive as possible—extending their outreach and community-building efforts beyond veteran student vets to also serve the spouses and children of veterans. Mia's been told by multiple military-connected students that they feel like they truly belong in the community, which wasn't always the case before.

They have also made strides in drawing more women veterans into the community. "I'm really excited to see more women veterans coming into the center as well. I really noticed a shift and I think that PAVE is making a difference with that," says Maria.

Way to go, UO PAVE! We are so appreciative of the great work you're doing.



SOUTHWESTERN SUMMER TERM
AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE STARTS JUNE 15, 2021
COLLEGE NEWS AND COMMUNITY CLASSES



Taking care
of veterans now
and planning
for the future.





Suicide Awareness and Prevention (SAP) Grant

- Funding provided by Oregon Charitable Checkoff Campaign
- Historically, provided to counties and Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes
- Offered to public universities and community colleges in early 2023
- Up to \$3,000 each year
- To help raise awareness around veteran behavioral health needs and availability of resources, reduce stigmas, and prevent suicide
- Each campus can decide how to use grant funds





Uses of the SAP Grant

- Examples of how colleges have used the grant:
 - Partnered with campus Behavioral Health team to host an outreach event
 - Purchase and distribution of gun safety locks or safe medication storage
 - Host a training event on suicide awareness and prevention
 - Creation of a workout program, yoga classes, etc.
 - An outing away from campus for rest and relaxation
 - Creation of a challenge coin, with 988
 - Promotional video, radio or social media campaign on suicide prevention



Grant Application & Reporting

- Simple & straightforward 1 page application
 - Brief description of plan & intended outcome
- Follow-up on how the event, training, etc. went and what the outcomes were

Outcomes

- Created a safe and welcoming space to learn about behavioral health supports
- Distributed items containing 988 info and other resources
- Connected with veterans, their families, and their friends

[Activities ▾](#)[Volunteering](#)[Community ▾](#)[Resources ▾](#)[Submit Resource](#)

BEYOND THE MILITARY UNIFORM

Connect with resources and opportunities to build community with fellow veterans in Oregon. Together, we can navigate the challenges of life after service.

If you or someone you know is in immediate need of help

DIAL 988 THEN PRESS 1



QUESTIONS



**OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Proudly serving veterans since 1945

Joe Mah

503-400-0540 (Text Accepted)

Joseph.MAH@odva.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/odva

800-692-9666