The GI Bill’s Impact on the U.S. Economy
Key Highlights | History

- Some colleges and university embraced the opportunities but there were some skeptics and concerns from those in higher education.

- The idea that military veterans are not "college material" and will never succeed in college has been argued since the beginning of the GI Bill in 1944.

- However, the notion of veterans being incapable of achieving academic standards quickly dissipated as student veterans not only met but often exceeded expectations.
Key Highlights | Perceptions about Veterans on Campus

Perception Before 1944

- Robert M. Hutchens, President of the University of Chicago – “Colleges and universities .... will find themselves converted into educational hobo jungles . . . . [E]ducation is not a device for coping with mass unemployment.”

- Harvard University’s president, James B. Conant - lamented that the GI Bill failed “to distinguish between those who can profit most from advanced education and those who cannot” and expressed fear that “we may find the least capable among the war generation . . . flooding the facilities for advanced education.”

Perception After 1948

- By 1948, a growing consensus among educators that the veterans were the hardest working, most serious, and best students that the campuses had ever seen. "The GI's," an education editor for The New York Times wrote late in 1947, “are hogging the honor rolls and the Dean's lists.”

- President Conant of Harvard changed his mind “for seriousness, perceptiveness, steadiness, and all other undergraduate virtues,” the former soldiers and sailors were “the best in Harvard's history.”

- At Columbia University in ’47, none of the 7,826 veterans in attendance was in serious academic difficulty. Such performances were the norm on campuses across the country.
THE GREATEST GENERATION VETERANS INCLUDE:

- 14 Nobel Prize Winners
- 3 Supreme Court Justices
- 3 Presidents
- 12 Senators
- 24 Pulitzer Prize Winners
- 238,000 Teachers
- 91,000 Scientists
- 450,000 Engineers
- 67,000 Doctors
- 22,000 Dentists
- Millions of lawyers, nurses, artists, actors, writers, pilots and entrepreneurs
- 17,000 Journalists
- 240,000 Accountants
The GI bill represents the single largest investment in an educated workforce in American history.

It sparked economic growth and expansion for a whole generation of Americans:
- By 1956, about 8 million World War II veterans had taken advantage of the G.I. Bill education and training benefit, including some of our nation’s greatest leaders.
- Created pathways to colleges for other populations that had historically been excluded
- Changed the landscape in higher education which ultimately contributed to the middle class
Similarly to previous generations, the current generation of student veterans are highly motivated to excel in college and view a post-secondary certificate or degree essential to their future.

However, many in higher education today still have doubts about actively recruiting student veterans on their campus.

Student veterans are valuable assets whose contributions make lasting impacts on higher education institutions, both while they are on campus and well after graduation.
Key Highlights | Diversity

- Student veterans bring with them a range of diversity, cross-cultural experiences, and valuable skills that are a huge asset for college campuses and beyond.
Key Highlights | Academic Performance

- Student veterans’ academic accomplishments provide evidence on student veterans' academic achievement and ability to handle the rigors of college coursework.

**STUDENT VETERANS EARNING A DEGREE IN HIGH-DEMAND, HIGH-GROWTH FIELDS:**
- Business Degrees: 27.0%
- STEM Degrees: 14.4%
- Health Degrees: 10.4%

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As of September 2018, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has paid **$87 BILLION** FOR VETERANS’ TUITION, FEES, BOOK STIPENDS, AND HOUSING ALLOWANCE.

- STUDENT VETERANS HAVE HIGHER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (GPA) COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL STUDENTS:
  - AVERAGE STUDENT VETERAN GPA: 3.34
  - AVERAGE TRADITIONAL STUDENT GPA: 2.94
Key Highlights | Education Attainment

On average, Post-9/11 veterans achieve higher educational attainment than earlier generations and the general U.S. population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Educational Attainment</th>
<th>All Veterans</th>
<th>Post-9/11 Veterans</th>
<th>Non Veterans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population, age 25 and over</td>
<td>18,945,000</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>3,893,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>804,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduates, no college</td>
<td>5,421,000</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>824,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or associate degree</td>
<td>6,593,000</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1,538,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree and higher</td>
<td>6,127,000</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>1,490,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67% of all veterans have some college or higher

78% of Post-9/11 veterans have some college or higher

61% of the general population have some college or higher
Veterans who earn a college degree or higher have lower unemployment rates and higher income compared to their counterparts.
Key Highlights | STEM

- Veterans are **1.47 times more likely** to work in STEM compared to nonveterans.
- Female veterans are **twice as likely** to work in STEM compared to their counterparts.
- **Top 2 STEM Clusters for Veterans**: Information technology / Computer science (43%) and Engineering (38%)
The current GI bill is still thought of as an educational benefit, but it is actually a massive investment in training millions of future workers.

Having a large, well-trained middle class with financial stability and spending power helps build a healthier economy.

While the economy added over 200,000 jobs and 6.7 million job openings nationwide in 2018, there is a lack of skilled workers . . . However, programs provided by the Forever GI Bill can help to close the economic skill gap by allowing highly-skilled veteran workers to fill these much-needed employment positions.

The questions we have today are how do we maximize the investment and ensure its success.
Thank You