TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM MILITARY-AFFILIATED STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



What's Next: The Future of Veteran & Military Services



October 23-24, 2023

Texas A&M University - San Antonio

WELCOME

October 23, 2023

Texas A&M University System

Office of Veteran & Military Services

Director

Col. Gerald "Jerry" L. Smith '82, USMC (Ret).

Associate DirectorMonteigne Long '02

To Our Symposium Participants,

On behalf of the Texas A&M University System and the Office of Veteran & Military Services, we would like to welcome you to the 15th Annual Symposium. The theme of the symposium is "What's Next: The Future of Veteran Services."

We are honored by your commitment to military-affiliated students across the state and nation, and thank you for your attendance. We look forward to learning together, and hope to increase communication and collaboration among all those involved in serving the military-affiliated student population.

Best Regards,

Jerry, Monteigne, & Staff

Program Schedule

	MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023	
8:00 - 8:25	Registration, Check-In, and Breakfast	Auditorium
8:25 - 9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:25 - Welcome by Col. Gerald "Jerry" Smith, USMC (Ret.) 8:30 - Welcome by President Ochoa 8:40 - Welcome by Chancellor Sharp 8:50 - Remarks by Jesse Lopez, former TAMUSA Student Veteran	Auditorium
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote Address Kandi Tillman 50strong	Auditorium
10:00 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:15	General Session Wounded Warrior Project	Auditorium
11:15 - 12:15	General Session Texas Veteran Commision	Auditorium
12:15 - 1:30	Lunch	Vista
1:30 - 2:30	Concurrent Sessions	
	Navigating New Terrain: Military-Affiliated Students Pathway to Aggieland Megan Wilkinson & Nathan Wilkinson	Auditorium
	Access, Adapt, Achieve: Contemporary Resources for Student Veterans Wendy Lang	Ceremony
	Veterans, Firearms, and Suicide: What You Need to Know Dr. Ted Bonar	Vista
	How Leading Employers are Collaborating to Open Strong Pathways and Drive Engagement with Military-Affiliated Students Kandi Tillman, Michael Piper, David Bostic, Maggie Reinagel, Kevin Traw, Jon Snider, Heather Faulkner	Hall 102
2:45 - 3:45	Concurrent Sessions	
	Advancing the Future of Veteran and Military Services: Fostering Dialogue, Best Practices, and Post-Graduation Success Dr. Linda Euto and Dr. Corri Zoli Virtual/Hybrid Session	Ceremony
	Breaking Down Barriers: How Our Education Partners Can Help Veterans Succeed Jason Wise	Auditorium
	Multiple Pathways to Success: How John Deere Leverages Their Dealership Network to Acquire Talent from 2- and 4-Year Colleges David Bostic	Vista

Benefit Processing and Certification Best Practices | Jeremy Tanner

Hall 102

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023 (continued)

3:45 - 4:00	Break	
4:00 - 5:00	Concurrent Sessions	
	CARES: A Student Success Framework for Military-Connected Students Dr. Wayne Taylor	Auditorium
	Recruiting Staff and Faculty for the Future of Veteran and Military Services Dr. Monika Sziron	Ceremony
	The Lights are Blinking Red: Moral Injury and Well Being of Student Veterans Dr. Katherine Selber	Vista
5:00 - 7:00	Networking Reception at TAMUSA	Patriots Casa

	MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023 - Student Veteran Track	
8:00 - 8:25	Registration, Check-In, and Breakfast	Auditorium
8:25 - 9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Auditorium
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote Address Kandi Tillman 50strong	
10:00 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:15	General Session Wounded Warrior Project	Auditorium
11:15 - 12:15	General Session Texas Veteran Commision	Auditorium
12:15 - 1:30	Student Veteran Networking Lunch	Vista
1:30 - 2:30	Concurrent Sessions	
	Operation EQ: Building Social-Emotional Intelligence to Supercharge Your Game R.J. Jenkins	Hall 205
	Return to (Civil) Service Thomas Braden Virtual/Hybrid Session	BLH 366
2:45 - 3:45	Concurrent Sessions	
	Impostor Leadership: Reframing a Dangerous Concept R.J. Jenkins	Hall 205
	The VITAL Program Dr. Fred Washington	BLH 366
	Local Government: The Best Career I Never Heard Of Dean Huard Virtual/Hybrid Session	STEM 131
3:45 - 4:00	Break	
4:00 - 5:00	Concurrent Sessions	
	Putting Theory to Work: How to Make Veteran Critical Theory (VCT) Come Alive on Your Campus R.J. Jenkins	Hall 205
	VALOR ² - A New Approach to Dynamically Aligning Student Veteran Needs & Resources Through Peer-Led Assessment SGM Don Freeman (USA, Ret.) and David Haney	BLH 366
	Networking with Military-Ready Employers Kandi Tilman, Michael Piper, David Bostic, Maggie Reinagel, Kevin Traw, Jon Snider, Heather Faulkner	Hall 102
5:00 - 7:00	Networking Reception at TAMUSA	Patriots

Casa

	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023	
8:00 - 8:30	Registration, Check-In, and Breakfast	Auditorium
8:30 - 9:30	Day 2 Keynote Address Dr. Abby Kinch & Dr. Mark Wooten Student Veterans of America	
9:30 - 10:30	Concurrent Sessions	
	State Approving Agency Texas Veterans Commission	Auditorium
	Semper Studying: The Importance of Asynchronous and Engaging Resources Kaelin Peterson <i>Virtual/Hybrid Session</i>	Ceremony
	Build a Better World: Veterans in the TAMU School of Architecture Dr. Patrick Suermann	Vista
	Combating Mental Health Challenges in Military-Affiliated Students & College Communities Rachel Brauner and Dr. Lakshmi Mahadeven	Hall 102
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 - 11:45	Concurrent Sessions	
	Hazlewood Benefits Texas Veterans Commission	Auditorium
	Mental Health and Engagement: A Holistic Collaborative Approach Dr. Sarah Skelton	Vista
	Peer Mentor Programs for Military-Connected Students Dr. James Kumm	Ceremony
	Leveraging Corporate Relationships Richard Delgado, Jr.	Hall 102
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch	Vista
1:00 - 2:00	Concurrent Sessions	
	VET+MAP Jason Walker	Vista
	The VITAL Program Dr. Fred Washington	Ceremony
2:15 - 3:15	Concurrent Sessions	
	Forging Connections: How to Expand and Leverage Your Professional Network for Success in Supporting Military-Affiliated Students Monteigne Long	Vista
	VALOR ² - A New Approach to Dynamically Aligning Student Veteran Needs & Resources Through Peer-Led Assessment SGM Don Freeman (USA, Ret.) and David Haney	Ceremony
3:30 - 4:00	Closing Remarks	Auditorium

Abstracts

Navigating New Terrain: Military-Affiliated Students Pathway to Aggieland | Megan Wilkinson & Nathan Wilkinson

Embark on a transformative journey with Texas A&M University's Military Admissions Department as we explore how we support military-affiliated students in their transition from service to academics. Our session is dedicated to providing an in-depth understanding of our specialized admissions process, tailored to accommodate veterans, active-duty members, reservists, and military dependents. Join us to learn how our commitment to inclusivity embraces the unique perspectives and skills military-affiliated students bring to our diverse campus community. Discover the personalized academic counseling services we offer, ensuring a seamless transition into academic life. Don't miss this chance to explore the unparalleled support we provide to military-affiliated students during their admissions journey, enabling them to embark on a successful academic pursuit at Texas A&M University.

Access, Adapt, Achieve: Contemporary Resources for Student Veterans | Wendy Lang

This session will discuss recent, current, and future work by the Institute to assist veterans throughout the postsecondary lifecycle and beyond to employment and econonic opportunity. The conversation will highlight the resources available through the Institute while exploring emerging efforts that will study contemporary themes, cooperative efforts, and innovative solutions that adapt to the emerging needs of veterans post-COVID.

Veterans, Firearms, and Suicide: What You Need to Know | Dr. Ted Bonar

Firearms account for more than half of all deaths by suicide. While Veterans have a unique relationships with firearms, firearms account for about 70% of Veteran deaths by suicide. This presentation addresses the acute problem of suicide, Veteran-informed lethal means safety strategies, and the cultural challenges of conversations about firearms for those at risk of suicide. This presentation takes no stance on policy, advocacy, limitations, or rights regarding firearms. This presentation is focused on the challenges inherent in discussing firearms before or during suicidal crisis, and approaches the conversation through the intersection of safety, cultural language, and values of those who are at risk of suicide and who have access to a weapon.

Advancing the Future of Veteran and Military Services: Fostering Dialogue, Best Practices, and Post-Graduation Success | Dr. Linda Euto and Dr. Corri Zoli | Virtual/Hybrid Session

Research plays a crucial role in shaping the future of veteran and military services, particularly in areas such as recruitment, admission, and enrollment, as well as career readiness and post-graduation success. Our research efforts are driven by the goal of creating a lasting public good through conversations. By fostering dialogue among veterans about their stories and experiences, we can promote a more nuanced understanding of the challenges they have encountered. This dialogue serves as a platform to dispel misconceptions and promote greater equity within military and veteran communities. Through our research and our work on dialogues, this session will aim to identify effective strategies and innovative approaches that can guide the future of veteran and military services. Through evidence-based recommendations, we will offer ways our work contributes to the development of inclusive policies, programs, and practices that meet the unique needs of military-affiliated students and promote their long-term success in collegiate study and post-graduation success.

Breaking Down Barriers: How Our Education Partners Can Help Veterans Succeed | Jason Wise

The Texas Veterans Network Powered by Combined Arms is there for our education partners to help the military community through the transition process. This session will show how our system can be used to refer veterans to any resource available in the Combined Arms platform and make sure they get the support needed to succeed after their military service.

Multiple Pathways to Success: How John Deere Leverages Their Dealership Network to Acquire Talent from 2 - and 4- Year Colleges | David Bostic

John Deere is a company that operates on a large scale with extensive needs for talented individuals at production facilities, design centers, headquarters, and thousands of independently owned and operated dealership locations throughout the country. Fortunately, student veterans present a highly skilled and motivated talent pool that has proven to be up to the task. Delve into how John Deere's Military Hiring Program serves to connect student veterans from both universities and community colleges with career roles across the nation.

Benefit Processing and Certification Best Practices | Jeremy Tanner

This session will explore best practices implemented by the military education benefits team within the Scholarships & Financial Aid office at Texas A&M University. We will present and discuss our responsibilities, our specific team organizational structure and responsibilities, the importance of planning frequent reporting, and how we work with the many counterparts we have on our campus who assist us with the successful processing of benefits for nearly 5,000 students each semester.

CARES: A Student Success Framework for Military-Connected Students | Dr. Wayne Taylor

This presentation sheds light on the challenges and experiences faced by student veterans and military-connected students in their journey through higher education. While student success remains a top priority for institutions, a one-size-fits-all approach may not adequately address the unique needs of this population. By examining existing student success models and exploring their relevance to military-connected students, the presentation emphasizes the necessity of developing a separate student success framework explicitly tailored to address the unique circumstances faced by student veterans. The session delves into the CARES framework and its implementation at the southeastern Research One University. CARES encompasses critical factors such as integration, engagement, involvement, and support, which are crucial in fostering military-connected students' academic and personal well-being.

Recruiting Staff and Faculty for the Future of Veteran and Military Services | Dr. Monika Sziron

Are you effectively recruiting staff and faculty for the future of veteran and military services on your campus? In this session we will discuss how to write an attractive job posting, issues and potential solutions with high turnover in higher ed, where to find your next employee, and other important topics relating to onboarding new military-affiliated and civilian employees.

The Lights are Blinking Red: Moral Injury and Well Being of Student Veterans | Dr. Katherine Selber

The session covers the importance of educating higher education institutions and veteran service organizations about moral injury and the need for healing of our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Operation EQ: Building Social-Emotional Intelligence to Supercharge Your Game | R.J. Jenkins

Research shows that 80% - 90% of the competencies that differentiate top performers in professional settings are in the domain of social-emotional intelligence. Research also shows that employers and managers often typecast veterans as unfeeling, transactional, and less suited for roles that require high EQ. This session will challenge that typecasting while also exploring why it is so prominent. Participants will learn what social-emotional intelligence is, why it is so vitally important, and how to build capacity across several EQ competencies not only for themselves, but for their teams.

Return to (Civil) Service | Thomas Braden | Virtual/Hybrid Session

Mr. Braden has written a book describing the path for active duty to return to the federal civil service - he'd like to share what he knows especially if anyone is interested in pursuing job opportunities on USAJOBS.com

Impostor Leadership: Reframing a Dangerous Concept | R.J. Jenkins

Veterans sometimes struggle to recognize their full potential, and they do not always feel completely worthy of being where they are, especially in higher education and workforce settings. That feeling - feeling like you don't deserve the good things that are happening to you, or feeling like you don't truly belong in your environment - is a hallmark of something called impostor phenomenon. In this session, you will learn that, despite what you have likely heard, impostor feelings are not necessarily a personal and/or professional liability, and that they can be understood instead as both a character strength and a core quality of effective leadership. Participants will walk away from this engagement with strategies that will help them reframe and leverage impostor feelings as a powerful tool for success in school, at work, and in life.

The VITAL Program | Dr. Fred Washington

Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL), provides veterans with services that will assist them in their transition from military life to the college community. These services include; assistance with enrollment in the VA healthcare system, relationship counseling, crisis intervention counseling, stress management, grief management, and individual or family counseling.

Local Government: The Best Career I Never Heard Of | Dean Huard | Virtual/Hybrid Session Learn how military skill sets transition to a career in local government

Putting Theory to Work: How to Make Veteran Critical Theory (VCT) Come Alive on Your Campus | R.J. Jenkins

In 2017, Drs. Glenn Phillips and Yvonne Lincoln introduced the world to what they called an "emancipatory paradigm" – Veteran Critical Theory (VCT) – a critical framework that challenges us as individuals and institutions not simply to serve student veterans, but to explore new ways of knowing them. In this session, we will talk about what VCT is, and we will discuss the 11 tenets of VCT as articulated by Phillips and Lincoln, but mostly, we will workshop practical and concrete approaches for bringing VCT to life on our campuses. This session is appropriate for student veterans and veteran–serving higher education professional with an interest in how VCT can empower them to make an immediate impact on the experience of student veterans at their schools.

VALOR² - A New Approach to Dynamically Aligning Student Veteran Needs & Resources Through Peer-Led Assessment | SGM Don Freeman (USA, Ret.) and David Haney

The Veteran Aggie Leaders for Outreach, Research, and Resources (VALOR2) is a peer-led program that engages student veterans to assess and align critical resource needs to facilitate academic, financial, personal, and career success during the transitions to and through campus. Explore new ways to provide decision makers with timely, reliable information to best allocate scarce resources. Discuss how to train student veteran leaders to identify and report peer needs, increase engagement, and facilitate discussions to amplify program impact.

Semper Studying: The Importance of Asynchronous and Engaging Resources | Kaelin Peterson | Virtual/Hybrid Session

A discussion of the importance of available, engaging asynchronous learning resources

Build a Better World: Veterans in the TAMU School of Architecture | Dr. Patrick Suermann In the recent post-GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) era, the largest number of veterans in the largest higher education institution in the country was in the Department of Construction Science in the School of Architecture. More so than any other academic program, the School of Architecture can build on the creativity, leadership, and technical acumen that veterans exhibit. Listen to this session for ideas of channeling motivated veterans to programs by capitalizing on their proven skillsets.

Mental Health and Engagement: A Holistic Collaborative Approach | Dr. Sarah Skelton

Mental health support on college campus' for military affiliated students is still in infancy stages. It often relies on external resources that are siloed and disconnected from the university. Many of our military affiliated students are nontraditional and may benefit from a more inclusive model of utilization of mental health on campus that destigmatizes and combats the myth that student veterans do not engage on campus. This presentation focuses on the modification of combat operational stress and embedded models that are highly utilized and effective while in service to an embedded model on campuses and specifically the use of college counseling centers and veterans' spaces/offices. This presentation will provide universities with specific strategies and examples of strength based, inclusive, innovative and evidence-based practices. Examples of topics include clinical therapeutic interventions, support groups, peer to peer intervention outreach and engagement, and suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, education and training.

Combating Mental Health Challenges in Military-Affiliated Students & College Communities | Rachel Brauner and Dr. Lakshmi Mahadeven

Receive an overview of the MHFA_RTX methodology, outcomes and testimonials from currently trained Mental Health First Aiders. Learn how MHFA_RTX can serve as a model for how universities can provide evidence-based, mental health education and intervention to combat mental health challenges in the military-connected communities.

Peer Mentor Programs for Military-Connected Students | Dr. James Kumm

Peer mentor programs have emerged as a valuable resource to support these students in their academic, social, and emotional integration into campus life. This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of peer mentor programs for military-connected students, highlighting their key features, benefits, and potential areas for improvement.

Leveraging Corporate Relationships | Richard Delgado, Jr.

Leveraging corporate partnerships to utilizing the resources, networks, and expertise of companies to achieve mutual benefits and accomplish shared goals. It involves creating strategic alliances and collaborations with business to enhance the student experience.

VET+MAP | Jason Walker

The #1 thing we hear veterans tell us they experience when they leave the service is a "lost sense of purpose." Many pursue a degree, whether it be a undergraduate or graduate level. They apply to institutions not fully knowing what they will do with that degree or even what major is right for them, but pursue it because it is seen as their "next step." The VET+MAP process helps veterans remove those doubts and ensures they set themselves on the right path to lifelong fulfillment by:

- identifying and understanding one's strengths and values
- discovering their purpose
- aligning their strengths and values with their purpose
- developing a roadmap to fulfilling that purpose

The VITAL Program | Dr. Fred Washington

Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL), provides veterans with services that will assist them in their transition from military life to the college community. These services include; assistance with enrollment in the VA healthcare system, relationship counseling, crisis intervention counseling, stress management, grief management, and individual or family counseling.

Forging Connections: How to Expand and Leverage Your Professional Network for Success in Supporting Military-Affiliated Students | Monteigne Long

Amplify your support for military-connected students by expanding your professional network. In this session, participants will explore the dynamic landscape of military-connected student support, and discover innovative approaches to broaden and harness their professional network, elevating their role in higher education. Leverage connections and enhance your ability to guide and empower military-connected students toward success.

VALOR² - A New Approach to Dynamically Aligning Student Veteran Needs & Resources Through Peer-Led Assessment | SGM Don Freeman (USA, Ret.) and David Haney

The Veteran Aggie Leaders for Outreach, Research, and Resources (VALOR2) is a peer-led program that engages student veterans to assess and align critical resource needs to facilitate academic, financial, personal, and career success during the transitions to and through campus. Explore new ways to provide decision makers with timely, reliable information to best allocate scarce resources. Discuss how to train student veteran leaders to identify and report peer needs, increase engagement, and facilitate discussions to amplify program impact.

Biographies



Chancellor John Sharp

Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System

John Sharp was appointed Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents on Sept. 6, 2011.

Chancellor Sharp leads one of the largest systems in the country with an annual budget of \$9.6 billion and an enrollment of more than 153,000 at the A&M System's 11 universities. Additionally, under the System umbrella, there are eight state agencies.

Chancellor Sharp brings with him more than three decades of public service. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University in 1972, where he was a member of the Corps staff of the Corps of Cadets, a member of the 1972 rugby team and was elected student body president. Upon graduation, Sharp was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve.

In 1976, Sharp received a master's degree in public administration from Southwest Texas State University while working full-time with the Legislative Budget Board in Austin. In 1978, he opened a one-man real estate firm in Victoria and became a successful small business owner. That same year he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

In 1982, he won a seat in the Texas Senate, and four years later, he was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission. He also was elected state comptroller in 1990 and re-elected in 1994.



Dr. Salvador Hector Ochoa

President, Texas A&M San Antonio

A nationally regarded scholar and researcher, Ochoa previously served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at San Diego State University. He has also served as Dean of the College of Education at the University of New Mexico and The University of Texas-Pan American.

Ochoa, who grew up in McAllen, earned his Ph.D. in school psychology from Texas A&M University in 1989, later receiving the 2013 Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development Outstanding Alumni Award. He will be responsible for implementing system policies and effectively leading the institution; sustaining and enhancing the institution's mission and overall operations; and fostering and building upon the existing traditions, distinctiveness, and strengths of the university.



Col Gerald "Jerry" L. Smith '82 USMC (Ret.)

Director, Veteran & Military Services, Texas A&M University System Director, Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center, Texas A&M University

Col. Smith served for thirty years as a US Marine Artillery Officer, holding six command tours with two combat tours (Iraq 2003 & Afghanistan 2007). Other military assignments included eight years in higher education: three years as the Marine Instructor at Rice and Prairie View A&M; one year instructing at the USMC Command & Staff College; and four years as the TAMU Professor of Naval Science from 2008–2012. He earned a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the National War College, a Master of Science in Military Studies from the U.S. Marine Corps Command & Staff College, and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Troy State University. Col. Smith's Bachelor of Arts is in Political Science from Texas A&M University.



Kandi Tillman

Managing Co-Founder, 50strong

Kandi Tillman is the Managing Co-Founder of 50strong, an industry-led collaborative effort in support of at-scale veteran employment initiatives. Kandi brings nearly 20 years of corporate experience in strategy, technology sales & brand marketing at powerhouse companies including Procter & Gamble, Henkel, Oracle & SAP - as well as business consulting for many smaller companies – to the veteran employment space. In 2018, and in an effort to learn the veteran services "industry", she left her corporate work and took an entry level role at the Veterans Outreach Coordinator for Arizona's 9th Congressional District. She then consulted at Arizona State University across all veterans initiatives. In 2020, she and her husband Kevin stood up 50strong.



Shawn Morgan

Regional Alumni Director, Wounded Warrior Project

Shawn Morgan is the Central Regional Alumni Director for the Wounded Warrior Project in Dallas, Texas. He currently oversees WWP Alumni engagement and provides direction for ongoing program execution to engage veterans and their families within Texas. Shawn is an Army veteran of 12 years with multiple OIF deployments.

Shawn holds a BA in Political Science from Saint Martin's University and a MS in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge.



Eric Ellenberger

Alumni Manager, Wounded Warrior Project

Eric Ellenberger is the Alumni Manager for the Houston Wounded Warrior Project office. He currently overseas the Outreach and engagement in East Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas and over 15,000 registered Warriors and Family Support members. Eric is a Marine that served 12 years on active duty with deployments in support of both OIF and OEF.

Eric holds a BA in History from the University of Houston, Downtown and a MA in Nonprofit Management from the University of Houston, Downtown.



Laura Koerner

Commission Chair, Texas Veterans Commission

Laura Koerner of Fair Oaks Ranch is a project manager, engineer, and a Councilwoman for the City of Fair Oaks Ranch. She served in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare (Nuclear) Officer onboard USS MAHAN (DDG 72) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), earning 2 Navy Commendation Medals and a Navy Achievement Medal. She is a Blue & Gold Officer with the Admissions Department of the United States Naval Academy and a member of Project Management Institute, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, and the Navy Officer Spouses Club of Greater San Antonio. Koerner received a Bachelor of Science in systems engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a Master of Science in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was qualified as a Nuclear Propulsion Plant Operator at the Naval Nuclear Power School.



Thomas Palladino

Executive Director, Texas Veterans Commission

Thomas Palladino has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission since 2010.

He retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army in September 2009 after 27 years of service (1982-2009). During this time Tom Palladino served in both the active U.S. Army and the Texas Army National Guard as an Active Guard Reserve officer.

He also served as an Associate Professor of Military Science (Army ROTC) at the University of Texas at Austin and an Associate Professor in Government at Austin Community College. As a Texas Public School Social Studies teacher, he taught High School and Middle School students in the Austin and Pflugerville Independent School Districts.

Tom Palladino's education includes a BA in Political Science from Providence College and a MA in Political Science from Texas State University, Texas. Additionally, he possesses a Texas Secondary Education Teaching Certificate and Texas Public School Principal's Certification.



Megan Wilkinson

Military Admissions Counseling Advisor, Texas A&M University

Megan Wilkinson is a Military Admissions Counseling Advisor at the Veteran's Resource and Support Center, Texas A&M University. With a commitment to guiding prospective and current military-affiliated students, Megan offers comprehensive counseling and advising services, supporting them from the application process through to graduation. Her expertise lies in navigating challenges and ensuring a seamless journey for each student.

Megan holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Chico, and has furthered her education with a master's degree in Educational Human Resource Development and a graduate certificate in Adult Education from Texas A&M University. Currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Educational Human Resource Development at Texas A&M University, Megan's research focuses on enhancing the academic success of veterans in higher education.



Nathan E. Wilkinson

Military Admissions Counseling Advisor, Texas A&M University

Nathan E. Wilkinson, a devoted father and husband, finds purpose and sanctuary in his family. An honors graduate in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University, he is now pursuing a Master's in Public Service & Administration, focusing on Public Policy and Homeland & National Security. A U.S. Army combat veteran, Nathan's dedication extends to the veteran community locally and on campus. He aids veterans at Texas A&M University as a Military Admissions Counseling Advisor and serves on the Brazos Valley Cares veteran's charity board of directors.

His rich background in public service, including roles as a mayor and over a decade of experience as an Operations Director, complements his proficiency in operations and non-profit management. Nathan's commitment to service is a life's calling; he has worked for FEMA providing search and rescue and managed medical teams for the American Red Cross. Leading nearly 1,000 volunteers during the Camp Fire Incident, he responded to the displacement of over 60,000 of his neighbors.



Wendy Ann Lang

Founder and President, Operation College Promise and Veterans Transition Fellow, George W. Bush Institute

Wendy began her career in New Jersey state government as Senator John H. Ewing's Chief of Staff, managed the Senate Education and Women's Issues Committees, and was later appointed Governor Christie Todd Whitman's Education Policy Advisor. Since founding Operation College Promise (OCP) in 2008, she has managed programming, research, outreach, public relations, and partnership development.

Wendy currently chairs the George W. Bush Presidential Center Higher Education and Employment Task Forces, focusing on contemporary, innovative, and viable solutions for veterans accessing, adapting, and achieving a productive civilian transition. She is an Honorary Commander Emeriti at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Wendy earned her BA in Political Science and MA in International Relations from Drew University, where she co-founded the John H. Ewing Center for Public Policy.



Ted C. Bonar, Psy.D.

Chief Clinical Officer, A-G Associates, Inc.

Ted C. Bonar, Psy.D. is Chief Clinical Officer and Subject Matter Expert at A-G Associates, Inc. A clinical psychologist, he is a nationally recognized trainer and speaker at conferences and universities and known as a subject matter expert in suicide prevention, lethal means safety, military and veteran mental health concerns, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He serves on the Healthcare Advisory Committee for PsychArmor Institute, was previously the Director of End Family Fire at Brady, and the Chief of Continuing Education Programs at the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP).

Ted has held clinical positions at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, The Ohio State University Counseling and Consultation Service, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Counseling Center, and private practice in both Bethesda, MD and Columbus, OH. He was awarded the 2013 Distinguished Alum award by the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University/Chicago



Michael Piper

Manager, Military Recruiting and Engagement, Lowes

Michael Piper leads Lowe's Home Improvements military recruiting and engagement programs focused on enterprise strategy to attract and hire veterans and military spouses. Michael served six years in the United States Air Force as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Journeyman and earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Carolina.

Mike joined the United States Air Force as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Mechanic and served six years before separating from the United States Air Force in 2012. Mike then attended USC from 2012 to 2014, earning his bachelor's in Political Science.

Mike is now the Lead of Military Recruiting and Engagement at Lowe's Home Improvement, where he is responsible for company-wide, crossfunctional strategy and programming for the United States armed forces military-connected community.



David Bostic

Manager, Military Hiring, John Deere

David Bostic started his career path to John Deere in 1997 after graduating high school when he went to the John Deere Ag Tech program at Lake Land College in Mattoon IL and interned at a local John Deere dealership. After graduating in May of 1999 David enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

During his time in the Reserves David worked for another local Deere dealership until going back to school at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale in the Spring of 2002. David graduated from SIUC in December 2003 with a BS in Ag Systems Technology.

David currently works full time as Deere's Military Recruiting Manager. In this role David is responsible for connecting service members and veterans nationwide with dealerships looking to hire skilled technicians.



Maggie Reinagel

Head of Military Talent Events & Programs, Wells Fargo

Maggie joined the Wells Fargo team in June of 2021 as the Head of Military Talent Events & Programs, responsible for all high-volume veteran and military spouse hiring programs and brought with her 20+ years of financial services experience. Maggie moved to San Antonio, Texas for her family's last tour in the US Marine Corps before her former spouses' military retirement. While serving as a spouse on active duty, she endured 9 deployments, 6 PCS moves and numerous job changes which gives her complete understanding of the military lifestyle and its unique challenges.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Maggie worked for USAA for 18 years in various roles, before USAA she held various corporate roles and was also an entrepreneur.



Kevin Traw

Vice President, Optum Financial Services

Kevin is Vice President Optum Financial Services (UnitedHealth Group) Contact Center. He leads a team of 2,500+ employees in multiple US and Global locations, responsible for handling 18M customer calls, chats, emails per year across. The team handles Health Savings Accounts, Flexible Savings Account, Health Related Accounts, Transit, Utility and Healthy Food Benefits. Kevin has been at UnitedHealth Group for 10 years and holds multiple roles within the UHG DEI space including: Military, Veteran's and Spouse's and Disability Inclusion. Prior to joining UHG, Kevin spent 20 years in the US Air Force, retiring at a Lt Colonel in Feb 2014. He served in a variety of Aircraft Maintenance and System Acquisition roles, at both US and Global locations.



Jon Snider

Military Affairs Program Manager, HCA Healthcare

Jon transitioned into the Military Affairs Program Manager in May 2022 after serving in leadership roles, supporting Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Clinical Operations Group (COG) since 2016. As Program Manager, his primary responsibility is to develop, execute and measure programs that strategically align to the HCA Healthcare diversity, equity, and inclusion pillars: patients, colleagues, community, and suppliers.



Jon holds many honors to include a master's of science in healthcare quality and safety from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, graduate from the American Medical Association's Health Systems Science Scholars Program, graduate from the HCA Healthcare Leadership Institute Academy, and a bachelor's of science in community and public health from Middle Tennessee State University. Jon is a 6-year U.S. Army veteran, serving in the infantry branch, both in the enlisted and officer ranks.



Heather Faulkner

Associate Director, Talent Acquisition Campus Relations, Attraction & Experience, Verizon

Heather Faulkner is a recognized talent strategist and change management leader with over 17 years of expertise in diversifying and modernizing recruiting tactics for some of the most recognizable businesses in the world, including those in retail, finance, automotive, consulting, and technology.

At the moment, Heather Faulkner oversees Verizon's prestigious US Campus initiatives, which pipelines up-and-coming talent through internships, Co-Op, entry-level, and leadership development program possibilities. She is a skilled data-driven talent acquisition leader who is committed to teamwork and performance excellence. She oversees talent planning, staffing strategy, university relations, campus ambassador programs, and the on-campus experience for all of Verizon's US business units. Heather holds a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management from Strayer University and earned a PROSCI Change management certificate in 2012.



Linda Euto, Ph.D., M.S.

Associate Director, Research and Evaluation, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse University

Linda Euto, Ph.D., is the Associate Director for research and evaluation at the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University. As a member of the research team, Linda focuses on student veterans and higher education and has concentrated her research efforts on looking at student veterans and their transition into collegiate study.



Corri Zoli, PH.D.

Director of Research/Assistant Professor, Institute for Security Policy and Law, Syracuse University College of Law

Corri Zoli's research focuses on contemporary problems of warfare from an interdisciplinary social science, public policy, and law perspective. One track of Zoli's research investigates the changing nature of the US military force structure, the challenges of asymmetric warfare for military personnel, and data-driven inquiry into servicemembers' and veterans' service and post-service experiences, including post-9/11 veterans' reintegration and subsequent pathway in higher education, civic engagement, and employment.

Zoli earned her Ph.D. in cultural studies and international relations at SU (2004) and completed all credits in the professional policy master's degree program at SU Maxwell School. She is a senior researcher at IVMF; a faculty member in political science and international relations at Maxwell School; an honorary professor at the Institute for Religion, Politics, and Society at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne; and Chair of the Academic Advisory Board for the Warrior-Scholar Program.



Jason Wise

Director of Marketing, Combined Arms

Jason is a proud U.S. Army veteran who served five years as a Cavalry Scout with the 1st Cav Division out of Fort Hood, TX, spending one of those years deployed to Iraq in 2011. After serving in the Army, Jason moved back to Ohio to start a political consulting business. He advised two U.S. House of Representatives as a veterans constituent consultant and a campaign manager for their reelection campaigns. With the time left in his education benefits, he learned to fly helicopters at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, while working towards a digital marketing and aviation business degree. Jason joined Combined Arms because of his passion for assisting fellow veterans and their families to find the proper resources they need as they settle into their post-military lives. Jason lives in Canton, OH, with his two German Shepherd dogs, Reagan and Teddy.



Dr. Wayne Taylor

Director, Office of Veteran Success, University of South Florida

Dr. Wayne Taylor currently serves as the Director of the Office of Veteran Success at the University of South Florida. He holds an Ed.D. in Educational Program Development from the University of Florida and has dedicated his last several years helping veterans succeed in higher education.

Under his leadership, the office has implemented a comprehensive support model that provides veterans with the tools and resources they need to achieve academic and personal success. This includes academic advising, career services, mental health counseling, and financial assistance.

He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer Three in 2012. During his military career, he held a variety of leadership positions and received numerous awards and decorations.



Monika Sziron

Assistant Director of Editorial Strategy, HigherEdMilitary and HigherEdJobs

Monika Sziron is an assistant director of editorial strategy for HigherEdMilitary and HigherEdJobs. Monika has a PhD in technology and humanities from Illinois Tech where she studied artificial intelligence ethics. She never thought that her academic journey would land her in a position to serve veterans in higher education but it has turned out to be one of the most fulfilling parts of her career. Monika is passionate about serving veteran (and military-affiliated) job seekers and helping them navigate higher education as a career field.



Dr. Katherine Selber

Professor, Texas State University

Dr. Katherine Selber is a Professor in the School of Social Work at Texas State University joining the faculty in 1997. She was appointed the Texas State University System Research Fellow from 2017-2018. She holds a Bachelors in Psychology from The University of Texas -Austin, a Masters in Social Work from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Texas-Austin.



R.J. Jenkins

Director of Education, Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration

R.J. Jenkins is an educator, higher education administrator, and institutional consultant specializing in organizational capacity development and cultural transition. As Director of Education for the Columbia University Center for Veteran Transition and Integration, R.J. develops resources and programs that help thousands of veterans and active-duty service members each year achieve success in the college classroom and the civilian workforce. R.J. also works closely with private and public institutions nationwide to build more inclusive professional culture and foster better communication and greater resilience among individuals and teams.



Thomas A. Braden

NATO Policy Specialist

Thomas Braden graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1991, with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He retired from active duty in July 2018 and moved to Jakarta, Indonesia where he served as Human Resources Advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In April 2021, he joined the federal civil service as NATO Policy Specialist for Commander Naval Forces Europe, Africa and U.S. Navy Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy.

He is the author of "A Veteran's Guide to Transition: Active Duty to Government Service." A self-published guide to navigating the federal hiring system on Usajobs; educating and informing veterans on the process, while identifying opportunities to maximize their benefits.



Dr. Fred Washington

VITAL Coordinator, Texas A&M University

Dr. Washington is a veteran who had the privilege of serving in both the Army and the Air Force. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Union College, a Master's degree in Social Work from Walla Walla University, and his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in International Development from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Washington is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 20 years of experience working with various military communities. As Coordinator for the *Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL)*, Dr. Washington is available to provide veterans with services that will assist them in their transition from military life to the college community.



Dean Huard

City Manager, The Hills, Texas

Dean Huard is the City Manager of The Hills, TX, suburb of Austin, population 2613. In this role, he is responsible for the efficient delivery of local government services to include public works, budgeting, public safety, and implementation of City Council's policies. He recently retired from the Army having served over 34 years as a Logistician in numerous challenging and rewarding leadership positions with assignments overseas and in the United States.

His education includes a Masters of Arts in Management with a concentration in Public Administration from American Public University, Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Planning, Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. In preparation for retirement he enrolled in the Public Management Certificate at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M.



SGM Donald Freeman, USA (Ret.)

Assistant Director, Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center, Texas A&M University

SGM Donald Freeman is a retired Army Sergeant Major, Combat Veteran and Graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Since 2015, he has served as the Assistant Director of the Don and Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center at Texas A&M University, providing Application to Vocation support to Aggie student veterans and military survivors, spouses, and dependents. Throughout his 28-year military career, Donald held many leadership positions, and his personal military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and numerous Army Commendation and Achievement Medals. His formal higher education positions include a four-year assignment as the Army SROTC Chief Military Science Instructor at Texas A&M, and a two-year position as a Rescue Instructor at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services.

Donald has been published in The Journal of Academic Librarianship, is the recipient of the Texas District 17 Congressional Veterans

Commendation and is a recipient of the Randy Matson Association of Former Students Award. Donald has presented on best practices for Military –Connected Students at Southern Association of Colleges and Employers (SOACE) conferences and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) symposiums on Military–Connected Students.



David Haney

Student Coordinator, Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center, Texas A&M University

David Haney served as an Infantryman in the U.S. Army from 2000–2006. He deployed to Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq during his military career before stepping out into the civilian world. He is currently a senior at Texas A&M – majoring in History with double–minors in Religious Studies and Geographic Information Systems & Technologies. As well as being a full-time student, David is a husband to his wife, Natalie, and a father to their daughter, Clementine. He is also the student coordinator to the VRSC's VALOR2 program and hosts a weekly "for veterans, by veterans" radio show on Texas A&M's student radio station. After graduating in December 2023, David plans to pursue a Master of Public Service and Administration at Texas A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service. With his education and experience he wants to enter a career (hopefully at Texas A&M) that aligns with his ambition of helping veterans overcome obstacles to succeed academically, personally, and professionally.



Dr. Abby Kinch

Chief of Staff, Student Veterans of America

Dr. Abby Kinch, a first-generation college student herself, is the Chief of Staff at Student Veterans of America, where she is responsible for a variety of facets of the organization including the internal and external research at the intersection of veterans and higher education. Dr. Kinch has participated in SVA as a chapter member and chapter president at Florida State University, an SVA student council member, and an adviser. She has represented SVA in an advisory role to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Education. In Florida, she participated in the advocacy for legislation to provide instate tuition to veterans and gap fund payments to veterans with financial need during semester breaks.

Following an enlistment in the U.S. Air Force as an Airborne Chinese Cryptologic Linguist, Dr. Kinch worked for six years in the private sector using the language skills the Air Force provided before going to school to finish her bachelor's degree and ultimately earn her PhD in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University, specializing in strategy and decision-making. She additionally serves as an adjunct professor of Information Strategy, Analysis, and Decision-Making within the School of Information at the University of South Florida.



Dr. Mark Wooten

Research Fellow, Student Veterans of America

Dr. Mark Wooten is the Research Fellow at Student Veterans of America. He is responsible for assisting with a wide variety of research and evaluation projects supporting the efforts of the SVA team. His primary aim is to help determine if the organization is achieving the goals set for each program, and to facilitate asking questions about how SVA can improve.

Prior to joining SVA, Dr. Wooten spent over a decade in the field of community mental health. In that capacity, Dr. Wooten was afforded the opportunity to work with several federal grants, both in the development and implementation stages. For five years Dr. Wooten was primarily responsible for the federal grant evaluation and reporting efforts for these projects.

Mark holds BS and MS degrees in Counseling Psychology from William Carey University. Mark also holds a PhD in Research, Evaluation, Statistics, and Assessment from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Kaelin Peterson

Lead Faculty, Western Governors University

Kaelin Peterson is a higher education professional with over 15 years of experience serving nontraditional students, primarily in asynchronous and distance learning environments. She has over a decade of experience in various faculty roles supporting graduate and undergraduate business students. Ms. Peterson holds a BA in political science and an MBA. She is currently pursuing her EdD in Performance Improvement Leadership with an expected completion date of 12/23.

In addition to her professional and academic pursuits, Ms. Peterson is an active volunteer, primarily serving in roles as an advocate for learning and development. She is currently the Vice President and founding board member of Tidewater Lead, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing tomorrow's leaders, and an Editorialist for The American Genius. She has served as the Vice President/ Director of Continuing Education for the Okinawa Leadership Seminar and the Education and Outreach Chair for Young Professionals for the Cure – Komen Austin. In these roles, she has presented content on values-based leadership, change management, decision-making, and personal advocacy.



Patrick Suermann

Interim Dean, Texas A&M School of Architecture

Patrick C. Suermann, PhD, PE, LEED AP, F.ASCE, F.SAME is the Interim Dean of the Texas A&M School of Architecture. Suermann retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2017 as a Lieutenant Colonel after a distinguished 20-year military career. As an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Suermann taught building information modeling, computer-aided design, construction processes, project delivery and civil engineering. During a deployment to Afghanistan, he directly oversaw a \$1 billion+ facilities construction program that included building an airfield in a combat zone with the help of almost 1,000 Afghan nationals. He also served for a year at the Air Force's most remote station, Thule Air Base in Greenland, where he supervised more than 500 military and civilian personnel who provided engineering, medical, communication, logistics and airfield operations. Before his appointment as interim dean, Suermann served for four and a half years as head of the Texas A&M Department of Construction Science. He earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy, a Master of Science in Construction Management at Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D. in design, construction and planning from the University of Florida.



Rachel Brauner

Extension Program Specialist, Military Programs, Family and Community Health, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Rachel Brauner is an Extension Program Specialist for Military Programs at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Her focus is to enhance educational programming for providers, service members, military families, and Department of Defense civilians in the areas of caregiving, mental health, and alcohol and substance use. Ms. Brauner works closely with military professionals across the nation in assessing caregiver needs and providing the necessary education and resources to alleviate the stress that comes with caring for wounded service members and those caring for individuals with special needs. Her programs entail OneOp, formerly the Military Families Learning Network, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Mental Health First Aid. Ms. Brauner recently worked with prevention education programs within the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Texas. Her Extension team was responsible for providing non-clinical alcohol and drug prevention and education training and suicide prevention programs to service members, commanders, civilian employees, and military families.



Lakshmi Mahadevan, Ph.D.

Eakshmi Mahadevan, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor/Extension Mental Health & Well-Being Specialist at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. In her role as a Mental Health First for Adults instructor over the past three years she offers valuable training and resources to individuals and communities in Texas, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to mental health challenges. As a professional development provider with 17 years' experience, Dr. Mahadevan also focuses on promoting equitable classroom practices, universal designed instruction, and educational enrichment for all adult learners.

Associate Professor/Extension Mental Health & Well-Being Specialist,



Sarah Skelton

Clinical Psychologist, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

She has served for over 18 years in the medical community with the Army National guard and has been both enlisted and now serves as a Behavioral Health Officer. Additional skills identifiers include SERE psychologist, Aero medical Psychologist for aviation community, DOD Victim Advocate, Suicide Intervention Officer and Equal Opportunity Leader. Dr. Skelton also serves our military affiliated community as the clinical psychologist at the University Counseling Center at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. She has served as a military liaison on three different university campuses. She has specialized training in suicide prevention and intervention, trauma, culture and diversity.



Dr. James Kumm

Executive Director for Military and Veteran Service, University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. James M. Kumm, Executive Director for Military and Veteran Services at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) since May 2017, brings 14 years of military experience, including a combat tour in Iraq. He has dedicated his career to supporting veteran education and is consistently recognized for exceptional service to the Student Veteran Community. Dr. Kumm holds degrees in Sociology, Counseling, and Education Leadership, with research focusing on Student Retention and Veteran Success. In 2023, he participated in a Carnegie Classification feasibility study with The American Council on Education (ACE).



Jason Walker, MBA

Assistant Program Director, Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center, Texas A&M University

Jason holds the endowed Assistant Programs Directorship for VET+MAP at the Don & Ellie Knauss Veteran Resource & Support Center at Texas A&M University. VET=MAP helps Aggie student veterans discover their talents, clarify their values, and discern their life-purpose. Jason implemented the initial pilot of the P2i process at Albers Aerospace, which the company still utilizes to unleash each teammate's unique talent, inspire teammates & customers, deliver value, and promote the flourishing of each teammate's family.

Jason received his engineering degree from Texas A&M and his MBA in Entrepreneurial Studies from SMU. In 2010, Jason earned an Inc. 5,000 award for leading the growth-strategy for one of the fastest growing private companies in America. In a 2016 Builder-Talent Assessment, Gallup's Principal Scientist called the statistical probability of finding another individual in the world with Jason's Disruptor Talent and balanced strength across the 10 Builder-Talents "so small as to be effectively zero."



Monteigne Long

Associate Director, Office of Veteran & Military Services, Texas A&M University System

Monteigne S. Long is Associate Director of the Office of Veteran & Military Services with The Texas A&M University System. She has been working with student veterans in higher education since 2010, when colleges and universities saw a large influx of Post-9/11 veterans. She earned a Master of Education in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs from the University of Southern California. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at Texas A&M University, where her research focuses on student veteran engagement and leadership development. Monteigne is an alumna of the 2022 George W. Bush Institute Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program. In addition to serving as the Co-Chair of the NASPA Veterans Knowledge Community, she is an advisory council member for HigherEdMilitary, and a member of the advisory board for the Veteran Spouse Network. Monteigne is a Military Spouse, which drives her passion for serving military-affiliated students.



Jeremy Tanner

Assistant Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, Texas A&M University

Jeremy began his career in higher education and Texas A&M University System employment as an IT technician/professional and then later moved under enrollment and academic services as a Financial Aid Systems Analyst in the Financial Aid & Scholarships office at A&M-Texarkana. In October 2014, Jeremy transitioned to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at A&M-Commerce, where he served as a Coordinator of Special Programs until May 2015 when he was selected to fill the Assistant Director position in which focused his efforts on streamlining technology support and compliance oversight. In his role as Assistant Director for the military education benefits team in Scholarships & Financial Aid since 2018, he has supervised the military education benefits team in ensuring the highest quality of student service, assistance, timeliness in benefit processing, as well as compliance in military education benefit administration for our nearly 5,000 National Guard, Reservist, Active Duty, Veterans and children or spouses of those who have served or currently serve in the military.



Richard Delgado

Senior Community Investor, Boeing

Mr. Richard Delgado Jr., is a Senior Community Investor for The Boeing Company. Delgado is responsible for establishing and managing relationships with community and business partners by networking, sharing information, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and philanthropic investment in order to maximize impact in San Antonio and across Texas. He served his country for 10 years in the US Marine Corps in Aviation Operations followed by 15 years at Texas A&M University–San Antonio. Richard holds a Bachelor' degree in Business Management from Texas A&M University–San Antonio and a Masters of Jurisprudence in Business Law and Compliance from Texas A&M University School of Law.







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