

18th Annual Texas A&M University System Military-Affiliated Symposium

Call for Programs

Theme: *Scaling Impact: Practice, Data, Partnerships*

As military-affiliated education and workforce pathways evolve, institutions must move beyond isolated initiatives toward scalable, coordinated approaches that produce measurable outcomes. *Scaling Impact: Practice, Data, Partnerships* focuses on translating effective practices into sustainable systems, using data to inform decision-making, and strengthening partnerships that expand opportunity from education to employment.

General Session Guidelines

Session Formats

Presentation (45 minutes)

A structured session led by one or more presenters focused on sharing research findings, program models, policy analysis, data-informed practices, or institutional initiatives. Presentations should include opportunities for participant questions and discussion.

Panel (45 minutes)

A moderated discussion featuring 3–5 panelists and a facilitator. Panelists should represent diverse perspectives (e.g., campus, System, agency, employer, nonprofit) and receive guiding questions or topics in advance to ensure a focused and engaging conversation.

Workshop (30 minutes)

An interactive, skills-based session designed to engage participants in applied learning, hands-on activities, or problem-solving. Workshops should emphasize practical tools, strategies, and takeaways that participants can apply in their own institutional contexts.

Facilitated Roundtable (30 minutes)

A highly interactive, discussion-based session designed to foster peer learning and shared problem-solving around a focused topic. Facilitated Roundtables emphasize dialogue and exchange rather than formal presentation and are guided by a designated facilitator. Facilitated Roundtables are ideal for exploring emerging issues, shared challenges, lessons learned, and collaborative approaches related to scaling impact through practice, data, and partnerships.

Session Tracks

Each session should align with one of the following tracks:

- 1. From Innovation to Institution** - This track focuses on scaling promising programs and practices into durable, institution-wide and system-level models. Sessions may explore how innovations move from pilot to practice, strategies for sustainability, and approaches for embedding military-affiliated support into policies, structures, and culture.
- 2. Data, Assessment, and Accountability** - This track emphasizes the use of data to guide strategy, assess effectiveness, and communicate outcomes. Topics may include measuring student and workforce outcomes, evaluating program impact, leveraging data for continuous improvement, and aligning assessment with institutional, System, and state priorities.

3. **Partnerships that Multiply Impact** - This track highlights collaborations that extend impact beyond campus boundaries. Sessions may address cross-campus coordination, employer and workforce partnerships, community and state agency engagement, and collaborative models that strengthen education-to-workforce pathways for military-affiliated populations.
4. **Benefits, Certification, and Compliance** - This track centers on the policies, processes, and partnerships that ensure accurate, timely, and compliant delivery of education benefits. Sessions may include updates from state and federal agencies, promising practices for School Certifying Officials, compliance and audit readiness, interdepartmental coordination, and strategies for navigating evolving regulatory and policy requirements while maintaining a student-centered approach.
5. **Military-Affiliated Student Success** - This track features sessions designed specifically for military-affiliated students as the primary audience. Sessions should focus on skill-building, navigation of systems, leadership development, career readiness, wellness, or other topics that directly support students' educational and professional success.

Proposal Evaluation

Session proposals will be reviewed by the Program Committee and evaluated using the following criteria:

1. **Alignment & Relevance**
The proposal clearly aligns with the symposium theme, *Scaling Impact: Practice, Data, Partnerships*, and the selected subtheme.
2. **Innovation, Practice & Scalability**
The session highlights effective practices, innovative approaches, or scalable models that can be applied across institutions, systems, or partnerships.
3. **Impact & Applicability**
The topic contributes meaningfully to the professional development of individuals working with student veterans and military-affiliated students and demonstrates clear relevance to practice, policy, or outcomes.
4. **Engagement & Session Design**
The proposal demonstrates a thoughtful and intentional approach to audience engagement that is appropriate for the selected session format (e.g., presentation, panel, workshop, or facilitated roundtable).
5. **Clarity & Quality**
The abstract is well-written, clearly articulated, and identifies the session's purpose, key content areas, and intended audience.
6. **Strengths-Based & Evidence-Informed Approach**
Proposals that demonstrate strengths-based approaches supported by data, assessment, or evaluation to inform decision-making and scale effective practices are strongly encouraged.