The City University of New York is the first and largest university system in America to be named Military Friendly in 2016 in recognition of its programs for veterans, members of the armed forces leaving military service, and their military spouses.

The designation by Victory Media, the founder of the 13-year-old program, was given to 17 CUNY schools: Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Lehman College, Medgar Evers College, New York City College of Technology, Queens College, Queensborough Community College, School of Professional Studies, The City College of New York, and York College.

The institutions were ranked by an extensive survey that covered 10 indicators of success, including support for student veterans on campus; graduation and employment outcomes; and military-spouse policies.

“I'm very pleased that the number of Military Friendly campuses at CUNY has expanded from seven last year to seventeen this year,” said Chancellor James B. Milliken. “CUNY colleges are providing these deserving men and women with the education and skills they need to pursue careers. We are proud to help our veterans realize their goals. I want to extend congratulations and appreciation to the CUNY college presidents, faculty and staff who have made serving the educational needs of veterans a priority.”

The 17 CUNY campuses were among more than 1,400 schools and 220 employers across the nation to be designated Military Friendly for “exhibiting best practices in support of military students and employees, respectively. Military Friendly schools connect with Military Friendly employers for better student success and job placement. The schools are provided with training and resources to enhance program development and share best practices; given a score card and benchmarking to break down program development and provide resources to improve; and offered advanced strategic recruiting campaigns.

Daniel Nichols, chief product officer of Victory Media and a Navy Reserve veteran, congratulated the winners, saying that “those earning the 2016 Military Friendly designation demonstrate

Continued on page 3
Bringing Campus Cultural Competency to the Band of Brothers

Branson, PhD, is a psychologist with the Veterans Administration who coordinates programming and training for the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership, or VITAL. Recently, Branson opened a VITAL office at Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus. The initiative is in place to help veterans translate their military skills to a university setting, through counseling and an effort called Military Cultural Competency Training.

“We knew we had to reach out to the vets,” she said. “And thousands were coming to New York to go to college.”

In the military, said Branson, there’s a sense of belonging. “Vets really have that ‘band of brothers’ mentality, and they lose it when they leave,” she said. “They [also] had a job to do from moment to moment—and that can be quite meaningful.”

Civilian life is far less structured, she said. And while tens of thousands of veterans are making that transition on college campuses throughout the country, very few members of a campus community fully understand military culture.

One of Branson’s roles is to help mesh the two communities through training.

Branson grew up in a military family on Long Island. Prior to turning to psychology, she had a musical career playing the French horn in the Jerusalem Symphony and throughout Europe. She also worked as a grade school teacher on her return to New York. She said her background in the arts has given her “a certain amount of freedom” to think creatively about programming.

She has also followed in her father’s footsteps—he was both a veteran and a psychologist.

She described her dad as a “poor kid from Brooklyn” who benefitted from the first GI Bill after World War II. That government-sponsored program helped put him through college.

Branson credits her father with making aware of the needs of returning veterans. It has also become the focus of her research in what is her third career.

“On many campuses it’s a simple question of ‘Who are these vets?’” she said.

The VITAL training is available for any member of the CUNY community. It accommodates 25 people and takes about 45 minutes, though Branson said she could adapt time and audience size to suit a department’s needs.

Regarding extra needs for veterans, Branson said that she is available to arrange off-campus sessions with therapists as needed. She’s also been promoting tele-health, a secure online network for student veterans to meet face-to-face with a therapist via their laptops. This can be helpful if they have a complicated course schedule.

She said that many veterans at Fordham are already aware that if “something is going on” they should reach out for help. The next step, she said, is to make sure the rest of the community, particularly faculty and staff, are familiar with any warning signs that could lead to self-harm.

“I can’t be the only one,” she said. “We need to train everybody so we all can be the eyes.”

Yvette Branson can be reached at Yvette.Branson@va.gov
Military Friendly Designation

Continued from front page.

a strong connection between classroom learning and career development. They’re moving the needle beyond ‘why recruit military’ to translating military competencies into training and positive employment after graduation.” The CUNY colleges will be showcased along with the other 2016 Military Friendly schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools; in education issues of G.I. Jobs and Military Spouse Magazine, and on MilitaryFriendly.com. Project PROVE (Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education) helps veterans transition from the military to academia. It is offered at seven campuses: BMCC, Bronx, Hunter, Hostos, LaGuardia, Queensborough, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Veterans’ coordinators on every undergraduate campus provide support and assistance beyond the GI Bill, and CUNY’s University Office has a Military Admissions Team that assists with the application fee waiver and other aspects of the application process. Review of the JST (Joint Service Transcript)/military credit for CUNY transfer credit.

Since 2013, CUNY has offered in-state tuition to veterans, dependents and spouses on the GI Bill. The Mayor’s Office of Veteran Affairs supports the CUNY campuses, and VA VITAL and VMHC (Veteran Mental Health Coalition) offer Military Cultural Competency (MCC) training for faculty and staff.

Dress4Success provides professional attire for female veterans seeking employment.

Edge4Vets helps veterans prepare for job interviews and for career transitions to the civilian workforce. ACP (American Corporate Partners) connects veterans with professional development and offers mentoring, resume preparation and internship searches. Four Block helps veterans with job interview preparation and civilian career transition.

CUNY Veterans Admission Team

The CUNY Welcome Center serves as the university-wide Office of Undergraduate Admissions, offering assistance with all admission needs from exploring CUNY’s programs to applying to school. In addition to aiding prospective students, the office also provides information about CUNY to high school counselors and college advisors.

The CUNY Welcome Center has a dedicated team which offers specific assistance to service members and their families who are considering applying to CUNY. As part of this assistance, the team is responsible for processing Undergraduate Veteran Application Fee Waiver requests, coordinating military outreach, counseling service members who contact the Welcome Center and advocating on behalf of service members within the CUNY Central Office, among other responsibilities. Additionally, the team provides central support to the ROTC program offered at CUNY. If you know a veteran who has an admissions-related inquiry, please reach out to vetwaiver@cuny.edu for assistance.
**COVA Welcomes**

**Richard Pusateri:** a native of Latham, New York, graduated from Case Western Reserve University with the Bachelor of Arts in history. His subsequent degrees include the Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University, the Master of Science from Syracuse University, the Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Salve Regina University, and the Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis on ethics from Princeton Theological Seminary. Pusateri is an ordained United Methodist minister. Prior beginning his active duty service in the US Navy in 1983, he served as a librarian, pastor and campus minister in middle Tennessee. Captain Richard Pusateri, Chaplain Corps, US Navy served 30-years on active duty. He served 16-years with the US Marine Corps in assignments with the infantry, aviation, a Marine Expeditionary Unit and 2-force level commands. In 1990-1991, he deployed with MAG-13 (Forward) to Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, which included 43 days and over 3800 sorties of aviation combat operations. While serving as the I MEF and MARCENT chaplain, he supervised all Marine Corps religious support in the Southwest Asia combat zone in 2005-2009. During this period he deployed for over 20-months in combat operations, including 13-months as the I MEF (Forward) chaplain in Al Anbar.

**Adrian Calvache:** A Brooklyn native, Adrian lived in Brownsville, NY before joining the U.S. Navy at 18. He attended AG “A” school in Biloxi, Mississippi and became an Aerographer’s Mate. He was stationed at Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk for most of his active duty and eventually became an Assistant Forecast Duty Officer on the watch-floor. As an Airman, he helped with the training of new weather observers at his command, assisted with the Haitian relief effort of 2010, assisted thousands of pilots traversing across the globe with weather forecast, set warnings for severe weather warnings for every Naval base east of the Texas Panhandle, and even did numerous charity runs while on active duty. Transitioning to the reserves and becoming an Aerographer’s Mate Third Class while drilling at NOSC NYC, he helped guide young cadets in the NY Sea Cadet Program while in the Reserves. Though the military was once his calling, he transferred into the Individual Ready Reserve and served the rest of his time there. Now as a full time student, he graduated from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and received an Associates in Criminal Justice. He was also the Secretary and Vice President of the Veterans Club in BMCC. Now he has reached his last semester at John Jay College and will be graduating with a Political Science Degree in the Fall. He also has plans for further education in the data analysis field and working in government.

**Rondell Holland:** Derives from the heart of New York City in the county of South Jamaica Queens. He graduated from Jamaica High where he was the high school basketball captain with dreams of playing for the NBA. He joined the United States Navy and went on 4 deployments (2 of them in the Persian Gulf.) After serving 8 1/2 years of faithful service Rondell decided to leave the military and pursue his educational goals which would ultimately lead him to Law school.

He enrolled in college in San Diego California where he served as the SVA’s Vice President as well as Student Senator advocating for students rights. While working as a personal trainer he also volunteered his time with the youth as a youth league basketball coach as well as mentor for a lot of young children male and females without fathers. After receiving his Associates degree in Criminal Justice he later relocated back to New York and enrolled in John Jay College to study Criminal Justice with a minor study in law. He also volunteers his time with a young political Democratic Party named “Queens County Young Democrats” which is dedicated to advancing the highest principles of the Democratic Party and inspiring the participation of all people in politics, public policy and service. He is indeed a proven team player and leader who wants nothing more than to put himself into a position of influence that would ultimately inspire change.
Founded in 1974 by Vietnam era veterans, the Brooklyn College Veteran Students’ Organization (VSO) is a one of a kind community that brings veterans, service members, their dependents, and survivors together at Brooklyn College. Our organization is an integral component of Brooklyn College because it provides specific assistance to the above mentioned population that no other school clubs and/or organizations are equipped to offer.

The VSO and the Brooklyn College Veterans and Military Programs and Services (VMPS) advocate on behalf of and assist veterans in applying for educational benefits, work-study internships, scholarships, tutorial assistance, and mentorship. VSO and VMPS help make an important and at times difficult transition smoother by hosting an orientation in both the spring and fall semesters that brings together new, transfer, and continuing students to the Institution and introduce them directly to their point of contact in each of the service areas; as well as representatives from the VA who shares updated information regarding benefits and entitlements.

The VSO provides a safe place for camaraderie and mentorship for all student veterans. We also participate in activities such as proudly marching in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. and the New York City Veterans Day parade representing Brooklyn College and CUNY. During our annual Memorial Day trip we join the thousands of military personnel, their family and friends who cherish this holiday as a day to remember their loved ones who have fought for this country. This trip serves to educate the campus community regarding the history and culture of the military, strengthen the relationship of the student veterans and the campus community.

**CITY College: Serving My Fellow Vets**

*By: Hugh Carmichael, Air Force Veteran*

What attracted me to joining the Air Force was the fact that it had the best planes. I always wanted to fly planes and even considered attending the Air Force Academy, but I was not willing to go through 4 years of boot-camp-style college so I enlisted instead. By choosing this path, I was not able to become an Air Force pilot right away, but I did the next best thing, which was to become an aircraft electrician. I had the pleasure of working on 4 different airframes: the MC-130P, AC-130 (while deployed at Balad Air Base, Iraq), the A-10, and F16. The A-10 is my favorite plane because it is the most incredible by design. This plane is built around a 30mm cannon and is used in close air support for ground troops. As an aircraft electrician, I was responsible for maintaining and solving electrical maintenance issues.

I left the Air Force, after serving honorably for 6 years and eight months, to attend the City College of New York (CCNY) for Electrical Engineering and will graduate at the end of Spring 2016. In my opinion, the transition process of moving from military to civilian life is not as structured as going from civilian to military. In transitioning from military life to civilian life there are many questions; Where would I live, How will I pay the bills, What should I do if I need medical care? It takes careful planning to smoothly transition out of the military and it is always helpful when you can be assisted by veterans who have been through this process. Luckily for me I was able to receive helpful advice from members of the City College Veterans Association, a veteran’s chapter on CCNY’s campus. I have benefited from participating in the veterans chapter of CCNY’s, I recognized that efforts of previous veterans who lobbied to get the club space in Wingate room 107 and lobbied to get early registration for veterans. I chose to become President of the CCVA because I wanted to serve my fellow veterans and continue to make things better for the next group of veterans at CCNY.
James Marone is a Marine Corps veteran, English major, Business and Liberal Arts minor at Queens College. During his time in the Marines, he served as a Data Network Specialist with 2nd Battalion 7th Marines where he participated in a Marine Expeditionary Unit to Okinawa, Japan and then deployed to Afghanistan.

James has fit well into the blossoming veteran community, where he has networked with his fellow veterans, risen to the position of president within the Queens College Veterans Club, and assists the campus’ Veterans Support Services department by taking advantage of VA work study opportunities. Being so connected and rooted in the campus has allowed him to transition smoothly into student life and a successful path toward his degree.

Now nearing his senior year, he is looking ahead toward graduate studies. His passion in English studies is rooted in the belief that being able to communicate effectively allows for opportunities in both creativity and within the business sector.

Since joining the Veterans Club cabinet, he has sought to improve the quality of resources and veteran involvement at Queens College. He firmly believes that a highly active and networked veteran community can open many doors for his fellow veterans and those who follow after. He encourages oncoming veterans to take part in their veterans clubs, network with veteran students and staff at their campuses. In doing so, they create strong and valuable connections while learning about all of the services and benefits they have access to.

NYCCT: The Value of Persistence

Javier Joya is a student veteran at NYC College of Technology (City Tech). He is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he served as Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Marine and completed two tours during OEF. Upon his return to the U.S. he went back to school to study Applied Mathematics at City Tech. Javier stated that coming back to school after being out for a considerably long time was an obstacle, he says that “I had to play catch up in most of the science and math courses.”

Javier admits it was difficult and that he honestly felt like giving up. However, he stated “If I didn’t give up before, then why should I now? That was a question I asked myself. We all have been through difficult times and numerous scenarios that a civilian will never understand.” I am a firm believer that if someone says, “I understand what you are going through”, if you never been in that situation, then you don’t! Sometimes friends and even family members will give up on you and don’t believe in your dreams. Obstacles are everywhere but they are there just to test you how bad you want to accomplish something. Regardless what your MOS was, think about it, service members were depending on you to successfully perform a given task. Now we have to help each other to discover these hiding winning strategies in society because just like in the military, we all have an important role to play.”

“Javier is such a great asset to his fellow Student Veterans” says Rob Timmins, City Tech’s Veteran Services Coordinator. “Javier works as a Veteran Peer Mentor and Math tutor at City Tech’s Office of Veteran Support Services and he also works as a peer leader in Chemistry and Mathematics. Persistence pays off in the end.
Nick Schede, President of the local chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) at Baruch College and Dr. Yvette Branson, Coordinator of VA New York Harbor Healthcare System’s Veterans Integration To Academic Leadership (VITAL), were successful in helping the SVA at Baruch. Thanks to a recent award of $8,000 from the Home Depot Foundation grant the SVA has a new lounge for their veterans.

Nick, Dr. Branson, and Art King (Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students) thanked Home Depot for their contributions to the SVA lounge. Before the ribbon cutting, there was a banquet that was catered by the school, a slide show with pictures of the SVA council, and then Nick explaining how each of them has helped the Baruch SVA. The lounge itself was decked out with new furniture and adornments.

Dr. Branson says that SVA and VITAL are “encouraging Veterans to take a leadership role on campus.” Run by Veterans, these programs encourage students to feel a supportive sense of camaraderie with fellow Veterans as they move forward with shared educational and professional goals. VITAL is located at CUNY’s LaGuardia and Baruch campuses and Fordham University, among other colleges and universities across New York and the United States.

ATTENTION CUNY VETERANS

If you wish to be featured in the CUNY Vets Newsletter send us your on campus photos!

Instagram: @CUNYVETERANS
Twitter: @CUNYVets
Like us on Facebook: CUNY Veterans Page

TAG US or use #CUNYVets2016

veterans@cuny.edu  CUNY Central Office of Veterans’ Affairs  (646)-664-8835
Second Chance:

A CUNY Veteran’s Story of Transition to Civilian Life
By Greg Duggins, U.S. Air Force Veteran and PROVE Intern

Adjusting after Vietnam

I was never proud to be a veteran. When I separated from the US Air Force in 1976 the only people who welcomed me home were my mother and sisters. Even my closest friends didn’t acknowledge that I was gone, far less the fact that I was back. Some actually thought that I was in jail while others thought I was away in college. The United States military at that time was not popular. We had just lost the Vietnam War, and the politicians at whose feet this defeat should have been placed were exonerated, and the soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, and coastguard’s men were made to feel the brunt of the nation’s ire. The country was so anti military when I was discharged, I was encouraged to not travel in uniform because it wasn’t safe.

When I returned to New York, I quite frankly never thought about my military service…. unless it was convenient. I found a job with the City of New York, using the preference that was afforded me by being a vet, then got married and had a couple of kids.

I don’t want to bore you with the details of my life, so I’ll fast forward about 35 years to 2010. You missed a lot, but the highlights are that I worked in the health insurance and medical administration fields, ended one marriage, began another, and experienced the gift of a second chance at life.

New Beginnings

In 2010, I was laid off from my job and quite frankly had no idea what I was going to do with the rest of my life at the age of 55. I expected my current wife Patricia to advise me to accept any job that came my way, instead, her suggestion was for me to take a break from work and dedicate myself to to putting our daughter, Brianna on and off the school bus every day. My wife is an educator, and she had been paying someone to perform that task daily, so if I did it we could save that money. I became Mr. Mom. She suggested that I find something worthwhile to do with myself during those few hours between bus duty. My options were to either sit home and watch Jerry Springer or return to school. My first choice was to watch Springer, but to keep the peace in my house I decided to go to school.

My last experience in school was not a good one. I was a horrible student. I didn’t like to study or do homework. If I returned to school, it would have to be something easy. I checked the Westchester Community College (WCC) catalogue, and discovered that I could earn a Certificate as a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) in two semesters. The description of the classes didn’t sound overly difficult, so I enrolled. Once I started, something remarkable happened…I LOVED IT!!! I was getting straight A’s for the first time in my life (hell, I had never received a final grade of an A ever in anything…not even gym!). I took classes in everything from American History to Cultural Anthropology and everything else that ever interested me. When I left WCC, I had 106 credits, but not enough in any one discipline to earn an Associates Degree, but I was still on track for my CASAC.

During my last CASAC internship, I worked with a group of individuals who had been incarcerated for lengthy periods of time. After I left WCC, I subsequently attended SUNY Empire State College and graduated with an AS and a BS in Human Services and was accepted into The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, where I am pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW).

Inspired by Young Veterans

I am currently assigned to The Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education (PROVE) program at Bronx Community College for my first year internship. In that capacity, I work with veterans, who are in the process of becoming or have already acclimated to becoming college students and who are adjusting from the military to civilian life. I quickly learned that The Air Force didn’t get much much respect from the people I work with daily and, as a part of the good natured inter service rivalry, I’ve heard my share of chair force jokes but that’s oay. I have a bunch of rusty Army, Navy and Marine jokes in my hat.
Second Chance:

Greg Duggins

It is a great feeling to hang out with these veterans 3 days a week, most of whom had witnessed things that the rest of us only have nightmares over. They are by far the nicest, most together group of young (I’m now 61… they’re all young to me!) men and women that I have ever had the pleasure of being associated with. They are so funny that my Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are like tapings of Last Comic Standing. My purpose there is to be present in the event that one has an issue or concern that would call for social worker intervention, and the premise is that I would learn from them how to deal with clients “where they are” in any type of situation.

When I joined the Air Force during what is now considered the Vietnam Era, Southeast Asia was a powder keg, and during my time in basic training, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. In Air Force basic training, the majority of the time was spent in classrooms (don’t hate!!), and one of the classes I remember taking was called “Rumors and Propaganda”. During this time, the rumors were running rampant about us being fast tracked through basic and being shipped to Vietnam, and I remember my flight (Air Force version of a Battalion) having a discussion about our reaction to these rumors. To a man, we decided that in spite of the fact that we were in the Air Force, and hadn’t spent more than 30 minutes with a weapon, we were going to go to Saigon and kick some butt if that’s where we were sent. We were serious badasses! Of course, this never happened, but I recalled this incident during a conversation I had with a veteran recently when he mentioned that veterans were part of a special breed that had been willing to put their lives on the line simply because someone told them to.

I also learned from them that combat is a horrible thing to witness, and some of them have issues dealing with life afterwards. They experienced hatred from people they were there to protect, and they had to learn to look out for each other. My experience was very different. I wasn’t involved in combat, in fact, I never left the continental US, but that same hatred that was felt by veterans during their deployments, I felt from Americans when I got home.

Camaraderie and Renewed Military Pride

My experiences on active duty can’t compare to those that the current crop of veterans witnessed, just as their experiences post deployment in America are diametrically different from mine. I’m honestly glad that I get the chance to spend time with this remarkable group of people. Our purpose at PROVE is to learn the skills associated with this societal understanding. Utilizing the so called clubhouse model of social work my co-intern Amanda and myself are certainly learning these lessons. But this group of veterans has also taught me something more valuable. They taught me how to be proud of the fact that I served and I was willing to put it all on the line, and that ain’t small potatoes. I honestly can’t tell you what is a more valuable lesson for me: the educational part or the life part. I can tell you this however, for the first time ever, I’ve dug out and blown up my old basic training picture and had it framed. This photograph now sits on my coffee table for the world…or at least my world to see. I feel that I could have learned the educational part of my placement anywhere, but I could have only learned the life part, coming to grips with being a veteran, at PROVE. This life part will make me a better person, and eventually, a better social worker.
Dear Veteran,

CUNY has approved the review of military credentials to award transfer credit for military service. If you would like your military experience to be evaluated for academic credit and/or to illustrate your work experience on your resume, follow the steps listed below.

**Step 1:** Create an account for your military transcript via the following websites:
- Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard: https://jst.doded.mil/official.html

**Step 2:** Submit your transcript to CUNY UAPC (University Application Processing Center) and/or your current CUNY College.

**Step 3:** Print and save a copy of your military transcript to a USB or secure cloud.

**Step 4:** Use American Council of Education (ACE) Military guide to review a description of your coursework: http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx.

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<tr>
<td>General Education elective</td>
<td>Illustrate leadership and training</td>
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Would you like to have a career that relates to your military occupational specialty (MOS)?
Learn what certifications and degrees match your area of expertise by using the COOL sites...

- Army: https://www.cool.army.mil/
- Navy: https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/
- Marine Corps: https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/
**OFFICIAL**

Transcript Sent To:
University of XXXXXXX

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### Military Course Completions

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** PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION **

02/15/2013
Veteran Specialist

Workforce1 has relationships with hundreds of businesses across New York City committed to hiring veterans. Their centers and dedicated Veteran Specialists across the City will help veterans and their spouses explore career paths, develop resumes, prepare for interviews, and identify education opportunities, training initiatives, and other support services designed specifically for veterans.

Upper Manhattan - Michael Schiller –
MSchiller@edsisolutions.com;
917-493-7006
215 West 125th Street, 6th Floor, Manhattan, NY

ITC – Stephanie Charles –
718-577-2226
168-46 91st Ave, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, Queens, NY

Brooklyn – Dan Nisbett –
dnisbett@grantassociatesinc.com;
347-296-8071
9 Bond Street, 5th Floor, Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn – Reggie Bryant –
rbryant@grantassociatesinc.com;
347-296-8037
9 Bond Street, 5th Floor, Brooklyn, NY

Queens – George Jacobs –
giacobs@grantassociatesinc.com;
718-557-6764
168-25 Jamaica Ave, 2nd Floor, Queens, NY

Queens – Howard Ingerman –
hingerman@grantassociatesinc.com;
718-883-7961
168-25 Jamaica Ave, 2nd Floor, Queens, NY

Midtown (Expansion center of Queens) –

Silvano Indio –
sindio@grantassociatesinc.com;
917-254-4293
1250 Broadway, 8th Floor, Manhattan, NY

Staten Island – Peter Romano –
promano@edsisolutions.com;
718-285-8431
120 Stuyvesant Place, 3rd Floor, Staten Island, NY

Bronx – Doriga Alves –
doriga.alves@rws-nyc.com;
718-960-4677
400 East Fordham Rd, Bronx, NY

Bronx – Johnnie Brooks –
johnnie.brooks@rws-nyc.com
718-960-7925
400 East Fordham Rd, Bronx, NY

Healthcare – Anthony Galsim –
anthony.galsim@rws-nyc.com
212-618-8716
79 John Street, 2nd Floor, Manhattan, NY

Hunts Point – Jennifer Mera –
jennifer.mera@rws-nyc.com
718-542-6777 x 7310
1029 East 163rd Street, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY
Know Your Benefits

Below is a list of addresses, phone numbers, and websites that may be useful in your military to civilian transition.

**VA Medical Centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Bronx, NY 10468</td>
<td>(718) 584-9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Harlem Care Center</td>
<td>New York, NY 10027</td>
<td>(646) 273-8125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Div VA Medical Center</td>
<td>New York, NY 10010</td>
<td>(212) 686-7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK Poly Pl Campus</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY 11209</td>
<td>(718) 836-6600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Albans Extended Care Center</td>
<td>Jamaica, NY 11434</td>
<td>(718) 526-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Vet Center</td>
<td>East Meadow, NY 11554</td>
<td>(631) 754-7978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Harlem Care Center</td>
<td>New York, NY 10027</td>
<td>(646) 273-8125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas P. Noonan Jr. Clinic</td>
<td>Sunnyside, NY 11104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island Health Care Center</td>
<td>Staten Island, NY 10304</td>
<td>(718) 761-2973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Plains VHA Clinic</td>
<td>White Plains, NY 10601</td>
<td>(914) 421-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkers VHA Clinic</td>
<td>Yonkers, NY 10701</td>
<td>(914) 375-8055x4400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx Vet Center</td>
<td>25 Chapel Street Suite 604</td>
<td>(718) 624-2765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Vet Center</td>
<td>2279 3rd Ave 2nd FL</td>
<td>New York, NY 10035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan Vet Center</td>
<td>32 Broadway 2nd FL, Suite 200</td>
<td>New York, NY 10004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau Vet Center</td>
<td>970 South Broadway</td>
<td>Hicksville, NY 11801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Vet Center</td>
<td>75-10B 91 Ave</td>
<td>Woodhaven, NY 11421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island Vet Center</td>
<td>60 Bay Street</td>
<td>Staten Island, NY 10301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Plains Vet Center</td>
<td>300 Hamilton Ave Suite C</td>
<td>White Plains, NY 10601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay Shore CBOC</td>
<td>Bay Shore, NY 11706</td>
<td>(631) 328-9092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Meadow Clinic</td>
<td>2201 Hempstead Turnpike Bldg. Q</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vet Centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronx Vet Center</td>
<td>2471 Morris Ave Suite 1A</td>
<td>(718) 367-3500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Websites**

- eBenefits: [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov)
- Education Benefits: [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)
- Health Care Eligibility: [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits)
- Homeless Veterans: [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)
- Mental Health: [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)
- Women Veterans: [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)
- VA Benefit Payment Rates: [www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates)
- VA Forms: [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment: [www.benefits.va.gov/voc rehab](http://www.benefits.va.gov/voc rehab)
If you are a NYC Veteran and looking to start a career in the construction industry, you’re in the right place. NYC Helmets to Hardhats is the fastest way for Active Duty Military, National Guard and Reservists to transition into a career in the NYC construction industry.

NYC H2H is recognized as the Direct Entry program for the construction trades in New York. We partner with the union construction trades and signatory contractors to help transitioning Veterans to get started.

Enter the construction trades at a level that fits your experience or take advantage of our free apprenticeship training; earn a wage with benefits while collecting and keeping GI Bill funds. We offer our members the best apprenticeship programs at state of the art training centers and NYC construction projects.

Over 500 Veterans have started their careers since 2013. If you’re interested in becoming an elevator constructor, electrician, plumber, carpenter, steamfitter, iron worker, painter or heavy equipment operator, NYC H2H is the program for you.

Go online www.helmetsstohardhats.org and register. Make sure you upload a resume to your profile, then contact the H2H office at 212.647.0700 x4 with your six-digit resume ID number.

Thank you for your service. We look forward to assisting your successful transition into the NYC Construction Industry.
Veteran Resources

CUNY is a Proud Member of NYCServes!

NYCServes – New York City is the first coordinated network of public, private, and non-profit organizations working together to serve veterans, active service members, and military families. We believe it is crucial for these groups to have easy access to a full range of comprehensive services necessary to achieve their unique goals. NYCServes is committed to this vision and is working with over 50 partner organizations to bridge services gaps, formalize communication, coordinate services, and hold ourselves accountable ensuring our veterans receive services.

The mission of NYCServes is to empower and enhance the efforts of the network of services providers in the New York City area, and equip them with the technological, and information resources needed to efficiently and effectively guide service-members, veterans, and their families to the most appropriate services and resources.

To date, NYCServes has assisted over 1,000 veterans, service-members, and military families with over 1,400 specific services requests. NYCServes has assisted in many different capacities such as: connection to employment services, entitlements, VA Benefits, volunteer opportunities, healthcare, education, legal services, and housing. Recently, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) have become a partner provider in the NYCServes network. This partnership has allowed NYCServes veterans direct access to services spanning the federal and community based provider family…there is no wrong door. As we identify new opportunities and where the veteran community could be served better we continue to add to the provider network enhancing its ability to remain dynamic.

Follow us! Twitter - @AmericaServesHQ / Facebook - AmericaServes

NYU Langone Medical Center

The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU Langone Medical Center provides free individual, couples, and group therapy for military personnel, veterans, and their entire family regardless of discharge status, combat exposure, or era served. Interested individuals can call our intake line at 855-NYU-4677, email us at militaryfamilyclinic@nyumc.org or visit us online at www.nyulangone.org/militaryfamilyclinic. For additional information regarding our comprehensive PTSD research study, and how post-9/11 veterans may be compensated up to $550 for their time and participation, please visit www.nyulangone.org/cohenveteranscenter or call 877-698-3299.

Head injuries, which can lead to traumatic brain injury (TBI) are quite common. Approximately 14-20% of deployed veterans experience a TBI. A TBI sometimes leads to loss of consciousness or being “knocked out” but can also look like being confused after hitting your head. Some common causes of head injury are: blast or other combat-related injuries, falls, car accidents, and contact sports. TBIs can lead to sleep problems, mood problems, and cognitive problems.

It can be difficult to tell if a head injury is making a person’s life more difficult. A neuropsychological evaluation can measure cognitive skills like memory, attention, planning, and thinking quickly. If a person is identified as having trouble in one or more of these areas, the Military Family Clinic can work with him or her to provide individualized skills and strategies to improve their day to day functioning. At NYU Langone’s Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic, they provide free, compassionate care for service members and their families who are experiencing the long-term effects of all phases of military service and other life stresses, including relationship difficulties, school problems, and unemployment and relocation issues.
Gallop NYC provides Horsemanship Leadership programs to Veterans free of charge. All classes are lead by a PATH Int’l Certified instructor. Every rider will experience the Confidence of learning to be in charge of a large herd animal, the Competence of skills learned, and the Leadership that a horse demands before it agree to accept our commands.

Equine Therapy has shown to be effective in treating patients, including combat veterans, with PTSD, depression, anxiety, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorders, dissociative disorders and other chronic mental illnesses. *Journal of the American Medical Association* More than 30 VA Medical Centers participate in Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) programs all around the US, as noted by the Supervisory Recreation Therapist Department of Veterans Affairs.

Stand Beside Them (SBT) is a nonprofit organization, providing free one-on-one, confidential coaching for veterans, spouses, and caregivers. Experienced, certified, highly-trained Stand Beside Them coaches come with credentials and accomplishments from all walks of life. Several of the coaches are veterans. Check out testimonials from other veterans and apply for coaching on the SBT website: [http://www.standbesidethem.org](http://www.standbesidethem.org) or call SBT at 212-706-VETS (8387).

The VITAL Initiative is a partnership between VA New York Harbor and your school. We’re here to help you navigate your concerns and maximize your unique set of strengths, skills and life experiences as you translate your talents into the academic setting. Services offered weekly include enrollment for healthcare at VA New York Harbor, support and counseling for readjustment, anger, stress, sleep issues and more, coping strategies for the classroom — concentration, restlessness, memory, assistance with educational benefits, vocational rehab, and filing claims, tutoring services, and VA Work Study opportunities. Contact Yvette Branson, PhD, VITAL Initiative Coordinator VA New York Harbor at Yvette.Branson@va.gov or (646) 772-6087. Learn more at: [http://www.nyharbor.va.gov/services/vital.asp](http://www.nyharbor.va.gov/services/vital.asp). Education is Transformative!

**CUNY FIRST MY Info APP**

**Available Now**

- [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com)
- [Google Play](https://play.google.com)

**Coming Fall 2016**

- [Android version coming in Fall 2016](https://play.google.com)

**STUDENTS’ EDITION FOR iOS**

- Access Your Class Schedules
- Shop for Your Class Textbooks
- Get Class Reminder 15 Minutes Ahead
- View Financial Aid Information
- Find Your Campus Map
- Access Biographical Profile
- View Academic Calendar

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Veteran Career Fair

2016 Hiring Our Heroes – New York, NY
A Free Hiring Fair for Veterans,
Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouses
69th Regiment Lexington Avenue Armory
68 Lexington Avenue & 26th Street, New York, NY 10010

April 21, 2016

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 a.m.
HIRING FAIR: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

A Workshop will be held for job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing.

EMPLOYERS
Must register for FREE at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

JOB SEEKERS
Register for FREE at HiringOurHeroes.org/events

Thanks to our local partners:

- Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- NYC Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs
- New York National Guard
- Team RWB
- Workforce1 Industrial & Transportation Career Center
- NYS Department of Labor

For registration questions, please email kpoynton@uscchamber.com or call 202-617-6806

HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG
Find Hiring Our Heroes online:

Download the free Hiring Our Heroes mobile app! All our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.
New York State Veterans App

Description

The New York State Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA or Division) advocates on behalf of New York’s Veterans and their families, as individuals and as a group, to ensure they receive benefits granted by law for service in the United States Armed Forces.

We represent claimants when dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs and assist in the development and application process for possible benefits, including claims for:

- VA compensation for service-connected disabilities
- Compensation to family members for service-connected disabilities
- Non-service-connected disability pension
- New York State Supplemental Burial Allowance
- New York State Gold Star Parent Annuity
- New York State Supplemental Burial Allowance
- Death pension for surviving dependents
- New York State Gold Star Parent Annuity
- New York State Supplemental Burial Allowance
- Medical Care
- Burial benefits and grave markers
- Life insurance
- Education and vocational rehabilitation
- Home loan guarantee
- Military Records
- Real property tax exemption
- New York State Blind Annuity

We can also prepare and submit appeals to VA decisions.

A toll-free information and referral hotline — 1-888-VETS-NYS (1-888-838-7697) — is available to refer Veterans and their families to the nearest Veterans Benefits Advisor Office.

VETERAN CAREER SUMMIT

Education • Seminars • Networking • Job Fair
Connecting Service Members at JB MDL with new careers!

Mark Your Calendars!
Stay tuned to www.GOMDL.com for details and updates!
Call (608) 764-3164.

This event is open to all military service members (Active/Reserve/Guard), Retirees, Veterans and their Spouses.
No Federal endorsement implied.
#CUNYVets2016

To submit photos Tag Us or use #CUNYVets2016
Contact Us
Central Office of Student Affairs
555 West 57th Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10019
P: 646-664-8800
Main Email
veterans@cuny.edu
Vet Fee Waiver Email
vetwaiver@cuny.edu
Web Site
www.cuny.edu/veterans

Lisa Beatha
United States Army Veteran
University Director of Veterans Affairs
lisa.beatha@cuny.edu
(646) 664-8835

Social Media
Facebook CUNY Veterans
@CUNYVets
@CUNYVeterans
CUNY Veteran Affairs

Want to see stories about veterans at your campus?
Submit them!!
Just email questions, comments or articles to:

Jazmin McBride
Jazmin.mcbride@cuny.edu