

# Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Overview



National Association of Veterans' Program  
Administrators (NAVPA)

October 17, 2013



# Overview

**VR&E Overview**

**VR&E Employment Outcomes**

**VetSuccess.gov**

**VetSuccess On Campus**

**Open Discussion**



# VR&E Mission Statement

- The Mission of Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) is to help Veterans with service connected disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain suitable careers
- For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E provides services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible



# Program of Services

- Chapter 31: Services to obtain and maintain suitable employment and/or to achieve maximum level of independence in daily living
- Chapter 35: Educational counseling for children and widows/spouses of Veterans who have a permanent and total service connected disability
- Chapter 36: Interest & aptitude testing, initiation of occupational exploration, readjustment counseling, and setting of occupational goals for Servicemembers transitioning to civilian life and Veteran students using any VA educational benefit
- Chapter 18: Vocational training and rehabilitation benefits for children born with Spina Bifida of certain Veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea

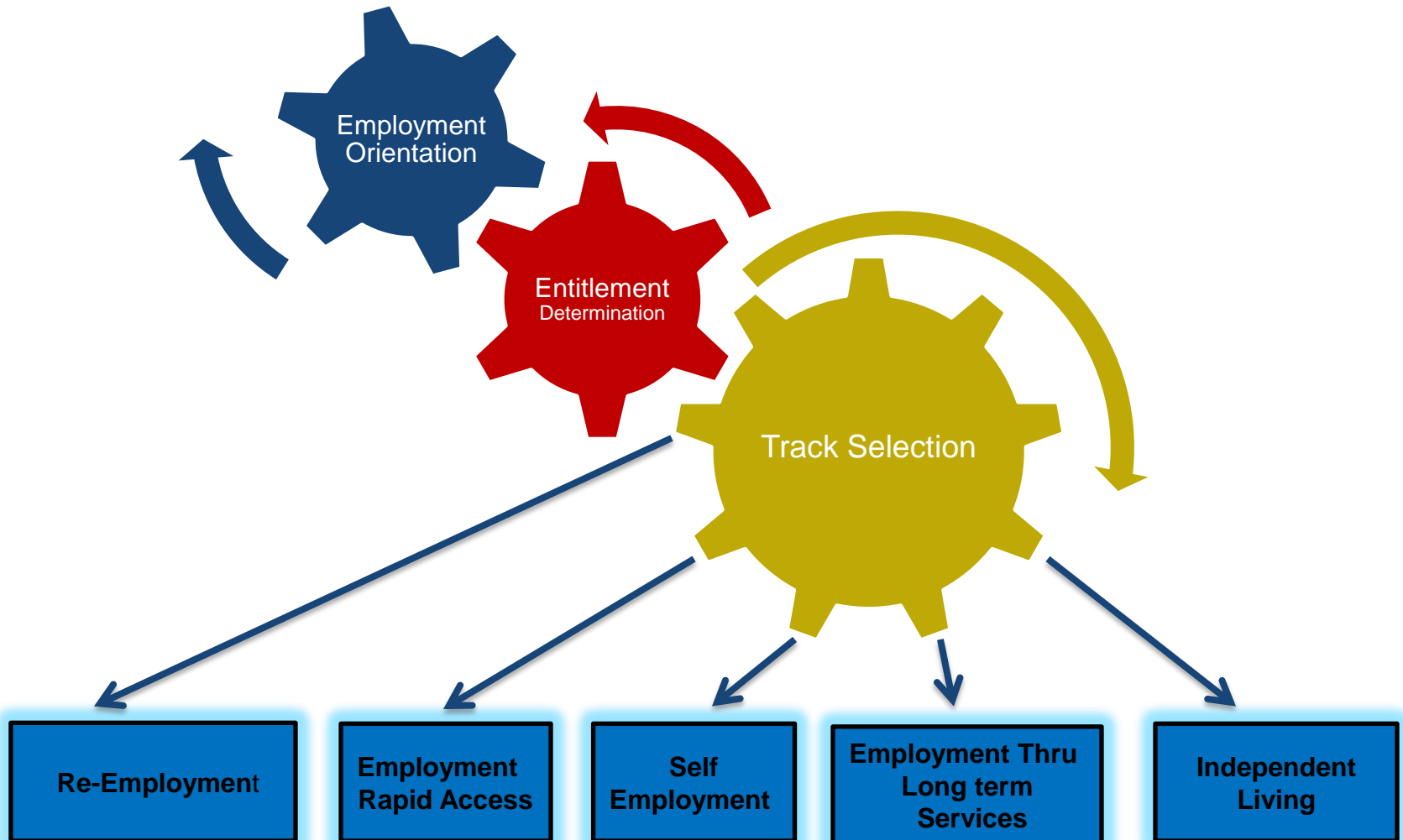


# Eligibility and Entitlement

- Active Duty Servicemembers:
  - Honorable discharge expected upon separation for active duty, and
    - VA Memorandum or DES rating of 20% or more, or
    - Transitioning through IDES due to serious injury or illness established by PL 110-181 (NDAA)
- Veterans:
  - Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge, and
    - VA Memorandum or DES rating of 20% or more, or
    - VA-service-connected disability rating of 10% with a serious employment handicap or 20% or more with an employment handicap



# Five-Track Employment Process

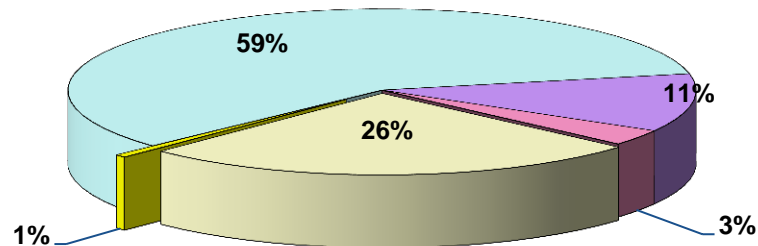




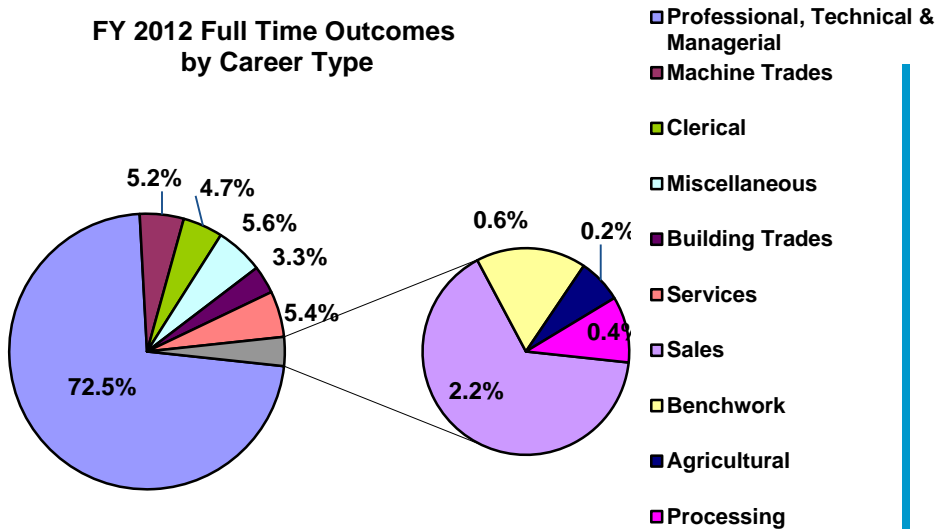
# VR&E Employment Outcomes

## FY2012

FY 2012 Career Outcomes by Employer Type



FY 2012 Full Time Outcomes by Career Type





# VetSuccess.gov

- We Have Made it Easy for Employers to Find Veterans:
  - Utilize the national Employment Coordinator (EC) contact list found on the VetSuccess.gov website under “VetSuccess Services”
  - Employers should Register with VetSuccess.gov
- VetSuccess.gov:
  - Comprehensive employment resource for all Veterans
  - Agencies can post job openings directly on VetSuccess.gov
  - Job board currently connects over 230,000 Veterans with over 7,500 employers and 21,000 jobs
  - Employers can search existing Veteran resumes for direct placements, such as:
    - Security Clearance
    - Key Word
    - Skill type





# VetSuccess On Campus

- The VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program's mission is to provide student Veterans seamless access to VA services; support their successful integration into college and university campuses; support their individualized educational goals, so they may persist, graduate, and improve their life circumstances; and successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice
- All VSOC sites have a full-time Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), as well as full-time or part-time mental health services and support from Veterans Health Administration (VHA) through their Readjustment Counseling Services or Veteran Integration to Academic Leadership Program (VITAL)



# VSOC Services Provided

- VSOC counselors provide:
  - Adjustment counseling to resolve problems interfering with completion of education programs and entrance into employment
  - Vocational testing
  - Career and academic counseling
  - Expedited Chapter 31 services
  - Support and assistance to all student Veterans with VA benefits regardless of entitlement, benefit usage and enrollment status

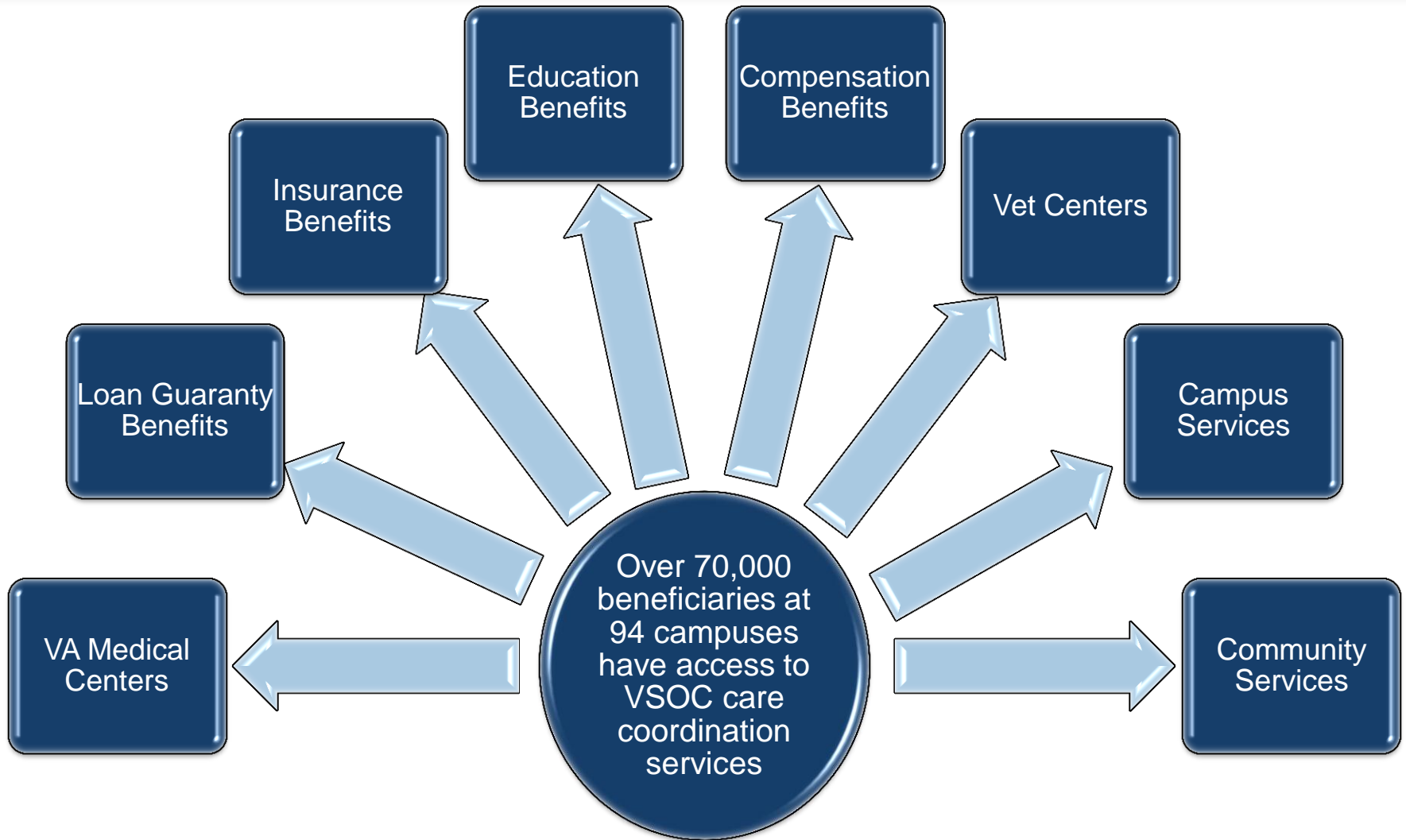


# VSOC Services Provided

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Readjustment Counseling Service pledged part-time, on-campus support from a local Vet Center Counselor or Outreach Specialist who provides:
  - Peer-to-peer counseling
  - Assistance with navigating the academic environment and process
  - Referral services as needed



# Care Coordination





# VSOC Site Selection

- Selection Criteria
  - Student-Veteran population of approximately 1,000
  - Willingness to accommodate full-time VA employee
  - Within 25 miles of VA regional office, Vet Center, and VA medical center or community based outreach center
- Existing Services
  - Supportive campus with strong Veterans' support services
  - Established relationship with VA
- Timing
  - Readiness of campus to begin pilot
  - Campus leadership support



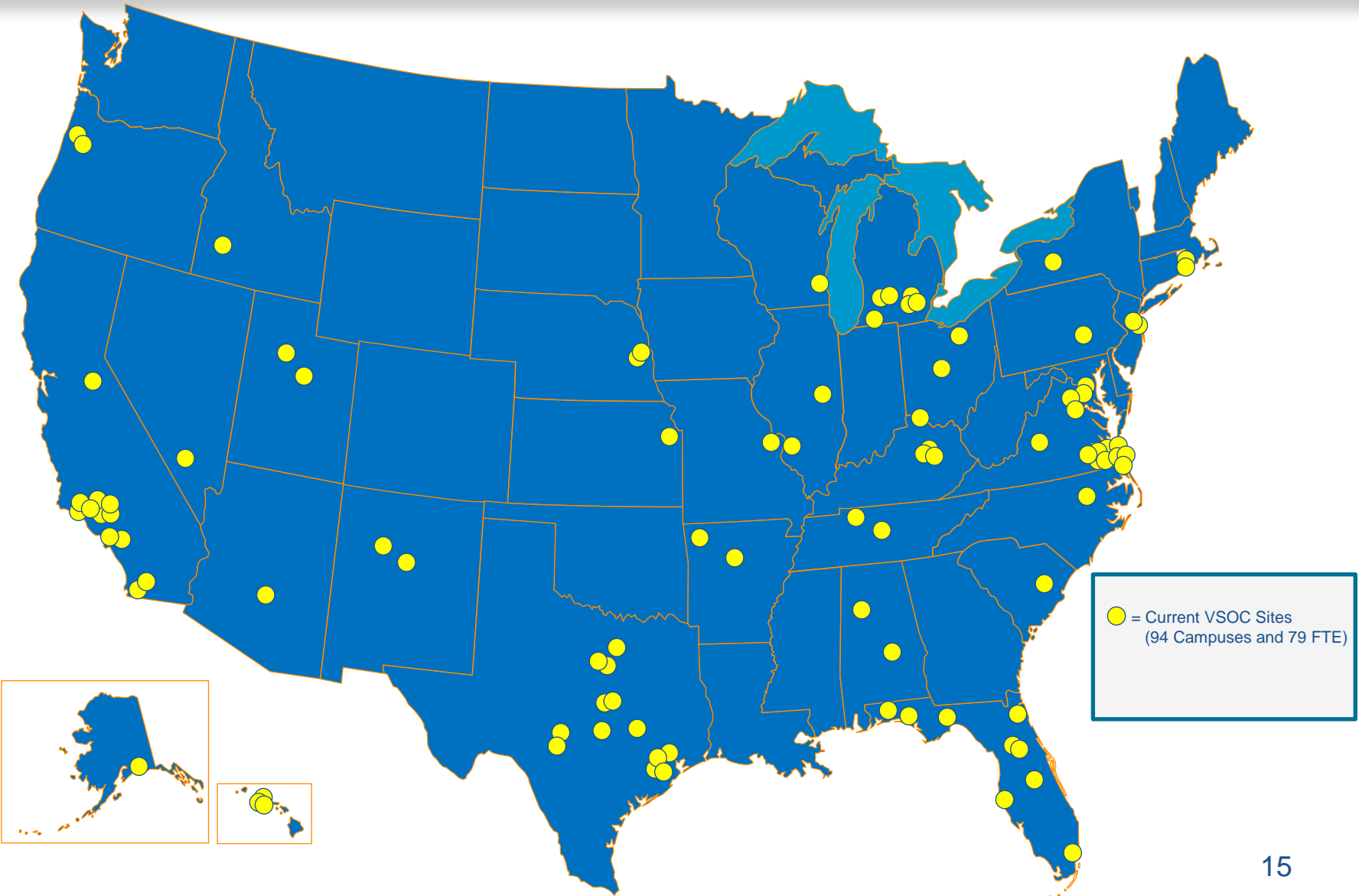
# VSOC Expansion

- By the end of 2012, VSOC was located at 32 campuses
- FY 2013, the VSOC program will expand our footprint to 94 campuses nationwide with 79 VSOC VRCs
  - 62 additional VSOC sites were approved
  - 52 new VSOC VRCs FTE
    - 38 of the 52 will be located at single campus locations
    - 2 of the largest campus locations will have 2 FTE assigned
    - VSOC School Partnerships between 9 pairs of schools resulting in 9 VSOC VRCs between 18 schools
    - 1 VSOC School Partnership is comprised of 3 schools who will share 1 VSOC VRC
- No Expansion in FY 2014 & FY 2015





# VSOC Sites





# VSOC – AmeriCorps Partnership

- The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)
  - AmeriCorps has entered into an Interagency Agreement with VA to enhance supportive services for Veteran-students
    - CNCS will place 2 AmeriCorps Members at 15 of the existing VSOC sites in FY13, and at the remaining sites in FY14
- VSOC Counselors have a heavy volume of counseling requests, including from Veteran students at neighboring schools
  - AmeriCorps members will provide supportive services on campus, enabling VSOC Counselors to spend more time in actual counseling sessions with Veteran students
  - AmeriCorps member support will include conducting outreach, coordinating events and on campus activities, connecting Veterans to services on campus, referring Veterans to the VSOC counselor, and other supportive and coordination services





# Questions

VR&E Service Central Office  
202-461-9600