



ADULT LEARNER
AND VETERAN SERVICES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

THE FIRST YEAR

FOSTERING COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT
THROUGH TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

2023 NASPA SYMPOSIUM ON
MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

WHO ARE WE?



**ADULT LEARNER
AND VETERAN SERVICES**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**LISA
CHANDLER
SHE/HERS**

Assistant Director



**BRIANNA
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SHE/HERS**

Program Coordinator

OVERVIEW



- OUR APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS

- OUR FIRST YEAR & TRANSITION PROGRAMS

- HOW TO APPLY THIS IN YOUR WORK

BEFORE WE BEGIN...

GROUP 1

Name one unspoken rule in higher education that seemed life-changing when you learned it.

~

REFLECTION

Name
Pronouns
Role
Answer to the respective prompt

GROUP 2

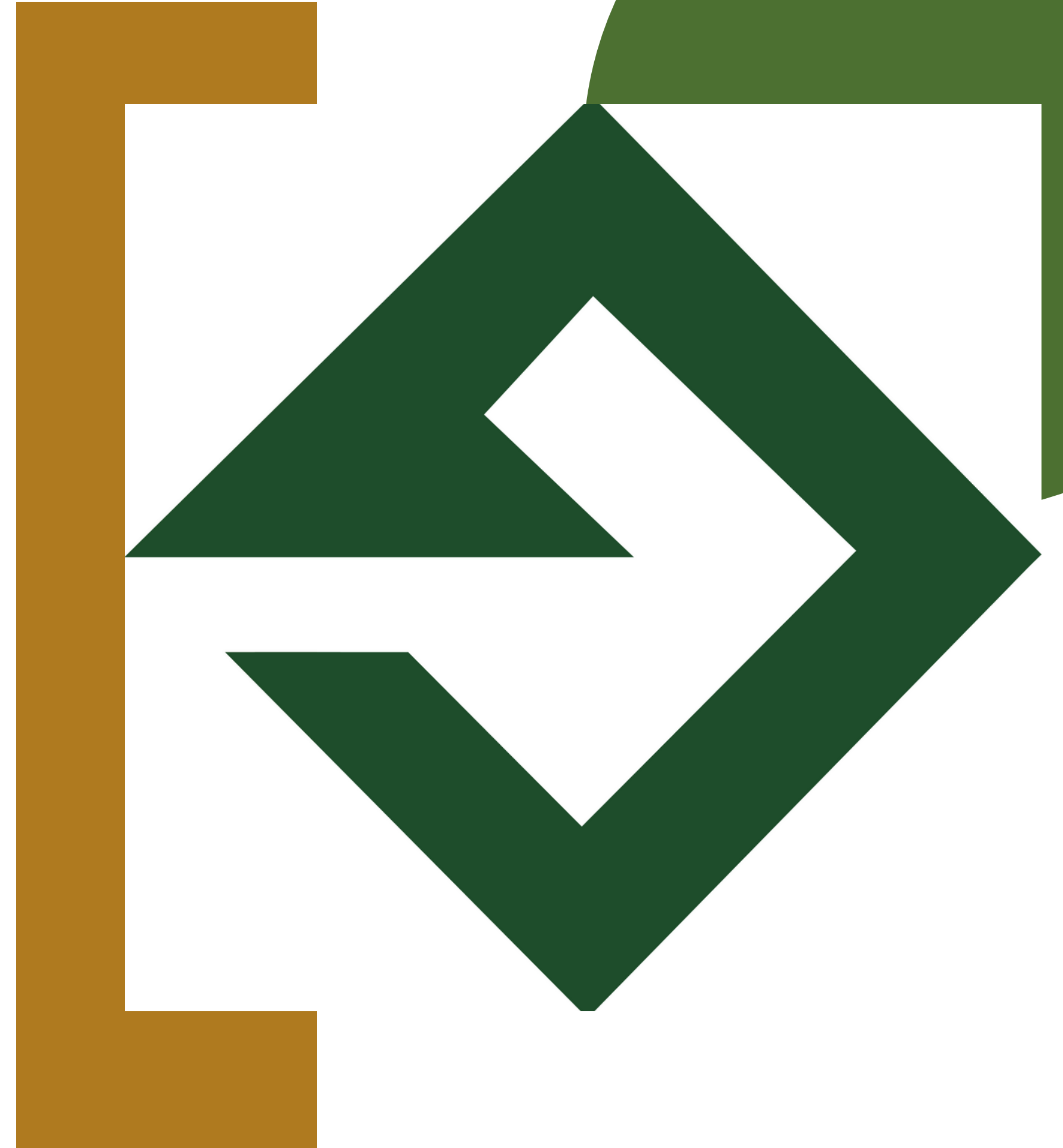
What is something that needed to be present for you to feel comfortable asking for help as a student?

~



OUR APPROACH

- **ASSET-BASED LENS**
 - **JOINT SPACE**
 - **VALUES OF COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT**
 - **CREATING STRONG SELF-ADVOCATES BY BEING PROACTIVE**
- 





OUR PROGRAMS

*HELPING STUDENTS
TO, THROUGH, AND BEYOND
GRADUATION*

Starting before the first
semester.

Using Orientation as a tool for
outreach.

SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

1



- **4-WEEK PROGRAM**
 - MEETING MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
 - 4 ACADEMIC DAYS
 - 1 SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT DAY
- **COHORT MODEL**
 - 15-20 STUDENTS
- **PERKS**
 - SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR COMPLETION
 - ACCESS TO ALVS STAFF
 - ON-CAMPUS PARKING
 - 0 CREDITS = LOW STRESS ENVIRONMENT

ELEVATE Overview

1

ACADEMICS

- Academic Preparation with CSU faculty & graduate instructors
 - Math 100-Level Courses
 - English/Composition 150 or 130

2

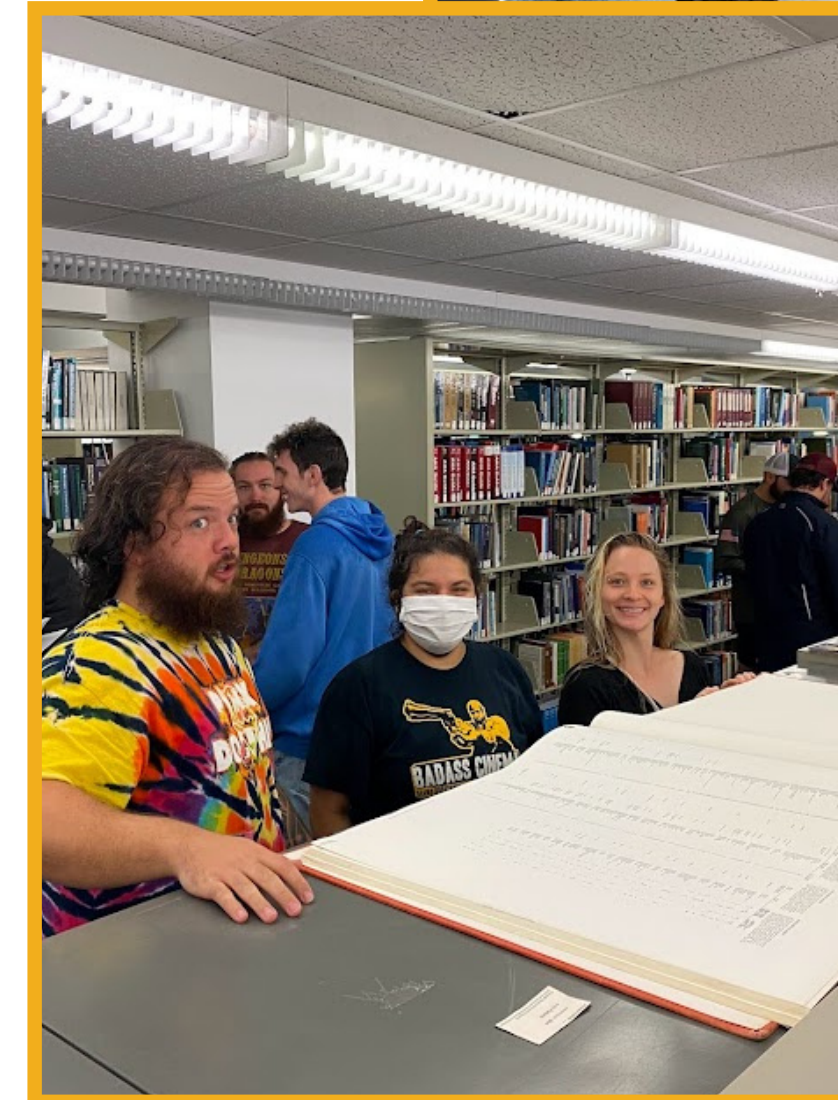
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- Opportunities to build community and explore Fort Collins
 - CliftonStrengths Workshop
 - Community Scavenger Hunts
 - Local Hike

3

RESOURCE FACILITATION

- Access to CSU resources
 - Library and Student Center Tours
 - Writing & Pre-Calc Center Tours



ELEVATE IMPACT

- FIRST 3 YEARS OF ELEVATE, RETENTION/GRADUATION WAS AROUND 60%
- LAST 2 YEARS OF ELEVATE, RETENTION IS AROUND 80%
- **STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**
 - RESEARCH LABS
 - ON-CAMPUS JOBS
 - STUDENT ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP



NEW STUDENT SEMINAR

2



IU 172
**ADULT LEARNER AND
VETERAN SERVICES**
New Student Seminar

- **8-WEEK, 1-CREDIT COURSE**
 - MEETS TWICE PER WEEK
 - 50-MINUTE PERIODS
- **TRANSFER & NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS**
- **TAUGHT BY ALVS PROGRAM COORDINATOR & ALVS PEER FACILITATOR | INCLUDES TWO 1:1 MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS**
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OFFICE OF ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAMS**
 - STUDENTS ARE GIVEN A COURSE REGISTRATION CODE DURING ORIENTATION

New Student Seminar

1

SELF-AWARENESS & REFLECTION

- CliftonStrengths
- Values & Identity
- Differences between last academic/work experience and CSU

2

RESOURCE FACILITATION

- Navigating campus resources through
 - How to Read Your Syllabi
 - How to Navigate Canvas, PDFs, Microsoft Office
 - Student Resource Scavenger Hunt

3

PLANNING THROUGH GOALS

- Final Engagement Plan - a cumulative project/presentation



IU172 IMPACT

- INCREASED CLASS SIZE FROM Y1 TO Y2 = 12 STUDENTS TO 18
- INCREASED SENSE OF BELONGING TO CAMPUS
- INCREASED STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

"THE ALVS NEW STUDENT SEMINAR HELPED GROUND ME INTO A CHAOTIC PANDEMIC-RIDDLED UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE AFTER NEARLY 10 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL WORK, AND I DOUBT I WOULD'VE HAD THE COURAGE TO ASK FOR AS MUCH HELP AS I HAVE WITHOUT ITS GUIDANCE AND KNOWING WHERE WE COULD GO." -IU172 STUDENT '22



CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

BY COMBINING BOTH ELEVATE &
IU172 STUDENTS, WE HAVE
CONTINUED OUTREACH TO THEM
BEYOND THEIR INITIAL
PROGRAMMING WITH US.

PROGRAM ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT



KEYS TO SUCCESS

1

JOINT PROGRAMMING

Creating spaces for connection across experience and identity.

2

PARTNERSHIPS

- *Expanding our campus and community network of Champions for our students.*
- *Providing students access to various entities of support.*

3

MAKING THE IMPLICIT EXPLICIT

- *Introducing information that is seen as **common knowledge** as a **tool** for being successful on campus.*
- *Creating opportunities for critical reflection and values alignment.*



ACTION ITEMS

YOUR APPROACH

Consider your approach to supporting military-connected students on your campus.

Have you thought about a joint model?

YOUR NETWORK

Consider the ways you're connecting students to a community and the vast resources that support students on campus.

YOUR IMPACT

Consider your assumptions as to what is common knowledge when it comes to higher education and asking for support.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

CONNECT WITH OUR OFFICE



REFERENCES

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