

PROMOTING CONNECTEDNESS

College Collaboration And Coalition Building with the VA Health System

INTRODUCTIONS



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OVERVIEW

- The VA & Community Engaged Partnerships
- Creation of the James J. Peters Student Veterans Coalition
- How we work together successes and challenges
- How this work can be replicated
- Q&A



VA's Suicide Prevention Community Engagement & Partnerships Program

- The National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide 2018 2028 outlines the VA's plan to address their highest clinical priority, preventing veteran suicide.
- In response, the VA has developed a Public Health Strategy that has led to the development of the Community Engagement & Partnerships program model that has been rolled out nationally.

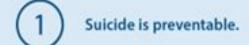


Public Health Strategy

VA's public health strategy combines partnerships with communities to implement tailored, local prevention plans while also focusing on evidence-based clinical strategies for intervention. Our approach focuses on both what we can do now, in the short term, and over the long term, to implement VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.



KEY TENETS







Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention.



Community Engagement and Partnerships Program: Anticipated Outcomes

Short-Term Objectives

- Enhanced suicide prevention networks
- Increased engagement with Veterans
- Increased reach and adoption of CBI-SP
- Reduced gaps in communitybased suicide prevention systems
- Improved community climate outcomes

Intermediate Objectives

- Increased formal help-seeking / use of care
- Increased referrals from multiple sources
- Improved treatment engagement and retention among Veterans seeking care
- Enhanced community collaboration regarding Veteran services and suicide prevention
- Increased access to safe firearms storage options
- Increased willingness to discuss and use safe firearms storage

Population Impact

- Reduced Veteran suicide deaths and attempts
- Reduced all-cause mortality
- Reduced suicide ideation









- Bronx County in New York City (aka "The Bronx") is regularly ranked in last place in New York
 State's health outcomes
- Estimated 60 70% of eligible veterans do not access healthcare through the Department of Veterans Affairs Health System (VA)
- Estimated 17 Veterans die by suicide each day
- According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of 2022, in 2020 approximately 60% of Veterans who died by suicide had no prior contact with the VA
- Not all Veterans qualify for VA benefits in health, education, or otherwise
 - OTH Discharge status hinders access to benefits and services





JAMES J. PETERS STUDENT VETERANS COALITION

- Founded in December 2021 and based in the Bronx, New York City.
- Mission Statement:
 - The James J. Peters Student Veterans Coalition is dedicated to addressing the multifaceted needs of student Veterans as they transition into college and career. The coalition works to provide resources for personal and professional development, advocacy, and a sense of camaraderie.
- Fundamental purpose is to unite the Veteran service offices at local colleges and universities, fostering a collaborative environment for initiatives aimed at engaging and supporting our student Veterans.
- Vision Statement: Recognizing that higher education institutions may struggle to provide the diverse support needed, the Coalition has formed a partnership with the local VA, colleges and universities, and Veteran service organizations to promote engagement and access to resources to facilitate transition to post-military life.





JAMES J. PETERS STUDENT VETERANS COALITION MEMBER SCHOOLS

Fordham University

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Manhattan College

University of Mount Saint Vincent

CUNY Bronx Community College

CUNY Hostos Community College

CUNY Lehman College Monroe College



CUSTOMERS

James J. Peters Student Veterans Coalition focuses on



MILITARY FAMILIES



SERVICEMEMBERS
& VETERANS



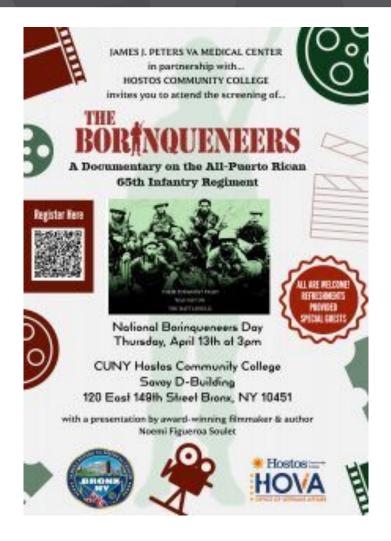
VA & VSOs



SERVICES

- Coalition provides direct referrals to VA and VSOs
- Increased access to healthcare and benefits
- Provide community for Veterans to participate and engage in
- Develop cohort community and camaraderie through campus programs and events for Military-affiliated students





- HOVA hosted the viewing of the documentary film the 65th Infantry Regiment "The Borinqueneers".
 The award-winning documentary was based on Korean War Veterans & Presidential Gold Medal recipients. The film creator/director attended to include four highly decorated Soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment "The Borinqueneers"
- Over 135 people in attendance
- Executive leadership from Veteran Service
 Organizations from city and state attended





Presented by



VETERANS WELLNESS SUMMIT

Join us for a day of workshops and resource connections focused on all aspects of healthy living

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM (Registration Opens at 9:00 AM)

MANHATTAN COLLEGE RAYMOND W. KELLY '63 STUDENT COMMONS - 5TH FL 4513 MANHATTAN COLLGE PKWY, BRONX, NY

Registration is free.
Parking available.

RSVP: http://bit.ly/3l8lWwE



For more information, contact veterans@manhattan.edu

- One-day event with workshops and resources on personal, academic and professional wellness offered free to Veterans
- The VA and VSOs presented and offered resource tables

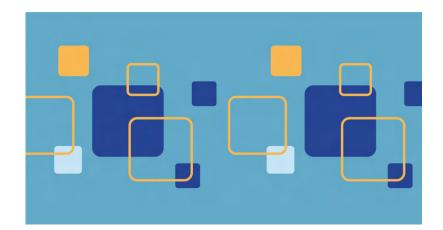




JAMES J. PETERS
STUDENT VETERANS COALITION

VetEd NYC:

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE



Booklet written by our Coalition with information and resources on:

- Housing
- Career & Employment
- Medical, Dental, and Mental Health
- Education
- Disability
- Staying Socially Connected
- Additional Resources





- Bookmark-style handout with information on services and how to connect
- Designed with feedback from Student Veterans
- Distributed at Veteran Centers and events







Veterans Homebuyers Workshop

Date: 11/14/2023 Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

The workshop will share critical home purchasing information for first time veteran homebuyers, and aid key steps through the daunting process. Designed to help veterans in securing VA home loans and property purchases.

Join Zoom Meeting https://hostos-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/865126951487 pwd-dzdPejRZOU9hbVRFRjcwTFIJOUEvOT09 Meeting ID: 865 1269 5148 Passcode: 562425

Ricardo Garcia
Office of Veterans Affair

BLUEPRINT FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16™ 2023 2:00 PM -3:00 PM. THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS PARTNERED WITH THE NY LIFE INSURANCE GROUP TO SPONSOR A FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED PARTICIPANTS GAIN KNOWLEDGE ON FINANCIAL SECURITY. MENTS, AS WELL AS FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT. JOIN ZOOM MEETING PASSCODE 562425

- Financial Literacy: Workshop was conducted by two representatives of top tier financial institutions – Chase Bank and New York Life Insurance Company. Discussion was centered on Financial guidance Growing Savings, Managing Debt, Retirement Planning, Tax Diversified Investment Strategies. We explored the basics of building financial security, literacy and creating a roadmap for your financial future
- VA Home Loan: Workshop shared key information on 1st time home buying and VA Home Loan process. Informed Veterans and Military members on property purchasing expectations and realities and how VA can facilitate this process.
- Employment/Professional Development
- Academic Institution Military Cultural Awareness; provide faculty, staff, and administrators with military cultural competency to help them understand the population and better serve them





Student Veteran Outings and Excursions

- USS Intrepid 3 colleges participated over 40 students
- NY Yankee Game 2 Colleges and over 40 students
- Wall Street Visit 3 Colleges participated over 30 students
- Military Appreciation Night Basketball game 2 colleges and over 25 students









IMPACT

- This work has helped facilitate the Military members transition back into civilian life. As a result of the coalition initiatives, transition barriers faced by Veterans, Military members, and their families have been minimized and/or reduced.
- Upon separation from Military into civilian life, complications often arise with access to the VA and their benefits thereby complicating integration into academia. Coalition works collaboratively with the VA and VSOs to eliminate the impact to population.

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL VA

- Invite VA to college campuses events (i.e. orientations, student events)
- Have VA pamphlets, flyers and information materials available on campus/office to direct Veterans to
- Offer workshops specifically geared to VA Benefits or dedicated fto VA topics to present at college
- Conduct outings and excursions that VA can participate in or promote



Q&A



Thank You!

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