Dear Reader,

This newsletter was created for the intent of keeping you informed of the Military and VA Communities. This newsletter is also a tool to communicate events and resources both at OSU and the community at large. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in the articles are not those of the Oregon State University Veterans Advisor Office or its counterparts.

I want to encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone who is interested in receiving this newsletter on a continuous basis can sign up at http://lists.oregonstate.edu/. The name of the newsletter is “VetsNews”.

Before I start the updates, I wanted to let everyone know all three OSU Campuses made the 2013 GI Jobs “Military Friendly School” list. Additionally, we were one of 1,700 schools nationwide this year. Here is an article about the 2013 list and a link to the GI Jobs List.

**New 'military friendly' colleges list aims to weed out 'the noise,' 'bad actors'**

*By Bill Briggs, NBC News contributor*

The fourth annual list of “military friendly” colleges – published this week by a veteran-owned company – is as fascinating to peruse to see which schools earn that title as it is for noting which universities are absent. Using a weighted scoring system and reviews penned by veteran-students – then independently audited by accounting giant Ernst & Young – the 2013 “G.I. Jobs” list includes 1,700 American colleges. That means about 10,000 schools currently authorized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to accept GI Bill money failed to make the cut.


**VA Updates:**

**New GI Bill Payment Rates Announced**

Each year in October, the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) payment rates increase to meet the growing cost of education. This October the MGIB full-time student payment rate will be increased to $1,564 a month for the 2013 fiscal year (2012-2013 School Year). Eligible veterans and service members could receive as much $56,304 in cash benefits over 36 months. This new monthly payment rate applies to all MGIB users no matter when they became eligible for or began using the Montgomery GI Bill. View the new FY2013 MGIB rates for part-time through full-time enrollment.


**House Expands Education Resources and Restricts VA Executive Bonuses**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, on the 11th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the House of Representatives reaffirmed its promises to America’s veterans by overwhelmingly passing bipartisan legislation to improve benefits and services through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). A major component of this bill, H.R. 4057, as amended, requires VA to implement a comprehensive policy that aids veterans in making informed decisions about their choices in pursuit of higher education. H.R. 4057
also provides for more transparency of information related to education and training opportunities so that veterans are able to make the most of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.


New VA program helping veterans with career training, getting back to school
Franklin Wingo was more excited about his first day of college this fall than many of his peers at McLennan Community College. “The first day of school, I had a military backpack with all of the books (for my classes),” said Wingo, a 50-year-old U.S. Coast Guard veteran. “I didn’t know what all I’d need. They were calling me Rambo.” Wingo is studying to earn an associate’s degree in paralegal studies. He is one of about 30 local veterans starting college this fall under a new federal program that helps older, unemployed veterans go back to school for training in a new field.


Military Update:

Since this is my first edition that is going outside of the OSU Veterans Workgroup and Veterans Advisory Committee, I want to focus the Military Updates section around Tuition Assistance (TA). Attached is a document titled “August 14, 2012 TA Conference Call Meeting Notes”. Within the meeting notes it lets you know the latest on the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding (DOD-MOU). Please note from the document, OSU can continue to accept TA payments until 60 days after version two is released. As of September 24, 2012 version two has not been released by the DOD.

Additionally, on page two is a reference to President Obama’s executive order 13607 and Principles of Excellence. For more information about how OSU responded to the Principles of Excellence, please refer to the OSU Veterans Homepage; http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/. Under the OSU Veterans Information Web Feed link is a document created by the OSU Veterans Workgroup titled “Oregon State University's response to the Principles of Excellence defined in President Obama's Executive Order 13607”.

As the process progresses, I will use this newsletter to communicate the updates. If there are any questions on where OSU stands in regards to the DOD-MOU, I request you direct them to my office. I can be reached by phone at 541-737-7662 or by email at gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu.

Upcoming Events:

October 3rd, 2012 – Lt. Dan Choi speaking at LaSells Stewart Center Austin Auditorium.
Lt. Dan Choi is an acclaimed LGBT rights and veterans’ health activist, known for his work opposing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in the U.S. military. Lt. Dan Choi will be presenting on his experiences with the repealed policy and his diverse identities as a Korean American, a gay man, a veteran of military service, and his raising in a Christian home. Lt. Dan Choi will also be answering questions on these topics. This event will be FREE admission for all at OSU and in the surrounding community. Doors will open at 5:30pm and the actual address will start at 6pm.

October 26, 2012 – Major General Buchanan will be speaking to Student Media and other students.
As details are finalized I will report more information on that event.
Veteran Resources:

Free Training Tool: Understanding and Supporting the Emotional Health of Student Veterans
Since the 2012 changes to the GI Bill, more student veterans than ever are pursuing higher education. This growing population brings valuable skills and assets to our campus communities but, sometimes, they face unique challenges as they transition from service or combat into college life. The Jed Foundation and the Bob Woodruff Foundation have partnered to create a free training tool that helps campus health professionals best understand the student veteran perspective, engage with them on campus, and provide the resources and support they need to succeed. Thanks to funding from the Bob Woodruff Foundation, the training and CM/CME credits are offered at no charge. We hope you'll share this valuable training experience with all your colleagues.

Please visit www.jedfoundation.org/professionals/programs-and-research/helping-our-student-veterans-succeed to begin this 60-minute training session.

Free Webinar Opportunity - Brain Injury in Youth: Promoting Effective Concussion Management and Recovery
In this webinar, Dr. Jay Dunkle will provide information about concussion-related issues, services, and programs that can have positive results on strengthening cognitive skills and emotional regulation for youth who have sustained a concussion. Dr. Dunkle is a trained Clinical Neuropsychologist and has worked at Neuropsychological Services of Westchester (NSW) since 1995. He is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association’s Sports Concussion Management Team and provides consultation to school districts on how to best manage concussed athletes in returning to learn and in returning to the field.

For more information see attachment: September 24, 2012 Webinar Handout.

OSU Veterans on Facebook
I am happy to announce the OSU Veterans Services Team (Cathy Walker and Angie Williamson, OSU Veterans Certifying Officials and Myself) have joined forces with the Student Veterans Leadership Team (Kyle Hatch, President of Omega Alpha colony of Omega Delta Sigma, Brian Benavidez, President Veterans and Family Student Association, and Julie Stewart, Associated Students of Oregon State University Veteran Task Force Director) to create a Facebook page. Please view and like our page on Facebook. The link is http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAtOregonStateUniversity.

OSU Veterans Website:
http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Website:
http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx

Oregon Department of Employment Veteran Representatives:
http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/Pages/index.aspx

OSU Veterans and Family Student Association Facebook page:
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-and-Family-Student-Association/253736621335275
Thank you and have a great day.

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