

## **Veterans Caucus Report, August 31, 2015**

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Hal Irvin, AVP HR, brought together an initial working group in April 7, 2015 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Veterans Caucus at Virginia Tech. The group agreed that there was enough interest in the initiative to meet again on May 18 and July 28, 2015 to explore the establishment of a Veterans Caucus at VT. At the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting the working group voted to establish the Virginia Tech Veterans Caucus (VTVC) and began writing the constitution.

Recognizing Veterans are an important part of the Virginia Tech culture, history and community, the purpose of the Veterans Caucus is to improve the working, learning, and living environment for employee and student veterans; advocate for the mentoring of and transitional support for veterans returning to work and/or school and recommend actions to improve the recruitment and retention of employee and student veterans.

The initial membership of the VT Veterans Caucus currently consists of twelve members. Ten have military experience ranging from four years to thirty years of military service. Two of the members bring extensive civilian organizational and higher education experience to the group. The twelve volunteer members of the Veterans Caucus have experience in multiple areas across the university including research, academics, undergraduate admissions, student affairs, administration, policy and personnel.

### **Current Membership Includes:**

Lamont Calloway-HR Staffing/Recruiting; Denny Cochrane-PM Sustainability; Dan Cook-UNIX System Administrator; Jim Dubinsky-Dir Undgrad Studies, English; Jon Greene-Dir Natl Security Prgm Dev; Hal Irvin-AVP HR; Curtis Mabry-Dir Recruitment HR, Tracy Newton-Student Affairs; Keith Pierce-Communications Specialist, Outreach and Intl Affairs; Anthony Scott-Assoc Dean of Students, Christopher St. Jean-Asst Dir Undergrad Admissions; Christine Tysor-PM ICTAS

Since it's establishment on July 28, 2015 the VTVC has:

- Influenced positive changes in Undergraduate Admissions by receiving approval to waive the application fee for Veteran undergrad applicants
- Implemented Banner tracking of children of active duty military attending VT
- Implemented Banner tracking of new Veterans Choice Act benefits for Out-of-State military family members attending VT
- Established Veteran Liaison point of contact in Undergraduate Admissions
- Finalized and approved the constitution
- Established Veterans Caucus contact email [VTVC@vt.edu](mailto:VTVC@vt.edu)
- Reached out to TX A&M to discuss their successful Veterans program
- Received initial funding by HR and VP Admin of \$5K
- Established Freshman/Transfer student Admissions baseline data
- Provided initial input to Inclusion and Diversity Report -2015
- Met with Marcy Schnitzer, Assoc Director, Diversity Strategic Planning & Improvement

### **Upcoming Actions:**

- Election of officers
- Establish and prioritize 2015-2016 VTVC goals
- Website development
- Outreach events: Military Appreciation Game.Sept 12<sup>th</sup>; [Veterans in Society Conference](#) Nov. 12-14;
- Budget priorities