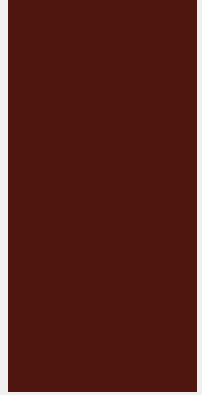


# MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Kentucky University



Eastern Kentucky University is committed to working side by side with veterans who seek to further their education. The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs is the one-stop-shop for veterans, active duty students, and family/dependents of active duty individuals at EKU.

## Eastern Kentucky University ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation among military-friendly schools with online-programs!

SR Education Group, a company that helps match students with schools that meet their needs, evaluated accredited colleges on military culture, online support, financial aid, and flexibility.



Eastern Kentucky University was featured in *Military Advanced Education and Transition*, a journal that is shared with thousands of current military members, many who are looking to transition into an academic program. The article highlights three Supply Chain Management programs across the US. EKU's program is a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with an optional concentration in Global Supply Management.

Pictured above: EKU College of Business and Technology staff. From L to R: Dean, Dr. Tom Ereksen, Rob Perry, Kaitlyn Siegmundt, James Kirby Easterlin



## Student Spotlight

Sheila Velasco is a federal work study student in the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs who has already shown her commitment to the office in the month she has been on board. Her mother is in the Navy, and Sheila herself aspires to be a Naval Intelligence Officer after graduation. Originally from New York, Sheila grew up in Virginia Beach and currently calls California home.

Sheila is currently in her third year and is majoring in Homeland Security. Aside from work and class, she is incredibly active on campus, participating in the Latino Student Association, Freshman Academy mentoring program, and ECU Women's Rugby team.

Sheila was originally drawn to ECU for its commitment to the veteran population and believes Richmond, KY is a great place to visit. She enjoys working in the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs because it offers work hour flexibility, the opportunity to help other veterans and dependents, and encourages students to always put their education first.



## Women Veterans Luncheon

**Tuesday, March 28th**

The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs invites our female veteran students, faculty, and staff to attend the 2017 Women Veterans Luncheon, hosted by our sponsor, Bechtel Parsons.

Our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Deborah Alexander, completed her undergraduate work at ECU, and went on to earn her M.S.S., and later Ph.D, in Political Psychology from Syracuse University. She is a former U.S. Government foreign policy senior adviser and field program manager with extensive experience overseeing stabilization & democratization initiatives designed to stabilize communities, restart government services and rebuild institutions in crisis-ridden and war-ravaged countries. In her work she has provided strategic support to senior military & civilian leaders; organized and managed overseas field operations; established strong partnerships across U.S. agencies, military forces, host-nation, international, and NGO stakeholders; and conducted assessments, training conferences and exercises. Her current philanthropic commitments include volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Greenhouse 17 God's Pantry, Sheppards Hands, and Muslim-Christian Dialogue.

Female veterans wishing to RSVP for the luncheon can email [jaime.roberts@eku.edu](mailto:jaime.roberts@eku.edu).



## Veterans Job Fair

Earlier this month, the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs hosted a free job fair for student veterans in collaboration with the Center for Career and Co-op. Junior and Senior student veterans seeking part-time or full-time employment were encouraged to participate in the morning session. In attendance were nine employers and 23 students. The afternoon job fair was open to all students, including those student veterans who were unable to attend the morning session, and included over 65 employers.



**Spring and Summer Graduation!**

**March 22nd & March 23rd**

**10am-6pm**

**Keen Johnson Building**

Be sure to stop by our table when picking up your graduation regalia in order to update your contact information and let us know of your plans after graduation so we know how we may be able to help you in the future!

## OVC Tournament

Each year the Student Athlete Advisory Council organizes a fundraiser to help sponsor a student veteran to attend the OVC Tournament. Jock N' Roll is an all ECU student-athlete talent show that has brought in a crowd each of the seven years it has been held. Proceeds from the talent show also benefit Hoops for Heroes. This year, Gage Colson, an Aviation major, and his wife, who is also an ECU student, were able to take advantage of this great opportunity!



## Tornado Relief Effort

On March 1st, Estill Co. was struck by devastating winds that destroyed 29 homes and severely damaged at least 125 others. The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs collected tarps and storage bins for the relief effort following the storm. The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs is committed to service in our local and state community. We have a history of helping in natural disaster relief efforts. In 2015, the office collected needed items for flood relief in Johnson County.

Office Director, Dr. Bryan Cole, and student veteran, Evan McCartney, (pictured below) delivered the collected items to Helping Hands in Ravenna, KY.



## Student Spotlight

Evan McCartney, pictured above, is a junior International Business major who began working in the office this semester! Originally from Athens, Ohio, Evan's family has a history of attending ECU. Evan is an Iraq War combat veteran and was stationed at the North Korean Demilitarized Zone. He served in the U.S. Army from 2007 to 2015. After graduation, he plans to further his education by pursuing a Masters degree in International Business. Evan has three children, ages 3, 6, and 9, whose sporting events he religiously attends in his free time.

