

MILITARY AND VETERANS 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 Veterans Affairs is the one-stop-shop for veterans, active duty students, and family/dependents of active duty individuals at EKU.

Community Connections

Eastern Kentucky University is part of the Kentucky Campus Compact (KyCC) which is a statewide coalition of 14 colleges who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. KyCC promotes public and community service that develops students' citizenship skills, helps campuses forge effective community partnerships, and provides resources and training for faculty seeking to integrate civic and community-based learning into the curriculum. KyCC is the umbrella organization for programs such as AmeriCorps VISTA, Kentucky Service Corps, Kentucky College Coaches and the Kentucky Collegiate Leadership Conference.

Last month, *Kentucky College Coaches on Campus* program advisor, Tori Vogelgesang, visited our campus! EKU has three Kentucky College Coaches on Campus who focus on serving our military and veteran students through mentorship, campus outreach, and supporting the services provided by the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.



Pictured: (from left to right) AmeriCorps member Tyler Mullaney, AmeriCorps member Shelby Smith, and Tori Vogelgesang

Veteran Graduation and Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, May 11th

6:30 pm

Perkins Building, Quads A & B

Blood in the Sand: The Trials and Tribulations of War
An EKU Honors Production

8:00 pm May 4th

EKU Center for the Arts Blackbox Theater

EKU's Honor course, "Imagining the Military Experience" focuses on learning about military life overseas and using this knowledge to produce original plays. The purpose of the class is to give students a better idea on what life is like for military members who have been deployed. This semester students drew inspiration from the lived experience of authors including Phil Klay, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq's Anbar Province as a Public Affairs Officer, and Brian Turner, who completed a yearlong tour in Iraq as an infantry team leader. While developing the plays, the class also had many video consultations with David P. Ervin, a former Sergeant in the US Army infantry and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who is now a literary author. Jacob Waldecker, a student in the course said, "He (Ervin) was able to give us different insights on our plays to make them as realistic as possible. "

Student Spotlight

Josh Shaddox joined the US Army in 1997, following in the footsteps of an older boy in Josh's neighborhood who he saw as a role-model. Josh has been stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska (Paratrooper); LSA Anaconda, Iraq (Infantry Squad Leader and Intelligence Sergeant); Fort McCoy, WI (Instructor @ NCO Academy); Fort Knox, KY (Training and Operations NCO); Fort McCoy, WI (Operations NCOIC); and final duty station was Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ (1SG for the 244th Aviation Brigade; Chief of Operations for the NCO Academy; Master Leader Course Manager). In 2004 he was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom and served in the reservist's "Go for Broke" battalion.

Originally from the Columbia River Gorge area of Washington state, Josh now lives in Stanford, KY with his wife and two of his children. In addition to their two teenage children, Josh and his wife also have two adult children who live outside of the family home. One of his sons graduated from EKU, which sparked Josh's interest in the university. Josh has an Associates degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors degree in Religion. He is currently pursuing a Bachelors degree in History from EKU. His ultimate goal is to teach History at a college level.



Last month, our office was able to collaborate with a representative from Peoplelink to bring summer employment opportunities to our student veterans! We'd like to thank Peoplelink for their time and dedication to providing services to individuals like our student veterans. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.peoplelinkstaffing.com/>



Meet Our Staff

Debra Bush is ECU's Certifying Official who works in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, assisting student veterans receive their benefits.

Debra's family has a history of military service with her grandfather, father, and husband all serving in the U.S. Army. Originally from Illinois, Debra moved to Kentucky when her father was stationed at the Bluegrass Depot. Debra graduated from Model Laboratory School and went on to receive her Bachelor's in General Studies with an emphasis in Justice and Safety



from ECU. Debra's husband is currently working on earning his Masters in Safety, Security and Emergency Management. They have two sons, ages 16 and 20. Her youngest son plans to join the Navy or Air Force. When she isn't busy putting students first, Debra enjoys spending time with her rescue yorkies!

MAKE THE
CONNECTION
www.MakeTheConnection.net

MakeTheConnection.net is an online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. Over 400 Veterans and family members from across the country have shared their stories of strength and recovery. On MakeTheConnection.net, it takes only seconds to find a story that is just for you. In addition to powerful stories, *MakeTheConnection.net* provides information about life experiences you can relate to. You also can explore information about signs, symptoms, and conditions that are related to mental health and well-being.