

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.



Pictured on the left, student veteran Shelby Jones with distinguished guest lecturer, Dr. Deborah Alexander

Women Veteran Luncheon

Last month, the office hosted a Women Veterans Luncheon for female veteran students, faculty, and staff. Eastern Kentucky University was so honored to have a remarkable public servant, Dr. Deborah Alexander, share her experiences as the guest lecturer.

Dr. Alexander, a former US State Department Diplomat with service in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Kosovo. Dr. Alexander served as the first US Deputy Head of Mission during the US Marines combat surge in the critical southwest region of the country. Deborah served as the principal adviser to the US Embassy in Kabul for Afghanistan's historic elections, overseeing U.S. assistance for the successful conduct of Afghanistan's first presidential and parliamentary elections. During the luncheon, Dr. Alexander shared her first hand account of the changing roles of women in the armed forces and offered advice to those seeking opportunities to serve their country.

End of the Year Picnic!

Saturday, March 29th

11am-2pm

Burnham House

Join us for music, food, and games!

Scholarship Opportunity

We are now recruiting current students to serve as AmeriCorps On-Campus Veteran Mentors. We are looking for students who can commit to completing 300 hours of volunteer service by August 31, 2017. Depending on your school, office, and program, there is some flexibility as to what these positions may look like. Upon completion, the AmeriCorps member will receive a \$1,230 scholarship to be applied toward tuition!

Drop-in information sessions will be held April 18th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and April 19th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Student Spotlight

Tyler Muncie is a Network Security major from Powell County. He participated in the split ops program his junior year of high school. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson during the summer before graduating from high school. Tyler then went to Fort Leonard Wood for Advanced Individual Training in Motor Transportation. He currently serves as a Pfc in the Kentucky National Guard with the 2123rd in Richmond. After graduating from EKU, Tyler hopes to work in the aerospace, defense, security, and technologies industry. Eventually he would like to live in California.

Tyler prides himself on being a first generation college student who was recruited by the director of Upward Bound, Tamara Stewart. Tyler says, "She made sure I was always on the right track." Coming from a small town with little resources, he recognizes the importance of opportunities for young people and support from individuals like Stewart. As such, Tyler strives to be a positive role model for his three year old younger brother.



Student Success Summit

On April 4th, student veteran and work study participant, Evan McCartney, represented Eastern Kentucky University on at the Kentucky Student Success Summit hosted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. This unique summit allows faculty and staff to learn from student success experts across the state. Evan served as a panelist, along side five students from other Kentucky universities, to discuss the challenges he has faced as a student with military experience as well as his most important sources of support.

Veteran Graduation and Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, May 11th

6:30 pm

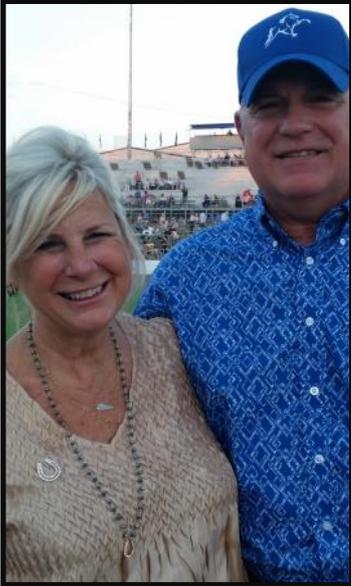
Perkins Building, Quads A & B

Please RSVP to Jaime.roberts@eku.edu

Central Bank Interviews

The office has coordinated with Central Bank to hold open interviews in the Burnham House for student veterans on April 13th from 1-4 pm. The position is part-time tellers. Recommended majors for applicant success include Business, Finance, Economics, Accounting, Marketing, Communications, and Psychology. Connecting students to job opportunities is one of the many services we provide to our students!

Meet Our Staff



Cindy Palko is a Senior Academic Recorder in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs who helps veteran and dependent students get through the process of enrolling and receiving benefits. As an Army wife, she has a history of being committed to the military. Her husband, shown in the photo to the left, served for thirty four and a half years in the U.S. Army. Keeping with family tradition, both Mrs. Palko's daughter and son served in the Army. Her daughter was an Army nurse but is now pursuing a Master's degree while taking care of her own children. Mrs. Palko's son currently serves as a Major in the U.S. Army. Mrs. Palko has seven grandchildren, four grandsons and three granddaughters, who she adores. She also loves spending time with her horses. She has three Tennessee Walkers and three Thoroughbreds.

Mrs. Palko enjoys working in the office because it enables her to stay connected and continue her service to the military.

Campus Connections

The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs strives to build connections within our campus community, especially with individuals like Dr. Melinda Moore, who are advocates for veterans' welfare.

Dr. Melinda Moore is a Licensed Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. She holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Catholic University of America, where she trained in the suicide focused treatment, the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS), and conducted research on CAMS. She regularly trains clinicians in CAMS, as well as advocates on behalf of suicide prevention in her role as Clinical Division Chair of the American Association of Suicidology. She has conducted research on military suicide for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at Bethesda, Maryland, as well as military suicide bereavement research at the University of Kentucky, and suicide treatment research at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville. Her interest in Posttraumatic Growth among the suicide bereaved emerged from her own experience with suicide.



She has a private practice in Lexington, Kentucky and also runs a suicide bereavement support group at EKU. The suicide bereavement support group is open to all EKU students, faculty, and staff, as well as area community members, and is held to support those who have lost a loved one to suicide. To learn more about the suicide bereavement support group, please contact Dr. Moore at 859-457-1210 or email her at melinda.moore@eku.edu.