Operation College Promise
Creating Collaborations to Enhance Veteran Student Success on Campus

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Operation College Promise (OCP) originated as a web-based resource designed by the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU) in July 2008 to centralize transition information for vets.

About NJASCU:

- Statutorily created non-profit representing 9 state colleges – not a system
- Enrollment of 100,000 (12,000 vets/servicemembers) – about 50% of annual baccalaureate degrees.

About New Jersey Higher Education:

- Funded at 1996 rates with 30,000 more students
- Low State Support = Higher Tuition (and high cost of living)
- High Outmigration (net 30,000/ year)
The OCP website is a one-stop shop for veterans and veterans-service providers. It includes:

- Information on veterans benefits
- Campus Veterans Resources
- Community Based Resources
- Transfer Credit Information
- Up to date benefit and policy information

Follow us on Twitter “OpCollPromise”

Find us on Facebook “Operation College Promise”

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
TRI-FOLD MISSION

Education

Research

Policy

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
Projects, Programs and Services

Certification for Veterans’ Service Providers (CVSP) Program
• Through the CVSP program and other services OCP has impacted more than 600 professionals from more than 200 higher education institutions in 23 states.

OCP/Wounded Warrior Project: Warrior Friendly Rubric
• OCP completed a warrior friendly campus rubric assisting campuses in developing promising practices to support veterans in higher education.

OCP Research:
• OCP partnered with the Pat Tillman Foundation to conduct research on how student veterans are progressing towards degree attainment.

OCP Speaker Series
• OCP has hosted several productions including a Warrior Champions screening, The Telling Project, and Into the Fire.

Outreach & Community Events
• OCP published a National Field Guide, which will soon be available on Amazon.com.

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
## OCP FRAMEWORK FOR ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING BEFORE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Kean</th>
<th>NJCU</th>
<th>Montclair</th>
<th>Ramapo</th>
<th>Stockton</th>
<th>Rowan</th>
<th>TCNJ</th>
<th>Thomas Edison</th>
<th>WPU</th>
<th>UNC Charlotte</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Office/Coordinator</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Club/Association</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of SOC/Other Credit Transfer Policy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Ribbon/In-Service State Tuition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate Orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedited Re-admission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Portal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Ceremonies/Acknowledgements</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Counseling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

August 2008

*Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation*
## OCP FRAMEWORK FOR ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING TODAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Kean</th>
<th>NJCU</th>
<th>Montclair</th>
<th>Ramapo</th>
<th>Stockton</th>
<th>Rowan</th>
<th>TCNJ</th>
<th>T. Edison</th>
<th>WPU</th>
<th>UNC Charlotte</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Office/Coordinator</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Club/Association</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of SOC/Other Credit Transfer Policy</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Ribbon/In-Service State Tuition</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate Orientation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedited Re-admission</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Portal</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Ceremonies</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Housing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Counseling</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Mentoring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waive Application Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**August 2011**

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
OCP Collaborations

PARTNERS

- Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)
- American Council on Education (ACE)
- Service Members Opportunity Consortium (SOC)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)
- The War Related Illness & Injury Study Center (WRIISC)
- The GI Go Fund
- New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- New Jersey National Guard
- New Jersey Health Care of New Jersey
- American Heroes at Work

- Texas State University (San Marcos)
- ArmedZilla
- The Pat Tillman Foundation
- Aurora Foundation

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
CERTIFICATION FOR VETERANS’ SERVICE PROVIDERS (CVSP) PROGRAM

The Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) training curriculum -- the first of its kind in the nation -- is a principal component of Operation College Promise programming. The training is intended to prepare veterans' service providers with the essential tools and knowledge to assist veterans succeed in the transition to civilian life.

The inaugural offering of this 2-1/2 day course in June 2010 brought together service providers representing six states and a myriad of agencies, educators, and members of the military. The curriculum was developed on national research and modified according to suggestions and input of participants in the OCP programming.

Past CVSP Trainings:
June 21-23, 2010: Richard Stockton State College
December 1-3, 2010: Ramapo College
May 25-27, 2011: Texas State University, San Marcos
March 6-8, 2012 University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Program Content

Module 1 - Military 101: A Primer on Military Culture
Module 2 - What's New, What to Expect - An Update on the Status of the Post 9/11 GI Bill
Module 3 - Serving My Country - A Student Veterans Panel
Module 4 - Cracking the Code of Military Credit and Experience Transfer
Module 5 - Invisible Injuries of Contemporary Warfare
Module 6 - Resources for Veterans in Transition
Module 7 - Promising Practices in Veteran Support Services: A National Perspective

Program concludes with team exercises and presentations followed by a visit to a local military installation or other appropriate venue, as available.

CERTIFICATION FOR VETERANS’ SERVICE PROVIDERS (CVSP) PROGRAM

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
CVSP ATTENDEES 2010-2011

Alamo Colleges
Atlantic Cape Community College
Atlantic City High School
Atlantic County Institute of Technology
Berkeley College
Bloomfield College
Borough of NY Community College
Burlington County College
Caldwell College
Capella University
Centenary College
City University of New York
Collin College
County College of Morris
Dallas County Community College District
Drew University
Essex County College
Felician College
Harrison College
Hudson County Community College
Lamar Institute of Technology
Monmouth College
Monmouth University
Montclair State University
Oklahoma City University
Somerset County
South Plains College
South Texas College
Southern Illinois University
St. Philip’s College
Sul Ross State University - Rio Grande College
Tarleton State University
Tarleton State University campus
Tarleton State Univ-Southwest Metroplex Center
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University - Central Texas
Texas A&M University - San Antonio
Texas Christian University
Texas Lutheran University
Texas State - Round Rock
Texas State Technical College
Texas State University
Texas State University Applied Arts Advising Center
Texas State University Career Services
Texas Woman's University
Texas Workforce Commission
The Victoria College
Thomas Edison State College
University College of Syracuse University
University of Houston
Palo Alto College
University of Maine
Purdue University
University of Maryland
Purdue University-Calumet
University of Maryland University College
Ramapo College of NJ
University of North Carolina - Charlotte
Richard Stockton College of NJ
University of North Texas
Rowan University
University of Texas - Pan America
Rutgers University
University of Texas at Arlington
Rutgers-Camden
University of Texas at San Antonio
Rutgers-Newark
Victoria College
Sam Houston State University
William Paterson University
San Jacinto Community College
Wilmington University

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
CVSP ATTENDEES 2012

Caldwell Community College & Tech Institute
Stanly Community College
Western Piedmont Community College
Surry Community College
Western Piedmont Community College
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Pembroke
South Piedmont Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College
Western Carolina University
Wake Technical Community College
Randolph Community College
Edgecombe Community College
National College
Appalachian State University
Savannah State University
University of North Carolina Asheville
North Carolina State University
East Carolina University
Macon State College
Montreat College
Guilford College
Georgia Perimeter College
Fayetteville State University
University of Alaska Anchorage
Fayetteville Technical Community College

South Piedmont Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College
Western Carolina University
Wake Technical Community College
Randolph Community College
Edgecombe Community College
National College
Appalachian State University
Savannah State University
University of North Carolina Asheville
North Carolina State University
East Carolina University
Macon State College
Montreat College
Guilford College
Georgia Perimeter College
Fayetteville State University
University of Alaska Anchorage
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
CVSP ATTENDEES BY STATE
“I am sure that OCP will succeed in their mission to help veterans reach their educational goals with their comprehensive program. It is an honor to facilitate those goals with energetic and focused organizations such as Operation College Promise.”

-Veteran/Higher Education Professional

“As a veteran, I am truly grateful to have folks like you in my corner. Thank you for all you do.”

-Veteran/Higher Education Professional

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
GRADUATION PROBABILITY INDICES (GPI)

- To evaluate the impact that CVSP programming has on participants, OCP has developed a veterans' Graduation Probability Indices (GPI) to better track the progress of veteran students while taking into account their unique needs and circumstances.

- The GPI will assist OCP in gathering higher education completion rates in those institutions that participate in the CVSP program.

- Methodology
  - GPA
  - Credits Earned vs Credits Pursued
  - Retention from semester to semester
  - Utilization of campuses services
    - OCP National Field Guide Framework Principles

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
Completing the Mission: A Pilot Study of Veteran Students’ Progress Toward Degree Attainment in the Post 9/11 Era

As the enrollment of military-affiliated students continue to surge at campuses across the country, OCP and the Arizona-based Pat Tillman Foundation released a paper reviewing their progress toward degree completion for a pilot population.

The paper uses OCP's Graduation Probability Indices (GPI) to provide a snapshot of veteran student progress toward degree attainment.
Completing the Mission: A Pilot Study of Veteran Students' Progress Toward Degree Attainment in the Post 9/11 Era

Research Overview

• A total of 200 students were selected at random and evaluated during the 2010-2011 academic year that were attending one of seven public institutions across the country (90% were full-time students).

• The institutions participating are: Montclair State University, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Texas State University-San Marcos, Arizona State University, Mississippi State University and the University of South Florida.

• Collectively they have about 185,000 students and 6,400 veterans – 3.5% of the total population.

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
Research Findings

• Evaluating the progress of student veteran degree attainment is an emerging science; this is the first such multi-state, cross-institutional evaluation.

• Among the nine institutions surveyed, approximately 6,000 veterans, dependents, or service-members have taken advantage of education benefits, and the sample cohort revealed they are progressing toward degrees consistently or more rapidly than their traditional peers in the categories that compose the GPI™.

• Veteran students had, on average, higher GPAs (GPAs 3.04) and retention rates (94% retention rate) than their traditional student peers and their course loads were comparable.

• Furthermore, they were utilizing, albeit at varying degrees, services provided on campus which were designed to support their success.

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Next Steps

Further Research

• Increase the number of institutions participating w/varied level of support services;

• Increase the number of student veterans included;

• Survey student veterans to see what veteran-specific campus services are needed/utilized;

• Evaluate Tillman Military Scholars success toward a degree, compared to their peer military students;

• Assess graduation rates for military-affiliated students with 60 months of enrolling with VA education benefits.

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation
Legislation: Current Programs & Services

Condensed Degree Programs

• VetTeach
  Passed NJ Legislature, awaiting Governor's signature
• VetEngineer
• VetMed

Veterans Education Awareness Week
(November 11-17, 2012)

• Establishes the first ever week long dedication designed
to promote awareness for student veterans in the state
of New Jersey

Operation College Promise is supported in part by the American Council on Education through a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation