



## **APSU Green Zone: Considering the needs of student veterans**

Student veterans may be experiencing a disability for the first time. They may be unaware of services on campus for people with an identified disability.

Student veterans may also not want to self-identify as having a disability. They may not want to disclose problems because of social stigma. Identification of a disability may have implications for future in the military for those who are still active service members or those who are seeking to go back into military service after school.

### **What Green Zone volunteers/allies should know:**

- Do not ask or suggest that the student veteran/service member has a disability but instead inquire about the issues he/she is experiencing to better provide the appropriate resources.
- Become familiar with information provided on the Student Disability Resources Center (SDRC) website for those who may request such services (<https://www.apsu.edu/disability/index.php>)
- Student veterans may need extra help navigating the system and understanding what help is available. Provide the student veterans with contact information for SDRC, if requested. Assist student veteran in making an appointment, if needed.

### **What can I do?**

Have an open dialogue with student veterans about their frustrations. Discuss career goals and where they would like their future to go. Provide them with information about various service and resources available as it seems appropriate.

- ArmyIgnitED
- Newton Military Family Resource Center (NMFRC)
- Office of Career Services
- Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)
- Office of Student Financial Aid
- Student Health & Counseling Services
- Veteran's Education Benefits Office (VEBO)
- Veteran Upward Bound (VUB)
- Vet Success On Campus (VSOC)

### Questions to Ask:

- What is your branch of service?
- How long were you in the military?
- How many deployments and where, for how long?
- What was your job in the military?
- Where were you stationed/lived while in the military?
- How has your experiences been at school?
- How are you and your family doing?
- **Do not ask if they have killed someone or how they were injured!**

### Things to remember...

- Student Veterans are a unique population with different experiences.
- There are numerous ways to help student veterans and service members just as there are for other students.
- Developing trust with this population is important.
- Following up with student veterans and service members and carrying out what you say you will is essential.
- If a student veterans or service member openly discusses his/her experiences, do not interrupt, do not minimize, and do not offer your political beliefs about the way.

For more information visit on our website <https://www.apsu.edu/nmfrc/green-zone/index.php> or feel free to contact us via phone at (931) 221-1685 or email at [NMFRC@apsu.edu](mailto:NMFRC@apsu.edu)