

# STUDENT VETERAN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August | 2025

Issue: 3



## SUMMER UPDATES FROM THE SVC

### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/student-veteran-council>

<https://www.instagram.com/studentvetscouncil.ma/>



## **Berklee Vets Uniting the Online and Campus Communities**

Does your college have an online Veteran affiliated community? If it does you may have experienced the same challenges that we have experienced at Berklee College of Music. After a lot of time and effort working toward uniting the two communities, we now have momentum and are hoping to hold our first Virtual event in the fall semester 2025. We wanted to share our journey in the hopes it may help other schools who want to do the same.

Berklee College of Music is a private school with tuition that exceeds the basic G.I. Bill tuition benefits. Berklee provides a very generous Yellow Ribbon contribution, however it still makes attending the school on campus challenging for many Veterans and their dependents. The result is a smaller on-campus Veteran affiliated community. The Berklee on-line program is much more affordable for G.I. Bill benefit users, and we have seen that we have a large number of Veteran affiliated students within the On-line community.

When I arrived at Berklee, one of my personal goals was to help the Berklee SVA grow the Veteran affiliated musicians' network of Berklee students and alumni. To achieve this, we developed a strategic plan which included the following pillars:

- 1) Increase Berklee Awareness of Veteran Affiliated Students
- 2) Find a way to integrate the On-line Veteran Affiliated Community with the Campus Veteran Affiliated Community
- 3) Propose ways to increase the Veteran Affiliated population
- 4) Propose and demonstrate the benefits of more veteran services and Veteran network opportunities within Berklee
- 5) Establish a self-sustaining Veteran Affiliated Alumni Network

Some of our priorities in the effort to execute this strategy were the following:

- 1) Establish and maintain healthy and enduring relationships with Berklee leadership and departments.
- 2) Work to show the value proposition for Berklee in their support of these efforts by asking ourselves "how are we helping Berklee achieve its mission?"
- 3) Ensure the Veteran affiliated community's needs are central to what we are doing, always.
- 4) Represent our broader Veteran Community in a professional and respectful manner.



***Ron Presenting at SVA NATCON 2024***

With these ideas, the Berklee Student Veteran Affiliated (SVA) Community is now planning to host our first joint event combining the online and campus SVA communities. So how did we get here?

The first step in this process was meeting with the Military Affairs Manager at Berklee. We had our first strategic meeting two years ago to communicate our ideas/goals and to ask for help in bringing key Berklee representatives to the table. At the same time, we began an effort to rebrand. The club was originally titled “Student Veteran Association.” This led other Berklee students to see it as only for the U.S. Veterans and nobody else. We changed the name to “Student Veteran Affiliated Community” and began spreading the message that we are a club welcoming Veterans from foreign nations, along with any friends/family members of, or students interested in knowing Veterans. This rebranding allows us to serve a larger Berklee population and will allow us to be more active within the Berklee community.

Next, we held a “Sip with Vets” event, where we had coffee and donuts. We made ourselves available for anyone who wanted to have some coffee and just chat with us. The event was very successful and was a big step towards making our community more visible and relatable. We are planning to partner with other Berklee clubs in the fall to co-host events and continue growing our campus presence, which will help us in seeking more advocacy for our efforts. We have also increased our social media presence and plan to put greater effort into it as we become more active in fall 2025.



*"Sip with Vets" Event, Fall 2024*

We have spent a lot of time socializing the idea of uniting the on-line and campus Veteran affiliated communities. Like many schools, the on-line community for Berklee is a separate service, which creates administrative and technical challenges to reaching both communities simultaneously. We knew we would need to show the value of committing the time and effort to find a way to do it for Berklee. The attention we have brought to our very small community on campus, along with the incredible efforts of our military affairs manager, led to the inclusion of Veteran specific questions on the Berklee On-Line Student Survey sent out this Spring. The results of that survey revealed an overwhelming desire for the On-line Veteran community to be connected to the campus community.

We enjoyed a very productive meeting in July discussing the plan to implement our ideas. This includes an announcement and invitation for our virtual event to introduce the community and then determining how to manage the communications going forward. This is an incredible step, because we (Berklee Student Club Staff Leadership and the Military Affairs Manager) are now discussing how to make a sustainable community that is not dependent on the student club or any individual members which will open the door to communicate with other Berklee Leadership.

It has taken two years, a lot of conversations, and lots of persistence to get to where we are, but we are seeing things move in the right direction. The best part is that by developing our relationships, we are getting more traction with each conversation. We will provide an update after we have held our first virtual event. If you would like more information or if I can offer more details as you are trying to do this in your school, please don't hesitate to reach out.



**By: RonChino, Berklee SVA Community President**

**E-mail: [berkleestudentveterans@gmail.com](mailto:berkleestudentveterans@gmail.com)**

**Instagram: [@BerkleeSVACommunity](https://www.instagram.com/BerkleeSVACommunity)**



# SVC IN THE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

**Maximus Poole, Bristol  
Community College,  
volunteering at the Bristol  
Mobile Food Kitchen (3<sup>rd</sup> in  
from the right).**



**Maximus Poole, Bristol Community  
College, volunteering at the Bristol  
Mobile Food Kitchen (Green  
Sweater, blue Cap).**





# From Service to Student: Supporting Military Connected Students in Higher Education

By Nolan Buck

Transitioning from military service to college is a journey filled with both strengths and unique challenges. As a Marine Corps veteran and Director of Military and Veteran Services at Fitchburg State University, I've seen and firsthand experienced the pride, resilience, and leadership that military-connected students bring to campus. I've also personally faced the difficulties that come with moving from military life to college, which helps me truly understand the challenges these students encounter. Recognizing these experiences is essential to creating spaces where military-connected students can thrive.

For many veterans and military students, college is about more than just academics. The military often “spits you out” into civilian life and leaves you to figure things out on your own. While the system has made improvements, this gap remains a significant challenge. The military provides structure, clear missions, and a close-knit community, but once service ends, veterans must navigate a world that demands self-direction in an environment that can feel unfamiliar and unpredictable. This sudden shift can cause uncertainty and feelings of isolation. Meanwhile, veterans are often juggling VA paperwork, health concerns, and the search for new purposes as they adjust to civilian life.



Those still serving in the National Guard or Reserves face even more challenges, balancing drills, deployments, and schoolwork. Many hesitate to seek accommodations or support because they worry about being misunderstood or judged.

Military-connected students juggle many responsibilities, including family, work, health, and service commitments. That's why policies need to be flexible and understanding, ensuring no one feels penalized for serving or those that have served and face obstacles while pursuing an education.

Higher education is changing. More adult learners, returning or starting college later in life while balancing jobs and families, are becoming a vital part of campus communities. Military connected students are a big part of this shift, and it's important that both veterans and support systems work together to meet their needs. It's equally important that military and veteran students know they have to actively ask for help and shouldn't feel like the “odd one out” for doing so.

Building bridges to welcome and include military-connected students is critical. When these students feel valued and part of a community, they're more likely to stay and succeed. That means creating spaces and events where they and their families feel at home, not just showing up for class and leaving. Veteran lounges, family friendly programs, and peer support groups help build connection and pride.

## **Giving Military and Veteran Students a Voice**

It's critical to give military connected students meaningful opportunities to share their perspectives and help shape campus life. Too often, their experiences go unheard, leaving them feeling invisible despite their leadership and strength they have obtained while in service.

When institutions include military/veterans students in decision making, whether through student government, advisory committees, curriculum input, or peer leadership, they allow these students to reclaim ownership of their education and community. This involvement breaks down stereotypes, enriches learning for everyone, and improves policies around accommodations, mental health, and benefits.

Listening to and empowering military connected students shows respect and partnership. It builds pride, belonging, and community, key factors for recruitment and retention.

Navigating VA benefits, health challenges, family responsibilities, and academics is no small task. Programs like the GI Bill and VA healthcare offer crucial support, but understanding how to access and use these resources can be overwhelming without guidance as this is largely a bureaucratic system.

## **Supporting Military-Connected Students: Steps Campuses Can Take**

Campuses can make a real difference by creating supportive environments that meet the unique needs of military connected students. Here are some practical ways institutions can enhance their support:

- **Learn the Basics:** Faculty, staff, and administrators don't need to be experts but having a solid understanding of key military benefits helps build empathy and flexibility.
- **Simplify Processes:** Providing dedicated staff to assist with VA paperwork and deadlines can reduce stress and help students focus on their studies.
- **Listen and Engage:** Sometimes the most meaningful support comes from simply hearing students stories and understanding the challenges they face.

Military connected students aren't asking for favors. They just want equal opportunities to succeed with those opportunities welcoming their military service. These students are mission driven and ready to excel when given the right resources and support. When campuses listen and collaborate with them, they do more than accommodate veterans, they become true champions.

At its core, this is about more than policies. It's about building community, empowering students, and creating lasting connections.



**Brief Bio** Nolan Buck is the Director of Military and Veteran Services at Fitchburg State University and a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. He holds a degree in Exercise Science, an MBA in Healthcare Administration, and is pursuing a doctorate in Health Science with a concentration in Mental Health. Nolan has experience working in mental health services for veterans and has served as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO). He is passionate about supporting military connected students and fostering inclusive campus communities where everyone can thrive



# Programs, Benefits, Services & Events



18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**NATCON**

**Summary** Schedule Fee Hotel Speakers Sponsors Awards Resources



## 18th Annual NatCon

January 8, 2026 –  
January 10, 2026

Broadmoor Resort and  
Convention Center

1 LAKE AVENUE  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80906

**Register Now**

<https://events.studentveterans.org/event/5eb53b50-ac76-414c-8e12-6199594b5ddb/summary>





# VFW-SVA

## LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Providing exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

<https://studentveterans.org/programs-events/vfw-sva-legislative-fellowship/>






# FREE GUITAR LESSONS

Guided by a skilled instructor, students learn the basics of frets and chords through individual classes & jam sessions.

- No experience needed!
- Guitars are provided!

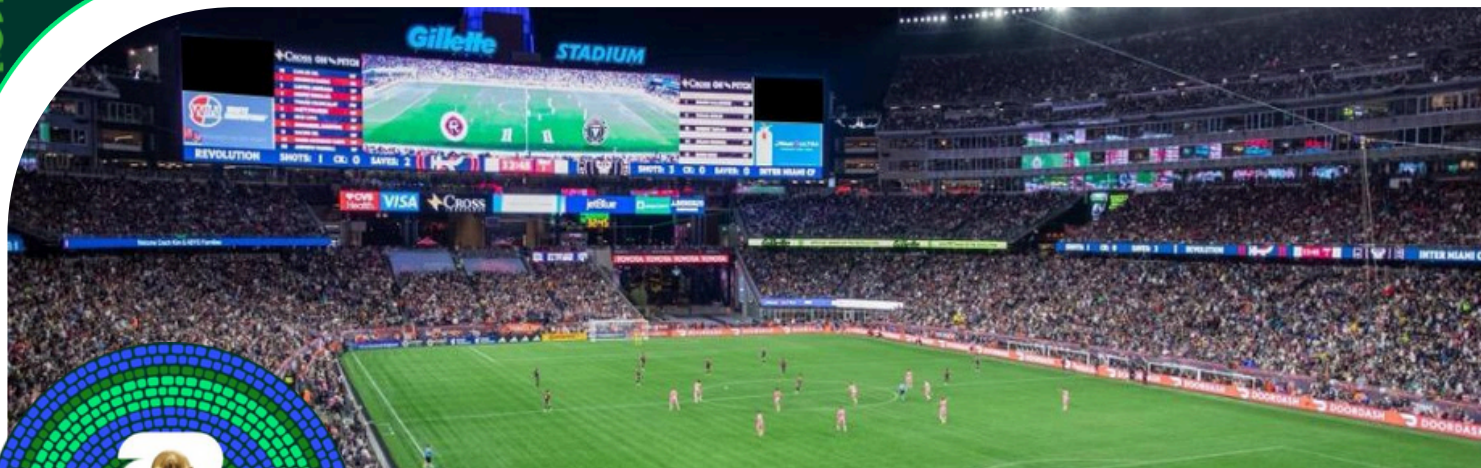
**Thursdays at 4pm**  
**Classes begin August 21<sup>st</sup>!**  
**Call or email to register.**

 [info@veterans-outreach.org](mailto:info@veterans-outreach.org)

 978-632-9601

 246 Central St, Gardner MA





**FIFA WORLD CUP BOSTON 2026™**

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

THE FIFA WORLD CUP 26™ IS A HISTORIC MOMENT THAT UNITES 1 CONTINENT, 3 COUNTRIES, AND 16 CITIES THROUGH THE SHARED RHYTHM OF THE WORLD'S GAME. AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL: A DIVERSE, PASSIONATE COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE NOT JUST PART OF THE EVENT - THEY ARE ITS HEARTBEAT.



**FIFA WORLD CUP 26™**  
**JUNE 11 - JULY 19, 2026**  
**7 MATCHES IN BOSTON**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CLICK HERE!**



### **VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**


- Must 18 or older at time of application
- Communicate clearly in English, other languages a plus
- Attend an in-person recruitment event
- Participate in online and in-person pre-tournament training sessions
- Pass a background check
- Commit to up to nine shifts during the tournament
- Be a U.S. citizen, or able to comply with entry requirements

### **VOLUNTEER PERKS**

- Official FIFA World Cup 26™ volunteer uniform
- Exclusive reward and recognition items
- Meals and refreshments during your shift
- Volunteer certificate
- A once-in-a-generation experience with opportunities to meet new people
- Skills-based learning opportunities

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[volunteer.fifa.com](https://volunteer.fifa.com)

 [@FWC26Boston](https://www.instagram.com/FWC26Boston)

**APPLICATIONS  
OPEN AUG 2025**

**SCAN HERE**





# EDUCATING VETERANS ON THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ELITE SELLERS

At no cost to the veteran, we help transform them into elite sales professionals. We build from their already ingrained characteristics as veterans (resiliency, precision, process driven and leadership) and fine tune them for sales.



## WE'LL BUILD UPON YOUR STRENGTHS TO ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER

### OUR CAREER OFFERING'S



#### Identity Exploration

Learn how to tell (and sell) your military experience



#### Industry Exploration

Learn about career paths in multiple sales careers



#### Interview and Job Content

Training on best practices for sales interviews, resumes and LinkedIn



#### Job Skill Training

Learn key industry specific skills that accelerate success

### WHY SHIFT GROUP?

- ✓ Free Education & Access
- ✓ Path to \$100k+ in 6 to 18 months
- ✓ Fastest path to leadership & promotions
- ✓ Learn how to sell the value of being a veteran
- ✓ Understanding the fastest growing industries in the world

### 150+ HIRING PARTNERS ACROSS



Enterprise SaaS



Pharmaceutical



Sports Tech



Medical Device



Food & Beverage



Advertising



Real Estate



Industrial



Manufacturing



Financial Service

# HOCKEY FOR VETERANS



@rucks2pucks



rucks2pucks.com



@rucks2pucks



**Rucks 2 Pucks is a non-profit 501c3 charity where our mission is to help veterans and their families by promoting an active lifestyle through hockey. We promote the lifestyle to provide a sense of community and camaraderie, something veterans often lose once leaving the service. This is a key component in fighting veteran suicide and reducing the 22 a day.**



RECRUIT MILITARY®



## MILITARY COMMUNITY

# HIRING EVENT

Local, Statewide, National, and Remote Opportunities Available

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 10, 2025 | 11AM - 3PM ET

## BOSTON

Gillette Stadium | 1 Patriot Place, Foxborough, MA 02035

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Project Management | Human Resources  
Transportation / Logistics | Healthcare  
Management / Supervision | Information  
Technology | Government & more....



SCAN ME

For more details, visit [rmvets.com/BOS0925](https://rmvets.com/BOS0925)



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No Federal or DoD endorsement implied





*City of Revere*

Mayor Patrick M. Keefe Jr.



**REVERE**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# NAVIGATING MASS CAREERS AT COFFEE HOUR



**Are you interested in a career with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? Join representatives from the Executive Office of Veterans Services in collaboration with Revere VSO and RPL during coffee hour to learn how to successfully navigate the state's MassCareers job site.**

**For anyone interested in a Massachusetts job.  
Coffee included.**

*Revere Public Library  
Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.-12:30pm  
Adult Library, 18+*







**SUNDAY  
10/5/25  
10AM-1PM  
GILLETTE  
STADIUM**

# JOIN TEAM SVC!!!



**Join Us OCTOBER 5th at Gillette Stadium!**

Join us in Foxborough, MA for the 11th annual Stairs4RTroops (S4RT) stair climb—a high-energy, community-driven event dedicated to honoring and supporting our nation's injured veterans. This year we're proud to have the [Bob Woodruff Foundation](#) as our title sponsor, helping to deepen our impact.

**Register to Join:**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/RaceGroup-1?raceId=45505>

Or Search "Student Veteran's Council" in the Team Search Bar

**\*\*Team SVC will be running in the 11:00am coral**

**\*\*Anyone in the military connected community is encouraged to join!!**

For more info on S4RT please consult: <https://stairs4rtroops.com/>

SERVING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1990



They were there when we needed them. We must be there now that they need us.

**Our Support Services Include:**

- Behavioral Health Services
- Community Outreach & Supportive Services
- Emergency Shelter & Residential Support
- Employment & Training
- Suicide Prevention
- Women Veteran Service



**How Can You Help?**

- Donate in tribute to a Veteran
- Sponsor an annual client services event
- Support our programs through our appeal

[www.veteransinc.org](http://www.veteransinc.org)

To support Veterans and their families across America with a national referral hotline and direct care in all six New England states, Montana and North Dakota.

**Tony Barnardo**

**Employment & Training Case Manager**

**USN Veteran**

**Veterans Inc. 69 Grove St. Worcester, MA 01605**

**Cell: (508)769-6665**

**Email: [anthonybarnardo@veteransinc.org](mailto:anthonybarnardo@veteransinc.org)**





Register!

# 5K RUN & WALK

**2 NOVEMBER 2025**

**10:00 AM**



## FREE 4 Veterans

Veterans Inc. recognizes the unwavering commitment of Veterans who have served our nation



## Register now!

Participants will receive a NEW medal as you run through the finish line. Enjoy a post-race celebration featuring food, live music, exciting prizes, & more!



## Support Veterans

Run for victory, walk for enjoyment, or sign up & have a great time, all while contributing to a meaningful cause.





# **Veterans Day PANCAKE BREAKFAST & PARADE**

TUESDAY

**11 NOV**

8:30 - 11:00 am

**69 Grove St., Worcester, MA**

**Join us for our free 2025 Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast!**

A Patriotic Children's Corner will feature arts, crafts & other fun family activities! All are welcome!

For more information, Donations or to become a Sponsor contact  
Marleen Kilcoyne- [Marleenkilcoyne@veteransinc.org](mailto:Marleenkilcoyne@veteransinc.org)

**The City of Worcester's Veterans Day Parade will follow, bring your patriotic gear and celebrate with us!**

*Are you interested in participating in the parade?  
Contact - [Veterans@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Veterans@worcesterma.gov)*







# HOLIDAY HARVEST

Bring Proof of Military or  
Veteran Status

**25 November 2025**

**10:00am - 2:00pm**

## Holiday Harvest Provides:

Thanksgiving meal to over **700 Veterans families**, including turkeys, trimmings, stuffing, and fresh produce.

Open to all current and former members of the armed services in need of food for their household.

*For more information or to become a sponsor contact:  
[HolidayHarvest@veteransinc.org](mailto:HolidayHarvest@veteransinc.org)*

69 Grove St., Worcester, MA. [Veteransinc.org](http://Veteransinc.org) 800-482-2565