



DATE: December 2015  
TO: AASHE STARS  
FROM: Michael Forrest, Military & Veterans Services  
RE: Student Veteran Mental Health Outreach

It is my pleasure to endorse The Ohio State University's Mental Health Outreach Program to Student Veteran's as fulfillment for AASHE STARS Innovation credit.

Returning to college or beginning college for the first time after Armed Services deployment can be a stressful and highly frustrating experience for some Veterans. Veterans coming out of extended periods of exposure to severe emotional or mental trauma and highly stressful working and living conditions may find the transition to college life and academic demands a difficult personal challenge.

Our program offers the support and services that will ease the transition of returning Veterans to college life at OSU, and, when necessary, to provide referrals to other OSU and community resources. We are committed to helping Veterans identify, prioritize, and implement strategies to address their specific concerns and challenges. The Program partners with the OSU Counseling and Consultation Service and the US Department of Veterans Affairs to provide services that fit the unique needs of the individual student veteran.

In addition to assisting students with mental health concerns, the university through the Office of Military & Veterans Services provides educational and academic resources, military and veteran orientations, focused academic counseling, tailored support services and the education of faculty and staff on military student issues. The office ensures we provide our increasing population of military and veteran students with help accessing their educational benefits and the resources they need for academic success and a rich student experience.

This year, more than 2,400 military and veteran students, and their immediate family members attend The Ohio State University. The increase follows a national trend started by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The office of Military & Veterans Services ensures we provide our increasing population of military and veteran students with help accessing their educational benefits and the University resources they need for academic success.



Michael P. Forrest

Major, US Army Retired  
Director, Veterans Transition & Services

Reference: <http://veterans.osu.edu/>