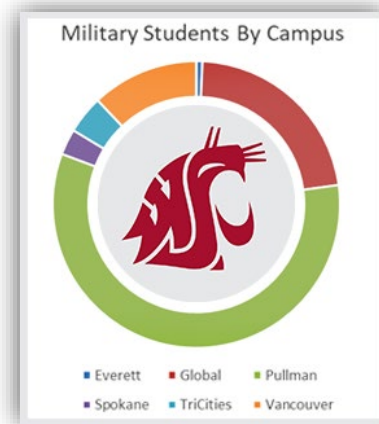




WSU Veterans and Military Affiliated Student Symposium 2022

Cougar Community,
 Thank you for supporting Washington State University's annual Military-Affiliated Student Symposium. We are proud to [honor WSU's commitment](#) to its 2,600 military affiliated-students by elevating their voices and experiences. Less than 1 percent of Americans are currently serving in the armed forces, and the number veterans is just 7 percent and rapidly declining. Today, more than ever, there is a need to explore and understand the veteran experience. Special thanks to The Boeing Company, Carson College of Business Veterans, Washington State Student Affairs, and WSU Pullman's Veteran and Military Affiliated Students Center for their financial contributions to this event.



Achievements and Explorations

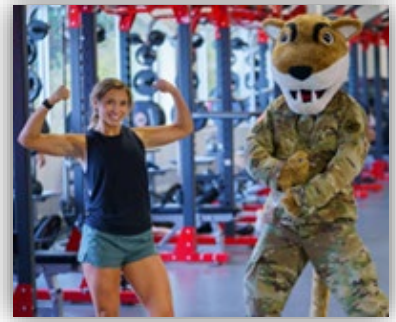
On November 10, 2022, over 100 students, staff, and community partners gathered at WSU Pullman for a full day of fellowship, presentations, workshops and engaging discussions about transition, educational and wellness resources, and the pathway to veterans owning and communicating their military experience. Brigadier General (Ret) Jim Cook shared his insights on the power of mindfulness amidst life transitions. Staff and veteran-serving organizations from across the WSU system and Washington State participated in town-hall discussions on financial policies and support within the University and some of the robust health services available to veterans living in Washington State. Lastly, student veterans participated in a career development workshop hosted by Sara Blewett from SDB Transition Strategies, where they learned how to



identify their values, own their military experience, and translate their service skills into meaningful conversations. We were honored to be joined by WSU Provost Elizabeth Chilton, Everett Vice Chancellor Mark Beattie, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Michelle Lewis, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement Bill Davis, and former WSU regent and Air Force veteran, Scott Carson.

2022 Community Highlights

- WSU VET SSS measured 12% increase in retention, 9% increase in academic standing, and 15% increase in student veteran graduation
- Over \$8M in VA tuition processed by certifying officials
- 200 ROTC cadets enrolled with \$1.2M in scholarships
- New full time certifying official hired
- Veterans Pledge launched for WA High school seniors
- Hosted tailgate and flag ceremony for Football Military Game Day
- Supported WSU Foley Institute Sec James Mattis visit
- WSU Pullman Veteran Center expansion complete
- Carson College hosted “Logistics and Supply Chain” All Call



Building Bridges

This year’s symposium has already borne fruit in unexpected ways. Pullman City Councilman, Nathan Weller, attended this year’s event and made meaningful connections with several students and staff on ways to improve the student veteran experience in Pullman. Councilman Weller subsequently met w/ the Downtown Pullman Association about honoring military veterans. Specifically, he discussed improving access to health care with Pullman Regional Hospital’s new CEO and explored educating Pullman’s Landlord/Tenant Association on working with students using VA housing benefits. Weller also shared these issues directly with Washington State Senator Mark Schoesler and Representatives Mary Dye and Joe Schmick.

“These are topics that will take teamwork and collaboration across many different groups and organizations,” said Weller. “But it’s important and the right thing to do.”



The Future is Bright...

As our Cougar Veteran community continues to grow, we remain committed to our vision of making Washington State University a veteran-inclusive, veteran-ready community with sustainable resources to promote the well-being and success of our military-affiliated students. This includes veterans, active-duty service members, guardsmen, reservists, cadets and midshipmen, and their family members. Specifically, we will be putting our efforts toward improved data tracking of military affiliated students, offering the first-ever Military Ally course in April 2023 as part of WSU’s DEI program, continuing to streamline student support processes, and seeking a systemwide charter to ensure sustainability of these important efforts.

Mark your calendars for November 9, 2023 when WSU Vancouver hosts next year’s WSU Military Affiliated Student Symposium. See you there, and...

Go Cougs!

WSU Veteran and Military Affiliated Student Task Force

