Introduction

Since 9/11 there has been an increase in military veterans attending colleges and universities across the nation. Service members that choose to attend school post service have small difficulties with the transition from combat. Colleges and universities have special programs in place to help veterans with this transition. Just recently John Jay College has been named one of the top military friendly colleges for veterans in the country.

Research Question

• What makes a college military friendly?
• What are some of the challenges veterans face when entering college?
• What programs are there for veteran needs?

Literature

• Ackerman et al. (2009) “The Term “military friendly” is difficult to define, We came to understand that veterans used it to refer to campuses where programs and people were in place to assist with the transitions between college and military.” (p. 10)
• Ackerman et al. (2009) “Thought needs to be given to the responsibilities assigned by the campus to the veterans services officer. Campuses meet the needs of other special student populations through offices whose mission is to provide specifically designed support services. In planning those services, efforts should be made to know the students who constitute the veteran population.” (p. 13)

Methods

To better comprehend the needs of student veterans, research was done using journal articles and interviews of veterans currently attending college. After all the first hand experience and research the issues veterans face became clearer.

Data

Themes of Transition for Student-Veterans

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John Jay College is still improving but is clearly becoming a top military friendly institution with over 600 veterans attending.

John Jay ranks as one of the top Military Friendly Schools for 2013. (From the Military Times, www.militarytimes.com).

Conclusions

Military friendly colleges are those that have programs in place to aid with the transition from active duty to college life. Schools like John Jay are setting the example and this encourages other schools to meet the challenges of becoming veteran friendly. This requires personnel and programs that will understand the needs of veterans. Institutions should aim to be military friendly and not make it a commercialized gimmick or catchphrase.

References


Reflection

“As a Marine veteran this topic is something I became very passionate about. This became very tough to work on. I would read journal articles and feel like they were talking about me. I understand every experience expressed which made me understand my current college experience.” - Omar Jennings

“Before this research I was totally unaware that veterans going to college was such an issue. Through research and interviews I became fascinated with their lives and how the transition works.” - Faika Kabir