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Institutional Readiness for  
Veterans

Jill Rayner  
North Georgia College & State  
University

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**Soldiers are not like regular students**

- More mature than normally young students
- Have been away from home for extended periods of time
- Some have seen combat
- Are on a different time zone than you
- Some have had experiences we will never have

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**Starting and Staying in College**

Starting ...

- Website user friendly
- Different time zone
- Online forms
- May not be able to meet deadlines due to security issues
- You just don't know what their day has been like

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## Staying in College

- If they had to leave for military training
  - Re-admission road blocks
  - Steps to get back in school
  - One-stop shop

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## HEOA

- The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA) was enacted on August 14, 2008, and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the HEA)

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### **Part G General Provisions Relating to Student Assistance** *Readmission Requirements for Service Members (new 484c)*

A student who had to leave an institution because of active duty service for more than 30 days is entitled to readmission with the same academic status if all of the following criteria are met:

- The student (or an appropriate officer of the Armed Forces or official of the Department of Defense) gives advance written or verbal notice of that service to the appropriate institutional official.
  - Unless notice is precluded for security reasons by the nature of the service waived if student submits upon seeking readmissions that he or she performed that necessitated his or her absence

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**Part G General Provisions Relating to Student Assistance**  
*Readmission Requirements for Service Members (new 484c)*

Institutions are prohibited from having readmission policies that discriminate on the basis of a student's active duty service in the Armed Forces (whether voluntary or involuntary, and including National Guard or Reserves members).

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**Part G General Provisions Relating to Student Assistance**  
*Readmission Requirements for Service Members (new 484c)*

- The documented cumulative length of all such absences from the institution does not exceed five years, with certain exceptions:
  - The student submits a notification of intent to reenroll in the institution of higher education within:
    - Three years after completion of the period of service or
    - Two years after recovery from an illness or injury incurred in or aggravated during the performance of service

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**Part G General Provisions Relating to Student Assistance**  
*Readmission Requirements for Service Members (new 484c)*

- A student who applies for readmission after the period of entitlement lapses is subject to normal institutional leave of absence policy and general practices
- The student's documented separation was *not dishonorable*
- An institution may not delay or attempt to avoid readmitting a student by demanding documentation that does not exist, or is not readily available, at the time of readmission.

**Effective 8/14/08**

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**Why the Urgency?**

New GI bill – Post 9/11 – Chapter 33  
HEOA changes

The soldiers are going to come running....

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**Chapter 33 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

On Monday, June 30, President Bush signed into law landmark legislation introduced by Senator Jim Webb (D-Va) to provide post- 9/11 veterans with comprehensive educational benefits.

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**21<sup>st</sup> Century GI Bill**

- The VA refers to Chapter 33 as the Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Starts for training on or after August 1, 2009
- Will not cover any training previous to that date

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**Who is eligible?**

- Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces or
- Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve or,
- Be released from the Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in reserve component, or

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**Who is eligible?**

- Minimum served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001 and be discharged die to service connected disability or
- Served an aggregated of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001

AND

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### Chapter 33 – Post 9/11

Entitle to a **percentage** as determined by the length of active duty service of the following:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-state public institution of higher education (paid to school)
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing (BAH) amount payable to a military E-5 with dependents, in same zip code as school (paid to student)
- Yearly book and supplies stipend of up to \$1000 per year (paid to student)

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### Chapter 33 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A one time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas (paid to the student)

**NOTE** – Housing allowance and books and supplies stipend is not payable to individuals on active duty. Housing allowances is not payable for those pursuing training at half time or less or to individuals taking distance learning.

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## Title IV

### Part A, Sec 401 Federal Pell Grants

A student's EFC for Pell Grant purposes is set to zero if:

- The student's parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces who died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001
  - The student was under the age of 24 or enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the death

The Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs are to provide the Department of Education with the information necessary to determine which students qualify.

Effective 7/1/09

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### Military Personnel and Veterans: Higher Education Act Provisions Amended by P.L. 110-315

- Sec. 135 In-state Tuition rates for Armed Forces members, spouses and dependent children at Public Institutions
  
- A state may not charge tuition at rates higher than in-state charges for:
  - Members of the Armed Forces on active duty for more than thirty days, whose domicile or permanent duty station is in the state

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**Military Personnel and Veterans:  
Higher Education Act  
Provisions Amended by P.L. 110-315**

- Spouses and dependent children of service members described on previous slide
- Service members and their spouses and children who were paying in-state rates as described above, but have since experienced a change in permanent duty station.
  
- Effective for periods of enrollment that begin on or after 7/1/09

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**Policies and Procedures**

- Flexibility
  - Admissions
  - Orientations
  - Registration deadlines

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## Policies and Procedures

- Credit for military training
  - American Council on Education Guide
- Procedural directives for the whole campus
- Safety nets for soldiers to remain on track
- Provide current and former military members to help.

It takes everyone to lead them up the ladder of success....

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## Military Personnel and Veterans: Higher Education Act Provisions Amended by P.L. 110-315

### Sec. 131 Improved Availability and Coordination of Information Concerning Student Financial Aid Programs for Military Members and Veterans

The web site must be operative within one year of 8/14/08 and its availability made widely known.

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## Service and Support

Senior Administrator needs to oversee the program and serve as the primary contact

Create a task force

Implement ways to indentify veterans

Provide space for a veterans resource center

Provide comprehensive information and assistance

Provide Peer support

Provide training for faculty and staff

.... And let your program take flight...

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## NGCSU Task Force

Veterans Affairs

Financial Aid Office

Academic Advisement Center

Office of Career Development and Internships

College of Counseling and Resource Center

Continuing Education Program

Health Service Center

Office of Registrar

Admissions

Business office

Office of Special Services

Residency Life – Housing office

Faulty Senate

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## Remember it is not only the soldier

Remember the family of the soldier.

Set up a special webpage for spouses and children

Know what is available for the children of soldiers who paid the ultimate price.

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**706-864-1688**

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