Veterans Colleague Network Group

**May 18, 2015 Meeting**

East hill Office building Room 140

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. 12:00 to 12:15 Opportunity to network and enjoy lunch
2. 12:15 Updates
	1. 20 minutes - Presentation by Kevin Prenatt and/or his team from the National Veterans Crisis/Homeless Call Center (kevin.prenatt2@va.gov)
	2. 20minutes - Presentation by “My Story, You Story” Theater Troop presenting the veteran character they have developed
	3. 10 minutes - Update from Lynette Chappell Williams
	4. 20 minutes - Discussion of survey responses and future goals
3. Committee Updates if time allows
	1. Community service/TeamRWB – Jase Baese
	2. Event Planning – Rick Roper
		1. **Friday, May 22, all day – Soldier Story Day at Ithaca High School.** Contact Tracy Pelletier at tpelleti@icsd.k12.ny.us to participate or simply attend.
		2. **Monday, May 25,** **Memorial Day, Dryden VFW parade and lunch**. Meet at 10:00 AM at Highland Drive to form up for the parade at 10:30. The parade marches to the Dryden town center for a ceremony around 11:00 AM and then complimentary luncheon about 11:30 at the Dryden Memorial Home where VCNG/Team RWB will have a table set up.
		3. **Saturday, May 30, Hoffman Challenge Course and networking event for Team RWB Ithaca**.

The challenge course will run from 9 AM to 1 PM Challenge Course staff and Team RWB are subsidizing the regular fee, so your cost will be only $14. If you are interested in attending, contact Jase Baese @ jbb23@cornell.edu or 255-7881 Afterward we are planning a cookout at the site 466 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. This is a family friendly event!

* + 1. **Saturday, June 6, 10 AM VCNG/Team RWB hosted walking tour of the Cornell military memorials.** VCNG/Team RWB will host a short presentation and a walking tour for alumni on Reunion weekend.
	1. Public Relations – Cassie Joseph
1. Update from Kevin Justian –
	1. Kevin attended the CNY Veterans’ Higher Educational Consortium meeting held on April 24, 2015 at SUNY Empire in Syracuse, NY; the topic was military learning and how such could be applied as college credits.  Michele Spires of ACE from Washington, DC gave a presentation on how most veterans can obtain a Joint Services Transcripts (JST) (<https://jst.doded.mil>) that documents their education from military training and courses taken while on active duty, some credits that can be accepted as college credits by the various veteran-friendly colleges in the US.  She also briefly discussed how other occupations had similar course-break-downs for their credits thus allowing so some adult learners or non-traditional students to bring in college credits to their educational pursuits.  ACE staff and professors that volunteer from any Universities  or College, travel to each branch of the military (except for the US Air Force- they have their own accreditation process and college credits) to evaluate the various training programs, courses, and occupational specialties to determine how many equivalent college credits should be granted for each course or training program.  The JST records go back decades and Kevin was able to access his JST transcript on e-benefits and print out a copy.
	2. A SUNY Oswego representatives gave a presentation as to how their residency requirements is lower for veterans so they can transfer in more JST and ACE credits to graduate faster, all based upon accepted prior learning and training completed in the military.  The Oswego’s veterans’ representative helps each veteran maximize his or her military learning and courses to get them translated into actual college credits so they have more GI Bill benefits available.  Veterans appear to be learning about what colleges take more of their training and prior learning as college credits and are seeking out veteran friendly colleges.
2. Next meeting dates– 6/15 (remainder of semester at EHOB 140)