Veterans Colleague Network Group

**September 21st, 2015 Meeting**

East Hill Office Building Room 140

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

***Agenda***

Attendees: Rick Roper (rmr43), Steve Headrick (sdh38), Rob Morris (rkm56), Emily Franco (eaf11), Dave Juers(dwj36), Jase Baese (jbb23), Ed Stinchcomb (ess44), Glenn Larratt (call in), Cassie Joseph (call in), Joey Gates (jdg43), Sue Withers (siw2), Ruth Katz (rk583)

1. 12:15 Business:
   1. 2015-2016 Current initiatives/confirm subcommittee membership:
      * Veteran Mentoring – we have a list we share with other groups such as HR to help us reach out to veterans. We want to develop this and these relations more.
      * Dedicated Veteran Representative – ongoing but needs will be by product of other collaborative efforts between staff/faculty efforts and student efforts. We will leave this on as an initiative and check in regularly to see where the Veterans Working Group and others efforts have progressed to make it more viable. Needs to be student driven even more than staff.
      * Communication Planning – ongoing, Cassie has a standard list she uses for publicizing events.
      * Events Strategy
      * New initiatives: veteran alumni association, engage at reunion weekends, see if we can get this information through Bill Hulling and see how we can help support this initiative. Engage ROTC, Cadre, etc. Explore Class of ’55 veteran movie.
   2. Budget discussion:

* Funding is being cut from $1,500 to $1000 - we will focus on being more modest in our expenditure to maintain the monthly meeting lunches, honor cords and networking events as we have in the past.
  1. Survey Results:
* The desire for more networking was the primary theme.
* **ACTION: At the next Campus Veterans Working Group meeting in October, suggest outreach events sponsored by different groups.**
* **ACTION: Joint Veterans Day Event – a rough proposal exists for an afternoon event in Barton Hall. To highlight the VCNGs five year anniversary, add in five minutes recapping the history of the VCNG and some of our accomplishments, group photo of membership.**

1. Update from Kevin Justian, NY State Veterans Representative –

* Unable to attend – moved to October: definition of a protected veteran/ eligible dates for VTA scholarship grants

1. Recap -

* Campus Veteran Working Group – recap during the discussion of the dedicated veterans representative. The meeting was Sept. 15th 2015 and the group included representatives from Student Services, Registrar, Financial Aid, OADI, Small Farms, Outdoor Education, Alumni Affairs, VCNG, CUVA, Johnsons Veterans, etc. This group is meant to encompass all who interact with veterans in one way or another and is still morphing. Four action items emerged to start with: an undergraduate team building event, a student services guide that encompasses all a new student veteran might need to know, developing career building opportunities, both for staff and students, and a joint veteran’s day events.
* Cornell Theatre Ensemble – “My Story, Your Story” was presented on Sept. 16th 2015. This is a great opportunity at Cornell to talk about different perspectives and even though the veteran monologue was not presented, it should be finalized shortly.
* David Hart, a sky diver and former Army Ranger spoke about engaging veterans in the workforce for the Inclusive Excellence Academy, Sept. 21st 2015. He stressed that veterans come away from their experience having worked in teams and they value that experience and bring it to any workplace. The group did some activities to explore teambuilding and goal setting.

1. Committee Updates -

* Community service/TeamRWB – (Jase Baese)
  + Participated in the Staff Development Day in July 2015, with well over 100 contacts;
  + Fillmore 5K on July 215, 2015,with 7-8 attendees from Team RWB
  + Spartan Race on September 5, 2015 with over 20 Team RWB reps from around the state.
  + MIA/POW Watchfire in Lansing on September 19, 2015
  + Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk at Cass Park on September 20, 2015
  + Wednesday runs with Wellness, at the East Ithaca Rec Way at noon
  + Upcoming – Ithaca Glows in October (pending)
  + Upcoming – Turkey Trot at Ithaca High School Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2015 @ 9 AM
  + Upcoming – **ACTION on December event – decision between December event to be confirmed Selfless Elf 5 Dec in Corning or It’s a Wonderful Life Dec 12 in Seneca Falls.**
* Event Planning – (Rick Roper)
  + Veterans Day event in the planning stages
  + Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans, casual BBQ picnic, Thursday, October 1st at 5:30pm to 7:30pm on the Arts Quad
  + More to follow on a fall networking event
  + James Schmelling to present October 20, 2015, 9:00 to 10:30 Biotech G10 (diversity.cornell.edu, use diversity inclusiveness link) **ACTION: Emily to resend to the listserv**
* Public Relations – (Cassie Joseph) –no updates

1. Proposed next meeting dates– 10/19 (Navy Blockhouse), 11/16 (EHOB), 12/21(EHOB) (holiday gathering), 1/26(EHOB)
2. Upcoming events and guest speakers -

* October business meeting, Air Force ROTC Commander David Schrader is coming to discuss the Tri-Service Military Ball that ROTC has every year. The next Ball is scheduled on Feb. 19th 2016.