Veterans Colleague Network Group

**February 15th, 2016 Meeting**

East Hill Office Building Room 140

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

***Meeting Summary***

Attendees: Rick Roper (rmr43), Rob Morris (rkm56), Emily Franco (eaf11), Dave Juers(dwj36), Jase Baese (jbb23), Ed Stinchcomb (ess44), Edgar Johnson (ejj33), Glenn Larratt (gl89)-remote

Business updates:

1. Feb 2, 2016 meeting on student services guide and resources with B. Knuth, K. Page, J. Appleton, M. Opperman, S. Anderson, C. Joseph, E. Franco (Emily Franco):
   1. Discussed the request for convening space and staff support for student veterans. While there is no funding for a coordinator, there may be an opportunity for space and the Student Services teams were going to discuss this. In the short term they agreed to identify specific people in each office that will provide/be educated on veterans concerns. The VCNG agreed that meeting space is integral part of student life so having a vet dedicated gathering space is critical – suggested maybe CUVA could monitor space until a coordinator can be funded. This is an opportunity for alumni engagement.
   2. Discussed the Student Services guide. The goal is to have this information be available online but the group agreed that some printed materials might be necessary and were going to discuss further who in student services might take this on.
   3. Discussed the blog site for veterans: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/militarycommunity/>. It has not been well publicized and is not complete so VP Appleton’s office is seeking input, both from the Student Service Guide information and any other gaps we see. Send any suggestions to Kathy Lorentzen ([kate.lorentzen@cornell.edu](mailto:kate.lorentzen@cornell.edu)). The goal is to use this as the primary information source for military related info.
2. Feb 10, 2016 meeting with Alumni Affairs on veteran alumni engagement with Matt Carcella, Terry Hahn, Lauren Graham, Bill Huling, Cassie Jospeh, Emily Franco (Emily Franco) – outcomes include the following:
   1. A veteran related event will be planned for Reunion Weekend in June 2016 – the VCNG is waiting on proposed day/time and location to finalize our plans.
   2. A survey of veteran alumni, sharing our current efforts and asking if they would like to be involved in other veteran-related events, such as mentoring, a LinkedIn group, etc.
   3. Exploring an over-arching brand for Cornell’s military community, recognizing that it encompasses many layers so sub-groups (VCNG, CUVA, JVA, etc.) would need their own identities as well.
   4. Connect alumni via LinkedIn using the VCNG established group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3999088>).
   5. Other priorities include:
      1. Raising alumni support for veteran coordinator/resource center
      2. Raising alumni support for veterans POSSE, Warrior Scholar, and Service2School and other student recruitment efforts
      3. Raising alumni support for additional scholarship dollars
      4. Raising alumni support for ROTC programming
      5. Connecting with veteran alumni to engage them in on campus events (veteran focused and other)
      6. Engaging veteran alumni in mentoring and coaching
      7. Exploring veteran alumni connections to career opportunities for current students (connections with industry, recruiters, internships, etc.)

Recap of Cornell Police Awards Ceremony (Rick Roper):

1. Cornell Police Awards Ceremony –great ceremony that honored a number of individuals, including one veteran. VCNG was well represented. The Cornell Police are going to try to make this an annual event.

Committee Updates:

1. Community service/TeamRWB – (Jase Baese)
   1. Team RWB was recognized at the Thursday, Feb. 18 Tompkins County Commuter Challenge recognition event
   2. The Team RWB 2016 event calendar has been finalized and will be published on the FB page, Mon/Wed/Fri 12:15 workouts continue, usually in Barton Hall as weather dictates
2. Event Planning – (Rick Roper)
   1. Spring Sharing our World Event – we envision a Veteran Resource Fair with Kevin Justian as keynote to present an overarching educational session on veterans benefits. In addition, information tables from Cornell departments and community resources would be set up for browsing. Emily to set up Veterans Working Group meeting to engage Cornell. Cassie looking for space. Rob and Rick to explore community veteran resource people who might want to participate.
   2. Support for Alumni Affairs event on Reunion weekend in June- VCNG is waiting for date and time confirmation from Alumni Affairs to confirm our usual war memorial tour activity.

Recruitment (Edgar Johnson):

1. A new staff resource guides will be available shortly, connecting community members who work with veterans with our hiring managers at Cornell.

Upcoming (Rick Roper):

1. Potential guest speaker for March 2016: our local VA clinic manager, Cheryl Wyak. Rick to ask Steve Headrick for outreach
2. Jase to work with Rick and Rob to include WebEx information for future meetings so members can call in.
3. Proposed next meeting dates– 3/21/16, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20 - EHOB 140