ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter

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S.A.L.U.T.E.

Angelo State was selected this semester to host a chapter of SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society. SALUTE honors student veterans who achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher, have an honorable discharge, and uphold high ethical standards. The ASU chapter began with 8 new members for the Spring 2014 semester. New members will be added each year as new student veterans meet the tough academic standards required by the society.

SALUTE stands for **S**ervice, **A**cademics, **L**eadership, **U**nity, **T**ribute, and **E**xcellence. Members include retirees, disabled veterans, active duty military, National Guard and reservists returning to higher education, starting second careers, or helping fund their college careers with military service. Each student selected for recognition through membership in SALUTE will receive a military style challenge coin, and a membership certificate suitable for framing.

Welcome New SVO Officers

On April 4, the Student Veterans Organization (SVO) held officer elections for the coming year. Elected President is Reggie Ramon. Vice –President is outgoing President, Americo Garcia. Secretary is Christopher Ortega. Treasurer is Russell Howard. Parliamentarian is Christian Polk, and Public Relations will be handled by Candice Barnes. New officers will serve for one year. Welcome!

In further news, the VETS Center and the SVO are holding a campus blood drive for September 2, 2014 from 11am to 2pm and will be held in the UC parking lot. The SVO is always accepting new members, so if you would like to get involved, contact Russ Baker in the VETS Center for more information.

For the latest SVO news and upcoming events check our Facebook!

Salute to a Student: Reggie Ramon

Reggie Ramon is our new SVO President and a veteran of the US Marine Corps. Reginaldo Ramon Jr (Reggie) was born in Del Rio, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps for 20 years before he retired and served multiple tours in Iraq. He is currently majoring in Homeland and Border Security with a specialization in Terrorism and Counterterrorism with a minor in Spanish. He is a member of the Tau Sigma transfer student honor society and the S.A.L.U.T.E. Veterans National Honor Society.

ASU is in the Green Zone

Green Zone training for faculty and staff continues at ASU. Green Zone is a military friendly training for faculty and staff. Faculty who attended Part One of the Green Zone Training were able to participate in Green Zone Part Two that was held on April 2. This session focused on PTSD and redeployment issues for veterans. Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Steven Goligowski was the featured speaker. LTC Goligowski retired from the Army after serving in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Poland and Bosnia. He currently works for the Texas Veterans Leadership Program in the Texas Workforce Commission.

On August 16th the VETS Center and Army Recruiting Office will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Concho Valley Food Bank!

Join us on Facebook!!!

www.facebook.com/groups/ASUVETS/

Dog Tags to Dollars

The VETS Center and the ASU Career Development office co-hosted a series of employment workshops for student veterans in April. Titled "Dog Tags to Dollars", the workshops taught student veterans skills such as military skills translation, resume and cover letter writing, interview tips, managing the job search and job offers, as well as business etiquette. The workshops were held each Wednesday in April and included a free lunch. Student veterans got a "dog tag" flash drive for attending all 5 workshops.

What is Priority Certification?

Priority Certification is an optional program that allows students who are eligible for VA Education Benefits to be among the first to have their enrollment certifications submitted to VA each term. In order to guarantee that VA education benefits are processed by the time tuition and fees are due for the upcoming terms, and ensure timely delivery of VA payments to the student and the university, students should schedule an appointment for Priority Certification as soon as they are registered for Summer II, and/or Fall 2014. The appointment will take about 20 minutes, and the student's enrollment will be certified to VA before they leave the office. Deadlines for Priority Certification by appointment are:

June 9 for Summer II
July 18 for Fall.

To participate in Priority Certification, students should go to our online calendar and choose an appointment time after they are enrolled in classes for the term(s) to be certified. Our calendar can be found at https://www.angelo.edu/dept/veterans/calendar.php .

During Priority Certification appointments, students will have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have about their benefits, and will be given individual attention in order for our staff to process their file and send it to VA for payment. We are accepting telephone appointments for those who are unable to travel to campus (online students, those living out of town, etc.).

Participation in Priority Certification is optional. Those who do not wish to make an appointment need to submit a Request for Certification of Enrollment and a Statement of Understanding (this is a new form that is required for all students receiving VA Educational Benefits) after they register for classes, and we will process their file in the order it is received. Both forms can be submitted via email, fax, U.S. Mail or in person in the VETS Center.

Walk-in appointments will be conducted on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through July 18, 2014. Please check the VETS Center online calendar for exceptions.

Faculty & Staff Veteran Spotlight

Ms. Betty Thorpe is the office coordinator for Aerospace Studies/ROTC at ASU. She is also an Army veteran, serving 20 years as an Intelligence Analyst, Personnel Administrator, and a Strategic Microwave Radio Repairer. She reached the rank of Master Sergeant/E-8 while serving from 1975 to 1995. Her duty stations include Fort Riley, Kansas; Goodfellow AFB, TX; Stuttgart, Germany; Saudi Arabia; Iraq; Fort Meade, Maryland; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. She has worked for Angelo State for 19 years, working as Acquisitions Librarian, Travel Coordinator and currently as Office and Air Force ROTC Scholarship Coordinator. She earned an Associate's Degree and served in various community organizations such as ASU Staff Senate, School Board member, PTA President, Brownie Girl Scout leader and Sunday school teacher.

Graduation Stoles

For the first time, the VETS Center will present graduating student veterans with a camouflage veteran's stoles. The ASU-blue stoles have camouflaged tips with the official ASU seal and the ASU VETS Center logo on each tip. Veterans' stoles will be presented to student veterans graduating in the Spring 2014. On behalf of the VETS Center, we wish our veteran graduates the best for the future.

Important Dates

6/2/14– First day of Summer I

7/3/14– Last day of Summer I

7/9/14– First day of Summer II

8/8/14– Last day of Summer II

8/16/14-VETS Fundraiser

8/25/14– First day of Fall semester

9/1/14– Labor Day (Campus Closed)

9/2/14– SVO Blood Drive

Veterans Educational and Transitional Services

Angelo State University

ASU Station #11040
San Angelo, TX 76909
University Center, Room 113
Phone: (325)486-VETS (8387)
Fax: (325)942-2080
VETS@angelo.edu

ASU's Veterans Educational and Transitional Services (VETS) Center serves active duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans and their families. We assist students transition to campus by providing academic, social and financial aid support.

From here, it's possible.