Greetings and welcome to the 2013 spring semester!

As we enter into spring the GCC community will share in a new season of growth and opportunities to educate and enrich our lives.

While only my second semester here at GCC, I want to share a couple things that are making my life and experience here very rewarding and fun. Here is a list of five traits I was taught and told would make for a happier life. They have helped me and my hope is in sharing they will help others as well.

1. **Vitality** - Life’s energy which gives the ability for continued growth and powers your effort. Staying active keeps you energized.
2. **Love of learning** - The desire and curiosity to answer inquisitiveness through building your knowledge. In the classroom or in life, answering your questions will continue education.
3. **Creativity** - Be able to let your inhibitions go and try to create or do something new. Be playful about it and do not judge yourself.
4. **Persistence** – The quality to continue on through problems or struggles. Come back and try again, never give up!
5. **Gratitude** – Each day or at least a couple days a week, reflect on the successes in your life. Giving thanks for what you have will help keep you positive.

The Veteran’s Network (VetNet) is also helping me stay connected and focused while working towards my degree. VetNet is committed to veterans, their families and friends of veterans. It is a peer-drive, student life club that concentrates on community service-based activities.

ALL ARE WELCOME to the VETS Center and to join VetNet. The VETS Center is also a safe place for students to meet, study, access computers, have some coffee, or just have a place to sit down and have lunch.

Check VetNet out and learn more about how to get involved. Meetings are every Wednesday at noon but the door is always open!

VetNet is located in room N215 conveniently upstairs from the College Store and down the hall from Student Life.

We look forward to meeting you!

---

**NEW YEAR’S COMMITMENTS**

*From VetNet members*

- **Be Happy. Live large!**
  - JD McCaughey

- **Concentrate more & use ALL my GCC resources.**
  - Cindi Curtis

- **Be Happy. Get healthy mentally & physically and work with veterans to help them adjust to life outside the military and adjust to college life.**
  - SGM Young

- **To rock 5 courses this spring and graduate leaving the college better than when I found it!**
  - Michael Lewis

---

**MLK VETNET SNAPS**
Elizabeth Carlton is a student at GCC and a staunch supporter and ally to the student veterans on campus. She is a Human Service major and a single mom of two. Liz understands the wide range of students here on campus and the diverse resources that are needed to help students stay successful. Student success motivates her and the driving force behind her idea.

As a returning student and student life senator, Elizabeth has learned a big part of being successful is staying on campus as much as possible. “I can’t explain why it’s true but I have seen that whether it be to study, complete homework or just make connections and develop friendships, the more time you spend on campus the more committed you become to your academics.”

Elizabeth knows that being able to eat on campus gives her more time to focus on her academics before she leaves to attend her other responsibilities at home. “Studying and doing homework at home just isn’t realistic with two children.”

So what’s the idea? Elizabeth proposed that students with financial aid could purchase meal cards with their bookstore accounts. Dean Hammond agreed that it was a great idea and put it into motion.

Thanks to Elizabeth’s initiative, meal cards in amounts of $25 can be purchased at the College Store by student with financial aid accounts.

If you have an idea that you believe will make a difference in the lives of students at GCC, seek out your student senators and/or go directly to the Student Life Office for more information.

---

**GOT MORE PENNIES?**

*Small Change making a Big Difference*

The VetNet Student Club has challenged itself again this semester to fill another 5-gallon water jug with pennies. The jug is currently located in the VETS Center, N215 and will be at every fundraising event on campus.

100% of change collected will be donated to Stavros’ Home Sweet Home ramp project.

Last semester, the GCC community filled the water jug with $220.25. All of which supported a local veteran family through the holidays.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSISTENT SUPPORT TO VETNET AND OUR COMMUNITY!**

---

**HOME SWEET HOME**

*STAVROS, Building One Ramp At a Time*

VETNET RAMPS UP FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER!

VETNET will be actively fundraising this semester to support Stavros’ Home Sweet Home ramp project. Currently there is a waiting list (over 50) in Franklin County and nearby communities for folks that are in need of ramps to support their independent living.

VETNET members have committed the spring semester to collaborate and partner with other GCC student life groups to raise money, spread awareness, organize volunteers, work with faculty, identify resources and engage the community to help our neighbors.

There will be many ways to be involved with this project. If you want to engage in a meaningful community service project this semester, please stop by the Channing & Marie Betes Veterans Center, N215 to learn more or go to www.stavros.org

---

**HELP SPREAD SOME LOVE**

*A Valentine’s Day Fundraising Event*

**Home Sweet Home Ramp Project**

VetNet invites the entire community to stop by the CORE Lobby to purchase a heart that will help fill the branches on the Tree of Love.

The Tree of Love will be available all week in the Core Lobby and will be gifted for display at Stavros’ Home Sweet Home office headquarters.

There will be three sizes of hearts to choose from.

- Small – $.50
- Medium - $1.00
- Large - $2.00
- Large Fancy - $5.00

Hearts can be purchased throughout Valentine’s Day Week. Monday, 2/11 – Thursday, 2/14.

---

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Taking an Idea & Making a Difference for Students*

Elizabeth Carlton is a student at GCC and a staunch supporter and ally to the student veterans on campus. She is a Human Service major and a single mom of two. Liz understands the wide range of students here on campus and the diverse resources that are needed to help students stay successful. Student success motivates her and the driving force behind her idea.

As a returning student and student life senator, Elizabeth has learned a big part of being successful is staying on campus as much as possible. “I can’t explain why it’s true but I have seen that whether it be to study, complete homework or just make connections and develop friendships, the more time you spend on campus the more committed you become to your academics.”

Elizabeth knows that being able to eat on campus gives her more time to focus on her academics before she leaves to attend her other responsibilities at home. “Studying and doing homework at home just isn’t realistic with two children.”

So what’s the idea? Elizabeth proposed that students with financial aid could purchase meal cards with their bookstore accounts. Dean Hammond agreed that it was a great idea and put it into motion.

Thanks to Elizabeth’s initiative, meal cards in amounts of $25 can be purchased at the College Store by student with financial aid accounts.

If you have an idea that you believe will make a difference in the lives of students at GCC, seek out your student senators and/or go directly to the Student Life Office for more information.