Greetings and welcome to the fall 2012 semester!

As we move forward into another new and exciting semester here at GCC, I’d like to briefly share with you a little bit about the Veterans Education & Transition Services (VETS) center and VetNet.

The VETS Center is a vital space that has become a home for many veterans, while attracting other GCC students and staff. The center is also equipped with a variety of technical and information resources for everyone’s access. The VetNet organization is a peer-driven Student Life club that sponsors activities and functions to raise awareness and promote best practices on campus for our student veterans. Our ultimate mission is to generate a campus-wide culture that embraces the leadership, discipline and high standards that veterans bring to our campus while translating our military experience to student success.

I am personally excited about the upcoming academic year. Planning has been underway to step up our outreach efforts to student veterans. We have planned two major events for the year that we expect will heighten the awareness of vets on our campus and in our community. This fall, we will be raising money and preparing for a Veterans Appreciation Week in November and in the spring, there will be a week of events to promote Veterans Awareness. Of course, this will all be done with the fun and excitement that VetNet has worked hard at being known for. Although we have ideas about the upcoming semester, we are definitely looking for some new faces and voices to join our efforts.

While we love to have fun, we are also here to support our student veterans and their families in times of trouble. We are here to help the challenging transition veterans face returning not only to civilian life but to school as well. We understand these obstacles as many of us have already faced them. Together, we will help each other through the stress and struggles of being a student and a veteran.

We look forward to another hard-charging year and making GCC VetNet the front-runner in veteran friendly campuses. Please stop by if you are interested in getting involved.

GCC Veterans Network

On the Front Lines of Your Education!

“Also remember that in any man’s dark hour, a pat on the back and an earnest hand clasp may work a small miracle.”

Brigadier-General S.L.A. Marshall

GCC Veterans Education & Transition Services (aka VETS) Center

The GCC VETS Center is the central hub for our veterans programming on campus. The VETS Center is conveniently located in the Main Campus building in the North End Room 215. The space provides a safe haven for veterans the family members and friends of veterans to gather.

If you haven’t already had a chance to stop by, please take some time to check it out. And if you have, feel free to come back anytime. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

VetNet Student Club

VetNet is an official GCC Student Life club and VetNet Meetings are held every Wednesday @ 12:00 p.m. in the VETS Center in N215.

Everyone is welcome to the meetings and any GCC student can join by completing a membership form.

Please stop by the VETS Center for more information.

Check us out: http://web.gcc.mass.edu/veterans
GCC IS ONE TOUGH MUDDER
Will Collins, VetNet Treasurer

The fall semester has finally arrived and with this semester comes the end of my journey with GCC. This experience has been one that I will never forget.

The hardest part of making friends is the possibility of one day having to say good bye. Even now, I reflect on the good times I shared with the community here. An extraordinary experience took place this past summer on July 14, 2012. Members of the Greenfield Community College Vet Net and allies took on a challenge which I haven’t undergone since my years in the Marines. The event was the Tough Mudder at Mt. Snow in West Dover, Vermont. For anyone who is unfamiliar with the Tough Mudder, it is an event that places its competitors up against miles of mud slick trails and formidable obstacles.

Sounds like some insane marathon right? Actually, it’s all about teamwork not individualism. Negotiating this course was tricky business, every hill and obstacle added new trials both mentally and physically. As the course evolved, my team managed to stay together and tackle each barrier one step at a time.

Upon completion of this event I couldn’t help but feel a sense of accomplishment and pride. As I stood there exhausted and reflecting on all I had just overcome, I couldn’t help but notice these same emotions from my teammates.

Completing a challenge on your own is one thing, but doing it as a team is something so much sweeter. This type of achievement is its own reward. Working together as a team allowed me to find something which has been missing from my life for a longtime. This involvement resurrected comradeship and the sense of self-sacrifice. Reliving these virtues has forever woven use together.

I am deeply proud of all the members of Vet Mudders. It has been an absolute honor to have shared this experience with all of them. When I graduate at the end of this semester, I leave GCC with memories I’ll cherish and pursue opportunities with new perspectives.

I would also like to thank Greenfield Community College and Bob Pura for their generosity. With their support, my GCC experience has been nothing short of life-changing.

“The real hero is the man who fights even though he is scared.”
General Patton

A BIG SHOUT OUT!
Making a Difference
To an outstanding professor, who with courage and respect, took the extra time needed to help a student veteran succeed through a very difficult time.

All of us at VetNet want to extend our deep felt appreciation and recognition of Doug Wilkins’ excellence in best practices.

Thank you Doug for being there for all our students!

THE LOOP
Stay Connected
1st Meeting 9.5
Every Wednesday
VetNet Club Meetings
12-12:50 p.m.
VETS Center N215
PIZZA SERVED

9.6
Franklin County Parade
5:00 p.m.
Join the VetNet Contingent

9.12
Student Resources Fair
12:00-1:00 pm
Dining Commons
No VETNET Meeting – everyone encouraged to attend the Resources Fair

9.27 – 9.28
Western Mass Stand-Down 2012
Volunteers & People Power needed to help out our homeless vets and those on the verge of becoming homeless living in Western Mass.

Host Site: Greek Cultural Center in Springfield

Watch this YouTube video to learn more about Stand Downs.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3ZsvRWDLm8

FUNDRAISING

It’s coming soon!

VetNet will be launching a variety of fundraising events during the months leading up to our Main Event this fall: The Veterans Appreciation Week.

Be on the lookout for Bakesales, a 50/50 Raffle, Lottery Tree Raffle, and a Gift Basket Raffle.

All proceeds will support the ongoing activities and events sponsored by VetNet and the VETS Center.

If you are interested in being involved or would like to make contributions, please stop by the VETS Center and catch up with one of the officers or Diane O’Hearn for details.

FINAL JEOPARDY

Final Jeopardy Question
5.25.12, in the category “Military Matters” was:

In 1934 the lease for this place was increased to $4,085 per year; since 1959 the checks haven’t been cashed.

Watch this YouTube video to learn more about Stand Downs.