



VETERAN STUDENT RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

In the 2010–11 academic year, The Office of Veteran Student Services and The Veterans Task Force at Drexel University served another class of student-veterans and their dependents through the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program was made possible through a partnership between the federal government and Drexel. The University matches the government’s contribution to the cost of an education, allowing an unlimited number of eligible military veterans to attend Drexel with no out-of-pocket expenses.

The support of student-veterans has become a campus-wide priority. Every effort has been made to unify and streamline services and support for student-veterans. The Task Force has played a vital role in maintaining highly responsive professional staff in key offices such as admissions, financial aid, academic resources, counseling, disability services and student life to assist student-veterans. And we are proud to report the infrastructure seems to be working: in 2011, Drexel University was named a “Military Friendly School” for the second year in a row by G.I. Jobs, a premier media outlet for “military-transitioners.” This list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students.

This Annual Report will provide additional information about the activities of The Office of Veteran Student Services and The Veterans Task Force in fiscal year 2011. Many thanks to all who have made these important programs and events possible.

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Associate Dean of Students
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CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT



The Veterans Task Force always strives to create a welcoming, inclusive, engaging and respectful campus community for all student-veterans. We are accomplishing this in a variety of ways.

MILITARY TRIBUTES

The Task Force has presented a number of military tributes on campus including Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day events. In 2010–11, Drexel hosted a film screening, reception and panel discussion during Veterans Week. In addition, a letter-writing campaign for soldiers on active duty was orchestrated through Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Task Force.

In May 2011, Drexel hosted a Memorial Day Tribute and BBQ Lunch at the Armory. Dr. Eric Zillmer, Director of Athletics; Rev. Brian Musser, Coordinator of Religious & Spiritual Life; Lieutenant Colonel Maura Gillen, Army ROTC; and 1989 Drexel alumnus Major Drew Techner, who serves as a full-time Casualty Officer for the U.S. Army, led the Tribute. Drexel welcomed residents from The Veterans Group in Powelton Village to join the University community as honored guests and partners in future collaborations.



Dr. Eric Zillmer and his family enjoyed the Memorial Day Tribute with Drexel Trustee Ida Chen. Photo: Vishal Kasliwal



BRIDGING DREXEL AND THE MILITARY

Fostering relationships among those connected to both Drexel and the military has been a key component of our efforts. In addition to recognizing in our commencement ceremonies those students who are receiving their commissions as military officers—something we’ve done since 1922—last year we began recognizing those in the audience and among our faculty and staff who have served, and this year we added a specific recognition of our student-veterans.

The Department of Military Science (Army ROTC) also does its part to keep us apprised of recent alumni



Drexel alumnus, Major Drew Techner '89, at the Memorial Day Tribute
Photo: Vishal Kasliwal



Temporary display at the Creese Student Center featuring works by Poto Leifi



FOR STUDENT-VETERANS



who are deployed, and we worked with staff to send a care package with a Dragon banner and other DU spirit items to Army Captain David Zielinski in Afghanistan. The Military Science Department has been reaching out to ROTC alumni providing opportunities to stay connected, including e-mail to inform them of Drexel's special military tuition rate for all online degree program, and invitations to come back to campus for various events. In conjunction with Alumni Weekend in early May, the Task Force and ROTC combined to connect with many alumni who participated in Army ROTC while at Drexel.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

We continue to make strides through strategic programming designed to stimulate and educate our campus community about military service. In April 2011, the Task Force launched a campaign called, "DU Remembers... Will You?" to generate support for our United States service men and women, especially those who are students, faculty, staff, alumni or our family and friends. Campus members were asked to show support by wearing one of the "DU Remembers... Will You?" wristbands or by wearing red, white and/or blue on Fridays. Wearing the wristband sparks conversation and contributes to a culture of respect and support for our soldiers on campus and in our lives. This campaign created opportunities

to inquire more about friends, family and campus members who have served, and to encourage us to ask questions and discover more about veterans' stories.

During the spring and summer of 2011, University Housing hosted a clothing and essentials drive to benefit The Veterans Group in Powelton Village and The Offices of Equality & Diversity, Drexel Archives and Multicultural Programming co-sponsored the "Dragons' Salute to Service" art and artifacts exhibit at the James E. Marks Intercultural Center. The exhibit featured the work of renowned multimedia illustrator and U.S. Army Corporal Poto Leifi, along with a photographic archival history of veterans on campus past and present. In addition, a special "Lunch and Learn: Supporting Our Veterans" event focused on veteran student services and experiences to promote understanding and support.

MUCH MORE TO COME

The campaign continues and we welcome your support and participation! Stay tuned for the opening of a Veterans' Lounge in November 2011, plans for outreach with veteran alumni and more programming opportunities.

For information, visit www.drexel.edu/yellowribbon or contact Mr. Kerry DiBlasio at knd39@drexel.edu or 215.571.3803.



Wristbands and hangtags distributed as part of the "DU Remembers... Will You?" campaign



Major General Robert Kasulke of the Army Reserve Medical Command administered the oath of office to Drexel Army ROTC members at commissioning. Photo: Vishal Kasliwal



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