



2020
NASPA
SYMPOSIUM ON
MILITARY-CONNECTED
STUDENTS

Dr. David Ross

Affinity Groups and Alumni: Mentoring and Supporting Student Veterans

February 2-4, 2020 | Seattle, WA

Introduction and Overview

- Introduction
- Veterans at Georgia Tech
- Affinity Groups and Alumni
- Focus and Function at Tech
- Discussion



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Veterans at Georgia Tech

- **Who is a Veteran?**
- **Student Veterans and Servicemembers are a diverse group of individuals. They are:**
 - From all branches of the military
 - Range in age, race/ethnicity, and gender
 - Have served during times of war and peace
 - Have different education goals
 - More likely to have families
- **774,464 in the State Georgia**
 - 32,000 using education benefits in GA



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Veterans at Georgia Tech

Veterans on Campus

- **Total Students – 235**
 - Undergrad – 100
 - Grad – 135
 - Online Computer Science – 512
- **Faculty/Staff**
 - Reported to be approximately 300



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Transition to College Life

Transition Strengths

- Student Veterans on campus bring a unique perspective
 - *Military training*
 - *Life experience*
 - *Established identity*
 - *Worldly view*
- Military training may help students be successful
 - *Leadership*
 - *Motivation*
 - *Time Management*
 - *Work Ethic*
 - *Stress Management*



Addressing the Needs

- **Basic Needs**

- The need for safety and security
- The need for a certain amount of power over our environment
- The sense of identity
- Fundamental need to belong
- Privacy about military status



Addressing the Needs

- **Ultimate Needs**
 - Support With GI Bill/VA
 - Networking With Others
 - Opportunity For Employment
 - Degree Completion
 - Military Friendly
vs Military Helpful



Affinity Groups and Alumni

- **Georgia Tech Military Affinity Group**
 - Alumni and friends share expertise
 - Network among alumni with similar interests
 - Can be alumni or anyone wanting to support veterans at Tech



Affinity Groups and Alumni

- Georgia Tech Military Affinity Group
 - Support for student veterans:
 - Mentoring
 - Scholarships
 - Networking



Military Helpful Approaches

- **Function and Focus**
 - Engage
 - Transition to Tech
 - Enable
 - Access to:
 - Benefits
 - Resources
 - Employ
 - Facilitate Readiness



Function and Focus

- Engage -- Easing transition
 - Orientation to Campus
 - One Stop for Information (FASET)
 - Registrar
 - Bursar
 - Financial Aid
 - Other Student Veterans
 - Alumni
 - Orientation Courses
 - Meet Other Students
 - Information
 - Traditions



Function and Focus

- Engage -- Easing transition
 - Mentoring and Student Connection
 - Student Veteran Organization
 - Meet and Greet / Student Group Meetings
 - Alumni Mentoring



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Function and Focus

- **Enable -- Access**
 - Support and connecting students with campus services
 - Information about benefits
 - Veterans Administration
 - DAV
 - Alumni Advice
 - Community Partners



Function and Focus

- **Employment -- Facilitating Readiness**
 - Resume
 - Alumni Mentoring
 - Career Services
 - Connections with Corporations and Companies
 - Google
 - Microsoft
 - Internships
 - [FourBlock](#)



Atlanta Veterans Day Parade

- Atlanta Veterans Day Parade



Atlanta Veterans Day Parade



FourBlock



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Graduation Stoles



Student Veterans Fall Reception



Discussion and Questions



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Contact Information

Georgia Tech Veterans Resource Center
353 Ferst Drive, Room 115B
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

David A. Ross

- Phone: 404-385-2067
- Email: david.ross@studentlife.gatech.edu



Website: <http://veterans.gatech.edu>



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Accessibility Guidelines for Presenters

- Be aware that when presenting to an audience which may include people with visual, learning, and cognitive disabilities that all visuals need to be described verbally.
- It is helpful for you to upload your presentation or handouts ahead of time. You will receive a link to upload your presentation as we get closer to the conference.
- Provide handouts in accessible electronic format.
- Speak slowly and clearly and re-voice questions before answering them.



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Tips for PowerPoint Presentations

- Use a sans serif font that is at least 22 pt. (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Verdana)
- A light colored background with dark text is preferred.
- Use a plain background without any watermark, photo, or design behind the text.
- Avoid long sentences. As a rule of thumb, 1 slide for every 2 minutes of speaking time.
- Photographs, images, clip art, graphics, maps, and charts cannot be read by screen readers and should have an Alt Text description embedded in them, and need to be verbally described during the presentation.



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets



Questions?

Should you have any questions, please reach out to
Jake Frasier, associate director of professional development – jfrasier@naspa.org



#SMCS20

@NASPAtweets

