Mission

The mission of the St. John’s University Veterans Success Center (SJUVSC) is to support student veterans at St. John’s University in their pursuit of higher education. The Center will assist student veterans in successfully transitioning from military service to University life through networking opportunities, resources, community service, and advocacy. The SJUSVC aims to foster an environment honoring military service and improving the quality of their University experience.

Top Five Pillars

- Academics
- Career
- Leadership & Transition
- Service
- Graduation

Veterans Success Center Opens its Doors on 2-4-15
SJU SVA Welcome Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sll9E0d936w
## SJU Student Veteran Counts by Type and College

### Fall 2015

### Veterans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Professional Studies</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy &amp; Health Science</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Tobin College of Business</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>276</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL VETERANS** 335

### DEPENDENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Professional Studies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy &amp; Health Science</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Tobin College of Business</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL DEPENDENT** 38

**Total Veterans** 373
Resources and Services

• Academic Advisement
• Academic Liaison in each College Office
• Campus Ministry
• Career Counseling “Military to Civilian Resume”
• Disabled Student Services
• Financial Services
• Library Assistance
• Lounge Space
• Mental Health and Wellness
• New Student Veteran Orientation
• Peer Mentoring
• SALUTE – National Honor Society for Student Veterans
• Student Veterans Association
• Tutoring
• VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
• VITAL - Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership Program
• Website
• Writing Assistance
Key Stakeholders to the Veterans Success Center

Veteran Affairs Bronx & NYC Office
Admissions Office
University Freshman Center
Dean’s & College Offices
Campus Ministry
Center for Counseling and Consultation
Off Campus Housing
Office of Community Relations
Office of the Provost
University Freshman Center
ROTC

Student Affairs
Student Financial Services
Transfer Student Services
University Library
University Career Services
Center for Psychological Services
Office of Human Resources
Information Technology
Writing Center
Mayor’s Office | Veteran Affairs
Veterans Integration To Academic Leadership is VA’s approach to reaching out to student Veterans to help facilitate the transition from Soldier to student.

What the VITAL Program Offers our Veterans:

• Free tutoring through Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Peer Mentoring
• VA Work Study opportunities (6 new positions that were recently approved for SJU)
• Counseling and ongoing treatment for readjustment, stress, anger, depression, anxiety and sleep problems.
• Refer and work with the university to request academic accommodations.
• Coping strategies for classroom difficulties -- attention, concentration, restlessness.
• Assist with enrollment and care at VA New York Harbor Healthcare System.
• Obtain help and resources from within the VA and its affiliates including Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
VA | Vital Program

• CUNY Hunter College
• CUNY York College
• CUNY Bronx Community College
• Columbia University
• New York University
• St. John's University (approved August 2015)
Accomplishments Since Fall 2013

Developed a Student Veterans Association under Student Affairs
(Student Engagement Fall 2013)

Joined “Student Veterans of America” Network

Liaison in each College and Key Support Areas
(Financial Services, UFC, Univ Career Services, Campus Ministry Chaplain)

Host September and January – New VETERAN Orientation Program

End of the Year Celebration with Keynote Speaker, Commissioner Holliday from the Office of the Mayor, Veteran Services Area.

SJU has been named a Military Veteran College Campus (Summer 2013)

Executive Board attended an appreciation breakfast on Veterans Day at Gracie Mansion

SALUTE, National Honor Society for Student Veterans
Programming

Veteran Faculty Members
Advisement, Tutoring, and Mentorship

Veteran Affairs
VITAL Program, weekly resource, and individualized appointments

Collaboration with ROTC
Fitness Programs, Social Outings, Veterans and End of Year Celebration

Information Technology
Blackboard, Microsoft Office, SJCentral, UIS

University Library
How to utilize University Resources, Research, e-books, weekly support to the Center

University Career Services
Resume, Branding, Linked In, Interviewing Techniques
## Sample Programming Model

### Career Services
- University Career Fair
- Branding & Networking Workshop
- Just In Time Fair
- Resume Workshop
- Non Profit and Government Career Fair

### Social & School Spirit
- Activity Fair
- SVA Silent Auction and Bake Sale
- Women’s Basketball Military
- Appreciation Night with ROTC
- SJU Suffolk County Veteran Marathon
- SVA fully supports Commuter Programming
- NY Yankee Game

### Academic
- Library Research
- Tutoring
  - (Math, English, Physics, and Writing)
- Study Abroad Information Session
- Title IX Training
- Library Workshop: MLA and APA.

### Service
- University Service Day “Vets Helping Vets”
- Midnight Runs
- Relay For Life
- Friday’s In the Kitchen
First Annual SVA Welcome BBQ

Some Photos from Fall 2015

University Service Day

New Student Veteran Orientation, Aug. 2015
SUMMER & FALL 2015 Outreach Goals:

• Creating SJU Website (www.stjohns.edu/veterans)
  • http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/academic-resources/veterans-success-center
• Article appeared in President ‘s Inaugural Newsletter about our Veterans and Center
• Alumni and SJU Community Outreach
• Human Resources | Department Showcase
• Center for Teaching and Learning | Best Practices in Veteran Affairs
• Presenting at Various College Faculty Council Meetings
• Collaboration with the VA | VITAL Programming
• Creating a “Veterans Appreciation Week”
• Veteran Only Classes this Fall in the College of Professional Studies I
  • Fall: Theology and Philosophy
  • Spring: Math and Physics
• Increasing Service Opportunities for our Student Veterans
University Accomplishments from 2014

In Fall 2014, SJU just joined 1,739 Colleges and Universities as a MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

- Degree Type
- Flexibility
- Location
- Areas of Study

St. John's University was ranked #31 for Best Online Graduate Business Programs for Veterans

St. John's University was ranked #34 in the list of Best Online Bachelor’s Programs for Veterans

St. John’s University was ranked #43 in the category of Best Online Graduate Education Programs for Veterans
Guest Speakers

Importance of Faculty Involvement “Best Practices in the Classroom

- Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi – Professor, School of Education & Veteran Academic Advisor

Career Services Role with VSC

- Daisy Saldana – Career Advisor, University Career Services

Reflections on SJU and the SVA

- Mark deVera – Vice President of SVA
- Brendan McKeivitt – Treasurer of SVA
USD NY 1 – Vets helping Vets

Veteran’s Day

Volunteer Opportunity: They served us, let’s serve them!

If interested in volunteering, please email me directly at Pelkowsm@stjohns.edu