

# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

**2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO**

**GOVERNOR ROBERT McDONNELL**

**AND**

**THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE**

**VIRGINIA MILITARY SURVIVORS  
AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**October 1, 2012**



*Serving those who served.*

**Department of Veterans Services  
2012 Annual Report on the  
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program**

**Background**

Under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), tuition and required fees are waived at Virginia public colleges and universities for the qualified survivors and dependents of certain military service members. Through the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund (VMSDEF), a stipend is provided to offset the costs of room, board, books, and supplies. The amount of the stipend is determined by the Virginia General Assembly, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the availability of Commonwealth general funds.

*A qualified survivor and dependent* is defined as the spouse, or child between the ages of 16 and 29, of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or Virginia National Guard Reserve, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941, was killed or is missing in action or is a prisoner of war, or of a veteran who, due to such service, has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent disabled, and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Domiciliary requirements also apply and are detailed in the Code of Virginia.

As required by the Code, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services must report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program. The report must include the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.

**Information Dissemination**

As in the past, DVS continued to review all new rating decisions for Virginia veterans promulgated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Roanoke Regional Office. In Fiscal Year 2012, approximately 1,522 veterans were identified whose period of service and level of disability met VMSDEP requirements, making their spouse and qualifying children potentially eligible for VMSDEP and VMSDEF benefits. DVS has notified the veterans and offered assistance with the VMSDEP application process.

## **Current Beneficiaries and Institutions Attended**

A total of 994 unique students used VMSDEP benefits during the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters. This represents a 2.7 percent increase over the number of unique students using VMSDEP benefits in 2010-11. Of these 1,004 students, 399 (40 percent) attended a four-year institution, while 605 (60 percent) attended a two-year college or community college.

Of the four-year institutions, Old Dominion University had the highest participation (83 students), followed by Virginia Commonwealth University with 64 students. Tidewater Community College led all schools with 187 students. Thomas Nelson Community College was second among community colleges with 50 students.

Eighteen students used VMSDEP benefits during the 2011 Summer session. Nine attended Old Dominion University, five attended Norfolk State University, and the remaining students attended James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Radford University, and Virginia Tech.

Detailed information is presented in Appendix A. A comparison of participants during 2010-11 and 2011-12 is presented in Appendix B.

## **Completion Rates**

The Department of Veterans Services continues to work with the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to track each student's eligibility and use of benefits. Students, as well as institutions, are advised accordingly. DVS continues to provide SCHEV with updated eligibility reports

**APPENDIX A**  
**Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program**  
**2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**

	Fall 2011		Spring 2012		Total		Summer 2011	
	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Unique #	Dollars	Number	Dollars
<b>Four-Year Publics</b>								
Christopher Newport University	12	9,000	11	8,250	12	17,250	0	0
College of William and Mary	2	1,500	2	1,500	2	3,000	0	0
George Mason University	25	17,500	20	14,000	27	31,500	0	0
James Madison University	17	12,500	16	12,000	18	24,500	1	645
Longwood University	10	7,250	12	8,500	12	15,750	0	0
Norfolk State University	35	24,500	30	21,045	37	45,545	5	1,505
Old Dominion University	83	59,750	81	59,250	95	119,000	9	3,655
Radford University	25	18,250	23	16,750	27	35,000	1	645
University of Mary Washington	7	5,000	7	4,500	8	9,500	0	0
University of Virginia	11	8,250	11	8,250	12	16,500	0	0
University of Virginia's College at Wise	9	6,750	7	5,250	10	12,000	0	0
Virginia Commonwealth University	64	46,000	58	41,250	71	87,250	1	215
Virginia Military Institute	2	1,500	2	1,500	2	3,000	0	0
Virginia State University	35	25,250	31	22,750	39	48,000	0	0
Virginia Tech	25	18,250	20	14,500	27	32,750	1	430
Four-Year Public total	362	\$261,250	331	\$239,295	399	\$500,545	18	\$7,095
<b>Two-Year Publics</b>								
Richard Bland College	3	2,250	5	3,750	5	6,000	0	0
Two-Year Public total	3	\$2,250	5	\$3,750	5	\$6,000	0	\$0

**Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program  
2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**

	Fall 2011		Spring 2012		Total		Summer 2011	
	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Unique #	Dollars	Number	Dollars
<b>Community Colleges</b>								
Blue Ridge Community College	6	3,500	9	5,500	10	9,000	2	860
Central Virginia Community College	14	9,500	12	8,000	16	17,500	1	215
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danville Community College	3	2,250	3	2,000	4	4,250	0	0
Eastern Shore Community College	0	0	1	500	1	500	0	0
Germanna Community College	17	10,000	17	10,250	23	20,250	1	430
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	17	10,750	13	9,250	20	20,000	4	2,150
John Tyler Community College	28	17,000	23	14,000	31	31,000	6	2,580
Lord Fairfax Community College	10	6,000	8	4,750	11	10,750	3	860
Mountain Empire Community College	21	15,500	19	12,500	25	28,000	1	215
New River Community College	10	6,250	9	5,500	11	11,750	0	0
Northern Virginia Community College	42	23,500	37	21,000	52	44,500	7	3,440
Patrick Henry Community College	6	4,250	7	5,250	7	9,500	1	645
Paul D. Camp Community College	10	6,250	7	4,000	11	10,250	0	0
Piedmont Virginia Community College	7	4,500	8	5,250	10	9,750	0	0
Rappahannock Community College	4	2,750	6	3,750	6	6,500	0	0
Southside Virginia Community College	3	2,000	5	2,750	5	4,750	1	430
Southwest Virginia Community College	14	10,250	12	8,250	17	18,500	1	645
Thomas Nelson Community College	50	30,750	45	27,000	59	57,750	5	2,365
Tidewater Community College	187	121,500	180	109,909	230	231,409	39	12,900
Virginia Highlands Community College	12	7,750	9	5,500	13	13,250	2	645
Virginia Western Community College	30	20,500	30	19,500	35	40,000	1	430
Wytheville Community College	7	4,500	6	3,750	7	8,250	1	645
Community College total	498	\$319,250	466	\$288,159	600	\$607,409	76	\$29,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>\$582,750</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>\$531,204</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>\$1,113,954</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>\$36,550</b>

**Notes:**

The \$36,550 paid for Summer 2011 awards were paid out of both 2010-11 and 2011-12 funds.  
\$3,224 of the 2011-12 appropriation was used to cover Summer 2011 awards disbursed after June 30, 2011.

**Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program  
2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**

Term award amounts	
Full-time enrollment	\$750
Half-time enrollment	\$500
Less than Half-time enrollment	\$250

Source: SCHEV

**APPENDIX B**  
**Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**  
**2010-2011 and 2011-2012**

	2010-11 Total		2011-12 Total	
	Unique #	Dollars	Unique #	Dollars
<b>Four-Year Publics</b>				
Christopher Newport University	11	13,975	12	17,250
College of William and Mary	10	12,255	2	3,000
George Mason University	29	32,895	27	31,500
James Madison University	22	22,790	18	24,500
Longwood University	11	12,255	12	15,750
Norfolk State University	43	45,688	37	45,545
Old Dominion University	95	96,965	95	119,000
Radford University	23	25,370	27	35,000
University of Mary Washington	9	9,460	8	9,500
University of Virginia	11	13,115	12	16,500
University of Virginia's College at Wise	8	8,771	10	12,000
Virginia Commonwealth University	67	71,380	71	87,250
Virginia Military Institute	5	5,805	2	3,000
Virginia State University	39	46,225	39	48,000
Virginia Tech	28	34,185	27	32,750
<b>Four-Year Public total</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>\$451,134</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>\$500,545</b>
<b>Two-Year Publics</b>				
Richard Bland College	5	4,945		
<b>Two-Year Public total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$4,945</b>		
<b>Community Colleges</b>				
Blue Ridge Community College	15	12,685	10	9,000
Central Virginia Community College	17	13,330	16	17,500
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College	0	0	0	0
Danville Community College	5	3,655	4	4,250
Eastern Shore Community College	1	1,075	1	500
Germanna Community College	23	19,995	23	20,250
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	15	13,330	20	20,000
John Tyler Community College	34	30,745	31	31,000
Lord Fairfax Community College	10	8,385	11	10,750
Mountain Empire Community College	28	26,015	25	28,000
New River Community College	9	6,020	11	11,750
Northern Virginia Community College	45	38,700	52	44,500
Patrick Henry Community College	7	6,020	7	9,500
Paul D. Camp Community College	5	4,515	11	10,250
Piedmont Virginia Community College	6	5,160	10	9,750
Rappahannock Community College	6	4,730	6	6,500

**Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded  
2010-2011 and 2011-2012**

	2010-11 Total		2011-12 Total	
	Unique #	Dollars	Unique #	Dollars
Southside Virginia Community College	10	8,815	5	4,750
Southwest Virginia Community College	19	19,780	17	18,500
Thomas Nelson Community College	53	41,065	59	57,750
Tidewater Community College	207	191,135	230	231,409
Virginia Highlands Community College	13	11,395	13	13,250
Virginia Western Community College	31	24,510	35	40,000
Wytheville Community College	9	8,170	7	8,250
Community College total	567	\$499,230	600	\$607,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>\$955,309</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>\$1,113,954</b>

Source: SCHEV



## APPENDIX C

Code of Virginia, § [23-7.4:1A](#)

§ [23-7.4:1](#). Waiver of tuition and certain charges and fees for eligible children and spouses of certain military service members, eligible children and spouses of certain public safety personnel, and certain foreign students.

A. There is hereby established the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program. Qualified survivors and dependents of military service members, who have been admitted to any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia, upon certification to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services of eligibility under this subsection, shall be admitted free of tuition and all required fees.

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program shall be implemented pursuant to the following:

1. For the purposes of this subsection, "qualified survivors and dependents" means the spouse or a child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or Virginia National Guard Reserve, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941, was killed or is missing in action or is a prisoner of war, or of a veteran who, due to such service, has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90percent disabled, and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. However, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services may certify dependents above the age of 29 in those cases in which extenuating circumstances prevented the dependent child from using his benefits before the age of 30.

2. Such qualified survivors and dependents shall be eligible for the benefits conferred by this subsection if the military service member who was killed, is missing in action, is a prisoner of war, or is disabled (i) was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia at the time of entering such active military service or called to active duty as a member of the Armed Forces Reserves or Virginia National Guard Reserve; (ii) is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such qualified survivor or dependent for admission to such institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution; (iii) if deceased, was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia on the date of his death and had been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to his death; (iv) in the case of a qualified child, is deceased and the surviving parent had been, at some time previous to marrying the deceased parent, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such child; or (v) in the case of a qualified spouse, is deceased and the surviving spouse had been, at some time previous to

marrying the deceased spouse, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by such qualified spouse.

3. From such funds as may be appropriated and from such gifts, bequests and any gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources, there is hereby established the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance for board and room charges, books and supplies, and other expenses at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the use and benefit of qualified survivors and dependents.

Each year, from the funds available in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and its member institutions shall determine the amount and the manner in which financial assistance shall be made available to beneficiaries and shall make that information available to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services for distribution.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall be responsible for disbursing to the institutions the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Commonwealth of Virginia to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund and shall report to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services the beneficiaries' completion rate.

The maximum amount to be expended for each such survivor or dependent pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed, when combined with any other form of scholarship, grant, or waiver, the actual costs related to the survivor's or dependent's educational expenses allowed under this subsection.

4. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall designate a senior-level official who shall be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy for disseminating information about the Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to those spouses and dependents who may qualify. The Department of Veterans Services shall coordinate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to identify veterans and qualified survivors and dependents. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly as to the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program. The report shall also include the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.