



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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RICHMOND, VA 23219

*Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fleet Reserve Association
Korean War Veterans
Association
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Officers Association
of America
Military Order of the
World Wars
National Association for
Uniformed Services
Navy Seabee Veterans of
America
Non-Commissioned
Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans
Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National
Guard Enlisted
Association
Virginia National Guard
Association
Women Marines Association*

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Position Paper 2016-08 VCCS Veterans Advisors and Resource Centers

- 1. Objective:** To help veterans achieve success on Virginia Community College System campuses by establishing dedicated Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers to coordinate and centralize campus support.
- 2. Background:** Virginia has the fastest growing veteran population in the nation, the largest percentage of veterans under the age of twenty-five, and the highest percentage of veterans in the working-age population. One of the most valuable workforce development tools for these veterans is the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).
- 3. Discussion:**
 - a. In order to facilitate a smooth transition from military service to education and employment, dedicated veterans advisors and resource centers should be placed on VCCS campuses.
 - b. At present, veteran advisory services are neither consistently offered nor uniformly measured on VCCS campuses.
 - c. Dedicated veteran advisors would provide comprehensive and intensive enrollment and advising services to current and prospective students.
 - d. Veterans resource centers would:
 - i. Provide access to federal and state veterans resources;
 - ii. Serve as a quiet place for veterans to study;
 - iii. Enable veterans to connect to other veterans, helping them renew the bonds of military service; and
 - iv. Be the central hub for all veteran-related activities on campus.
- 4. Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate the funding necessary to establish dedicated Veteran Advisors and Resource Centers on Virginia Community College System campuses to coordinate and centralize campus efforts to aid veterans in transitioning from military service and achieving success on campus.