



## Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee Senate Bill 143 | February 21, 2017

Senate Bill 143 directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to develop an overall campus veteran program for state universities and community colleges that includes a campus veteran resource center and a campus veteran coordinator. The program would distribute grants to establish a campus program or to expand and enhance an existing program. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs would administer and award the grants, and provide training and technical assistance.

### Background

The purpose of the campus veteran program is to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college by completing educational goals, and then transition from college to the workforce and community. The program is implemented through a grant program and grant application process.

Six state universities currently have veteran resource centers; three have a full-time veteran resource coordinator and three have a part-time coordinator. Oregon Institute of Technology is the only university with no veteran center or coordinator.

Currently, there are 17 Oregon community colleges.

- Two community colleges, Portland C.C and Clackamas C.C., have veteran resource centers (PCC has centers on three of its four campuses) and full-time veteran coordinators.
- Three community colleges, Central Oregon C.C., Lane C.C. and Linn-Benton C.C. have a veteran resource center but do not have a veteran resource coordinator.
- One community college, Chemeketa C.C, has a full-time veteran coordinator, but no veteran resource center.
- Nine community colleges have no centers or coordinators.

### Implementation

The Legislature would determine the amount of the grants to be distributed to the community colleges and universities. If the Legislature funded grants totaling \$1 million to \$2 million, ODVA anticipates the need for one FTE, a Campus Veteran Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will develop and administer the grant program, award grants and maintain reports, provide training to veteran coordinators and staff, provide technical assistance in establishing programs, and provide best practices and networking for coordinators. The fiscal impact, including personal services and services and supplies is \$239,000 for the biennium.

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**State of Oregon Community Colleges and Universities | Fall 2016**  
**“Certified” Student Veterans, Campus Resource Centers, Campus Coordinators**

	<b>Universities</b>	<b>Vets Certified Dec. 2016*</b>	<b>Approximate # Veterans* (total)</b>	<b>Veteran Center</b>	<b>Veteran Coordinator</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	Oregon State University	801	1,041	YES	YES	Enrolls over 1,000 veteran students/family members.. Veterans lounge in the Memorial Union. Veterans resource Center in Snell Hall. Full time coordinator.
2.	Portland State University	782	1,016	YES	YES	Full-time director and office manager and three VA federal work-study students who support the transition from “rucksack to backpack.”
3.	University of Oregon	370	481	YES	Part-time	Center has four computers, free printing. Coordinator is a graduate employee at .49 FTE during fall winter and spring. Student workers keep the center open. Peer Advisors For Veteran Education program pairs new veterans with returning veterans. Half-day New Student Veteran orientation throughout the year.
4.	Oregon Institute of Technology	141	183	NO	NO	Veteran support services embedded into student services programs. Veterans lounge. O IT ranked #2 for Best West Colleges for Veterans by US News & World Report.
5.	Southern Oregon University	133	173	YES	Part-time	Center has five computers and printer. Part-time veteran’s coordinator is also certifying official. Employ six student veterans. Regular lunches for new veterans. Peer support and a free tutor. Resources for veterans and dependents.
6.	Western Oregon University	128	166	YES	YES	Veterans Success Center, veterans only parking, free MacBook rental, free printing, free storage lockers, study rooms, lounge area, Internet access etc. Memorial Day Banquet, new student orientation, monthly newsletter, campus outreach. Onsite county and state resources.
7.	Eastern Oregon University	92	120	YES	Part-time	Center is a student lounge; computer access. .5 FTE coordinator assists veterans face academic struggles. Free, intro Humanities class taught by a veteran for veterans: “When Two Worlds Collide.”
8.	OHSU	51	66	NO	NO	

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	<b>Community Colleges</b>	<b>Vets Certified Dec 2016*</b>	<b>Approximate # Veterans* (total)</b>	<b>Veteran Center</b>	<b>Veteran Coordinator</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	Portland CC (4 campuses)	1,073	1,394			PCC has approximately 1,400 veterans.
	PCC: Sylvania			YES	YES	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Full-time veteran coordinator.
	PCC: Rock Creek			YES	YES	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Full-time veteran coordinator.
	PCC: Cascade			YES	YES	Center has computer stations, printing, work/study opportunities, meetings, activities, social events and safe space to study/relax. Part-time veteran coordinator.
	PCC: Southeast			NO	NO	
2.	Central Oregon Community College	494	642	YES	NO	A place for veterans to relax, connect with other vets, discuss resources and to have a dedicated place. No coordinator.
3.	Lane Community College	337	438	YES	NO	Center offers PC and Mac computer stations, Internet access Wi-Fi and printer. Lounge study area, notebook computer loan program, and coffee.
4.	Rogue Community College	236	307	NO	NO	
5.	Chemeketa Community College	226	293	NO	YES	Coordinator develops a number of events for veterans and assists with resources.
6.	Mt Hood Community College	209	272	NO	NO	
7.	Clackamas Community College	202	262	YES	YES	Veteran’s coordinator also a certifying official, but primary duties are as coordinator. Second person is primarily certifying official.
8.	Linn-Benton Community College	202	262	YES	NO	Veterans Club began 2010, 30-50 members. Offers mentoring/camaraderie. Physical location spring 2016. No coordinator—volunteer veteran/ faculty advisor.
9.	Umpqua Community College	97	126	NO	NO	

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### “Certified” Student Veterans, Campus Resource Centers, Campus Coordinators

10.	Treasure Valley CC	78	102	NO	NO	
11.	Klamath CC	77	100	NO	NO	
12.	Southwestern Oregon CC	57	74	NO	NO	
13.	Clatsop CC	39	51	NO	NO	
14.	Blue Mountain CC	37	48	NO	NO	
15.	Tillamook Bay CC	11	14	NO	NO	
16.	Columbia Gorge CC	3	4	NO	NO	
17.	Oregon Coast CC	0	0	NO	NO	
	TOTAL CERTIFIED DECEMBER 2016	3,378	4,389			

**\* Notes:**

- **Numbers of certified and approximate # veterans (total).** The numbers of certified veterans was provided to ODVA by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and are based on students certified for Federal VA educational benefits as of Fall quarter 2016.
- **“Certified”** veterans are those who are drawing a Federal VA Education benefit. This does not reflect all veterans and could include dependents. There were 3,378 certified veterans in attending universities and community colleges in Oregon in December 2016. The total number of all veterans and dependents Federal VA educational benefits at universities, community colleges, trade schools and vocational schools was 5,876.
- **“Approximate Total # Veterans.”** It is difficult to estimate the number of veterans who are attending community colleges and universities in Oregon who are not receiving Federal VA educational benefits because the students are not “certified” and therefore not tracked. A rough estimate may be based on information from Portland Community College, stating that 1,073 veterans are certified; however, the college states that they serve approximately 1,400 veterans. *Therefore, the approximate number of total veterans is the number of certified veterans times a factor of 1.3.*

**Summary:**

- Six state universities, have a campus veteran resource center and a campus veteran coordinator. These six campuses include: Oregon State University, Portland State University, University of Oregon, Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University.
- Portland C.C. (on three of its four campuses) and Clackamas C.C. have both a veteran resource center and a veteran coordinator. Three community colleges, Central Oregon C.C., Lane C.C. and Linn-Benton C.C. have a veteran center but do not have a veteran resource coordinator. Chemeketa Community College has a veteran resource coordinator, but no veteran center.