

Cultivating a Military Engaged Campus Community



Veteran Services

University of Nevada, Reno

University of Nevada, Reno Veteran Services

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Overview of the Training

- UNR Demographics
- Campus climate 2023
- VET SMART
- Veteran Support Team



Opening Question

- Are there any veterans in the room?
- Are there any spouses of veterans in the room?
- Are there any family member of veterans in the room?
- Does anyone in the room have family members or close friends that are veterans?

UNR Demographics

- University of Nevada, Reno
 - 20K undergraduate and graduate
 - Tier 1 Carnegie® research university
- Veteran Services
 - 700 VA Certifications
 - 1,200 veterans on campus
 - Two full-time staff, 10 VA workstudies
 - Two locations
 - Housed in Provost Office



2023 Climate Survey

Goals:

- Understand the impact the department efforts on assisting prior military in transitioning to higher education and cultivating a sense of belonging.
- Receive anonymous feedback, recommendations and observations on current programs to influence future programs and outreach efforts.
- Compare data from the 2018 survey to the 2023 survey to understand how the student veteran experience has evolved at UNR.



2023 Climate Survey

Assessment Method:

- A survey was developed and emailed to all students with whom are registered with the Veteran Services office.
 - Students which completed the survey were included in a daily raffle, and prizes included gaming head-sets, walkie-talkies, and a Roomba vacuum. Additionally, all survey respondents received a pair of Bomba socks for their valued input. All raffle prizes and socks were donated
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- Response Rate:17.26%
 - 1.53% Active Duty
 - 21.27% Guard/ Reservist
 - 54.96% Veteran
 - 22.14% Family member



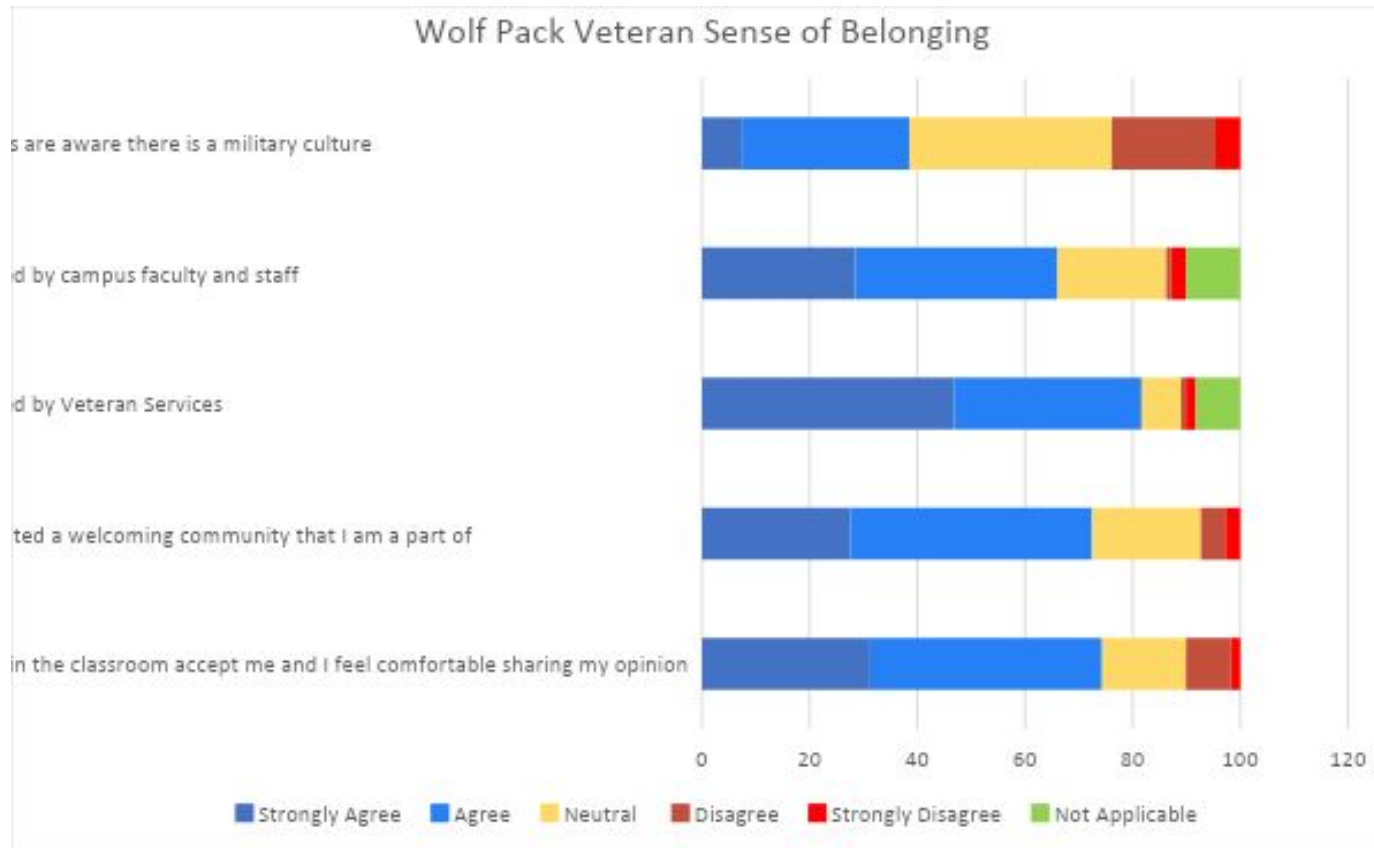
2023 Climate Survey

- Climate Survey Highlights:
 - 91% strongly agree or agree would recommend the University of Nevada, Reno to someone with prior military experience
 - 82% strongly agree or agree feel supported by Veteran Services
 - 74% strongly agree or agree that faculty, staff and students in the classroom accept them and feel comfortable sharing opinions
 - 66% strongly agree or agree supported by campus faculty and staff



Sense of Belonging

The Veterans and Military Center continue to be a space for students to connect based on a shared experience, but sharing these experiences in the classroom have room for growth in order to expand the sense of belonging on campus outside Veteran Services.



VET SMART Training

- Average of 3 a term – campus wide, academic department, student service.
- Include a student voice and perspective
- 60 and 30 minute version available
- Start the session the with the question
- Personalized for department needs
 - Family members for Residence Halls
 - Academic advisors
 - Presented for the City of Reno and Downtown Reno Partnership



VET SMART Training

- Creates awareness of Potential Challenges
 - With transition from the military to academic environment
- Cultural Changes
 - Classroom Environments
 - Communication and Writing styles
- Best Practices of working with Military Connected students



VET SMART Outline

- Topics can include
 - Military and career bio
 - Who and what is a veteran, the intersectionalities
 - Political stereotypes and Military Commitment
 - Potential Barriers for Academic Success
 - Working with National Guard Students
 - Cultural Difference
 - Appropriate and Inappropriate Questions
 - Community Resources



Veteran Support Team

- Rationale for starting the group
- Outreach
- Purpose of the Team
 - Expand the Military Connected campus community
 - Develop a sense of belonging for the military connected students



Veteran Support Team Success

- Number of participants
- Challenges
 - Staff turnover
 - Staff workload
 - Schedules
 - No funding
- Successes
 - Expanding student veteran support
 - outside the department
 - New faculty orientation
 - Socials
 - Affinity Group



Questions/Comments

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