

Veteran's Drop-In Center
Western Connecticut State University
Danbury, Connecticut
Supported by the Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield
GFWC-CT
September 2009

After months of planning and fund-raising, the Veteran's Drop-In Center is nearing completion. Over one hundred men and women veterans will be enrolled at WCSU this year.

The administration of Western Connecticut State University convened a Task Force last Fall to determine ways in which the University could best meet the needs of the student veteran who may have little in common with the average undergraduate. This veteran has typically spent years in the service of our country and may be the first in his family to attend college. Many have seen combat and some carry the physical and psychological effects of that experience.

Members of the Task Force have:

- sponsored a Veterans' Day Memorial Service last November
- published a compendium of University contacts for use by student veterans
- held a luncheon for veterans to meet with Dr. Schmotter (University President) and Dr. Bernstein (VP of Student Affairs) to express their concerns
- conducted a writing symposium for students to work with the author of "Jarhead" and read their own writing in a public arena
- have begun to establish a website for veterans

The Task Force is currently focused on furnishing a room on campus where veterans can meet and share experiences, view postings of vital information, and learn updates on benefits. Since veterans want to "blend" so much with other students and put their military experiences behind them, their identity is often not known to other vets. A room such as this will continue to build upon the supportive fellowship experiences that these student veterans experienced in the military. The soft opening of this room will be in early September 2009. The formal dedication and ribbon cutting is scheduled to coincide with the campus commemoration of Veterans' Day on November 11.

The room is currently outfitted with study cubicles, comfortable seating, computers and a small coffee and snack center. Since the room is brand new, a wide range of office supply products are needed. A specific list includes: an electric pencil sharpener, 4-6 staplers, assorted clear tapes/dispensers, 4-6 scissors, computer paper, 4 desk top pencil holders, coffee cups and napkins, push-pins, highlighters, pens, and pencils.

We hope that your business can help.
Sincerely yours,

Paula West
Task Force Member
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