



STUDENTS TAKING A BREAK IN THE CENTER'S LOUNGE

The Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education

Off to a great start...



Dr. Nicholas J. Osborne, Director

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education is pleased to announce that we've passed the one year mark. It's been a full year filled with wonderful growth and opportunities for our very deserving students. This newsletter is our way of keeping you informed of the dedicated work and progress that we're making and to thank you for your generous support.

Throughout the past year we've built authentic relationships with our students and learned more about how to best support them. A climate survey we conducted, with over 115 students responding, illuminated key services and workshops that the Center is putting into place. The Registered Student Organization, the Illini Veterans, continues to partner with our staff and serve as the student veteran voice to ensure that we're not missing anything. This first year can be characterized as building a culture of trust with our students while educating the campus and community of our mission.

And we've been working hard...

Some of our highlights this past year, include the following:

- 12 residents moved into the Center. We only have two rooms available before we reach max capacity!

- Over 85 students registered for services at the Center
- Outreach to key facilities that support active duty service members and veterans with disabilities
- VIP visits by community, state, and federal leaders from the military, government, and higher education.
- Highlighted in the Big Ten Network's Live BIG program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPV-EowwdWs>
- Designated as a "Best for Vets College," "Military-friendly School," and "Top College & University for Veterans"

On behalf of the staff and our students, we sincerely thank you.

Nicholas J. Osborne

Services

The Center continues to offer a comprehensive spectrum of services that are individually-tailored to the needs of each student. Over the past year, we've implemented the following:

- Individual therapy, neuropsychological testing, academic accommodations, and workshops on goal-setting & time management, test anxiety, stress management, and budgeting.
- We've developed a partnership with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs so that key supplemental services are available including healthcare enrollment, Vocational Rehabilitation, physical therapy, and speech & language pathology.



- Hosted 12 workshops on career services as they relate to military populations.
- Developed internship and career partnerships with over 25 corporations.

CENTER STUDENTS ATTEND A BLACKHAWKS GAME

The Chicago Blackhawks brought the Stanley Cup to the Center last October! Since then, they've reached out several times and invited our students to a game. Here, members of the Illini Veterans present a flag and certificate of appreciation to Jay Blunk, Executive Vice President of Business Operations for the Chicago Blackhawks



Staff - Our new Associate Director!

The Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Dustin D. Lange to our team. Dustin will serve as our Associate Director and oversee Academic and Career Services. Dustin received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Community Health with an emphasis on vocational rehabilitation. He's authored several peer-reviewed journal articles, white papers, and recently coauthored a book related to veterans, disability, and career services. He's also garnered numerous military honors from his 8-years' service in the Marine Corps, where he completed 3 deployments throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.



The Center continues to receive first class services from our Clinical Psychologist and Access Specialist, Dr. Katie York. Katie received all of her degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has received clinical training from three Veteran's Affairs (VA) medical centers, including a practicum at the Danville VA, a pre-doctoral internship at the Ann Arbor VA, and a post-doctoral fellowship, specializing in Neuropsychology, at the Milwaukee VA. Her general training has focused on the assessment and treatment of psychological and neurological disorders, and she has specialized training in traumatic brain injury and substance use disorders. Her primary duties at the Center include conducting individual therapy, group workshops, and neuropsychological assessments; providing academic accommodations and support; and coordinating events focused on physical and mental wellness.