

2025 SOCHE-OVEC Veterans Workshop

Friday, Oct. 10, 2025 | 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ET Ohio University Dublin, Integrated Education Center

"Policy & Persistence: Student Engagement, Belonging & Success"

The Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) and Ohio Veterans Education Council (OVEC) welcome you to the **2025 SOCHE-OVEC Veterans Workshop**, held on **Friday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET at Ohio University Dublin's Integrated Education Center** (6805 Bobcat Way, Dublin, Ohio 43016).

Event Program

Time	Session	Location
8:15 a.m.	Event check-in and networking time	IEC Lobby and Auditorium
9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Comments – Cassie Barlow, SOCHE President • Conference Hosts: Seth Gordon, Wright State University, and Terry St. Peter, Ohio University	Auditorium
9:30 a.m.	Policy Update and Keynote Samantha Erickson, Ohio Department of Veterans Services Samantha Erickson is the Deputy Director of the State Approving Agency for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. A self-described policy addict, Ms. Erickson will provide a look at the VA's current policy initiatives and changes and how they may influence current colleges and universities across the state of Ohio.	Auditorium
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Federal Legislative Efforts Faisal Sulman, Legal Fellow, Student Veterans of America Session information TBD	Auditorium
11:00 a.m.	Break and transition to morning concurrent sessions	
11:15 a.m.	Morning Concurrent Sessions (choose one at registration) • Session 1 – VSC 101: Possibilities, Pitfalls, and Progress [morning only] Figuring out how to attract and engage military-connected students is a common lament and challenge in running a veteran and military affairs office. In this session, we will share some of the basics on how to utilize VA student workers, design programming to meet the needs of your population, and share lessons learned from other veteran service providers. Presenters: Seth Gordon, Wright State University; Brian Caudill, Shawnee State University; and Chris Macklin, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College	Classroom 212
	• Session 2 – Peer-to-Peer Advising [morning only] This presentation will provide a blueprint for setting up a peer-to-peer advising program at your institution. The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University have more than 12 years' experience in administering military connected student peer-to-peer advising programs and will share their experience in starting and maintaining a program at your institution. We will discuss how to create a Peer Outreach Specialist position, methods used for hiring VA work study students to work as Peer Outreach Specialists, on and off campus training for student workers, provide	Classroom 213

	strategies for outreach to enrolled students in the program, and share what we have learned over the last 12 years of running programs like this. **Presenters:* Eric Buetikofer, University of Toledo, and Bryan Bills, Bowling Green State University **Session 3 – Internships as an Extended Interview [repeats in afternoon] This session will review the current state of internships and work-based learning. The popularity of internships for college students continues to increase. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that the percentage of college seniors participating in internships is the highest it has been in the last six years, with over two-thirds of students engaged in internships. These numbers exceed pre-pandemic levels. The reason why these numbers are growing is because of employer demand and a competitive talent environment. Employers are actively utilizing interns to build their talent pipelines, assess hires, and gain access to diverse candidates. **Presenter:* Cassie Barlow, SOCHE** **Facilitator:* Terry St. Peter, Ohio University**	Classroom 214
12:00 p.m.	Break and transition to lunchtime roundtables. Pick up your lunch on the second floor and take it to your chosen session!	2 nd floor hallway
12:30 p.m.	 "Choose Your Own Adventure" Lunchtime: Roundtables or Networking Programming for Faculty & Staff Join a facilitated discussion on creating faculty and staff programming to support student veterans. Explore existing efforts, share challenges and lessons learned, and leave with resources to help launch or strengthen initiatives on your campus. Facilitators: Seth Gordon, Wright State University, and Terry St. Peter, Ohio University 	Classroom 212
	 Programming for Student Veterans Hear from several institutions as they share examples of programming designed to support student veterans on their campuses. After brief presentations, we'll have open discussion and Q&A to exchange ideas and explore new opportunities. Facilitator: Eric Buetikofer, University of Toledo Panelists: TBD 	Classroom 213
	 SVA Chapter Programming Participate in an open discussion with a representative from Student Veterans of America. Learn what programming they provide to students and hear information about their national conference and regional summits. Facilitators: Brian Caudill, Shawnee State University, and Faisal Sulman, Student Veterans of America 	Classroom 214
	Networking Over Lunch Meet other colleagues and make connections!	Auditorium
1:15 p.m.	Break and transition to afternoon concurrent sessions	
1:30 p.m.	Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (choose one at registration) • Session 1 – Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program [afternoon only] Veterans Readiness and Education is a generous educational benefit for student veterans who qualify. In this session, Kam Turner, a Supervisory Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the VR&E program and Jill Cochran, a VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) VR&E counselor embedded at the University of Cincipanti, will provide brief undeten shout the program before consider the	Classroom 212
	at the University of Cincinnati, will provide brief updates about the program before opening the session to questions and answers. *Presenters:* Kam Turner and Jill Cochran, Ohio Department of Veterans Services *Facilitator:* Brian Caudill, Shawnee State University	Classroom 213
	Session 2 – Peers Leading the Belonging Effort [afternoon only] This session will review student-led initiatives designed to enhance the academic and social experience of student veterans at Wright State University and Ohio University. These programs focus on peer-to-peer engagement/support, resource accessibility/alignment, and enhancing	Classroom 214

	communication and feedback with student veterans. Wright State University's program is known as VETI (Veteran Empowerment and Transition Initiative), and the Ohio University program is SERVE (Support, Empower, Reward Veterans Education). Both programs are based on an innovative program piloted and proven effective by Texas A&M University called VALOR. Panelists: TBD Facilitators: Seth Gordon, Wright State University, and Terry St. Peter, Ohio University	
	• Session 3 – Internships as an Extended Interview [repeat from morning] This session will review the current state of internships and work-based learning. The popularity of internships for college students continues to increase. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that the percentage of college seniors participating in internships is the highest it has been in the last six years, with over two-thirds of students engaged in internships. These numbers exceed pre-pandemic levels. The reason why these numbers are growing is because of employer demand and a competitive talent environment. Employers are actively utilizing interns to build their talent pipelines, assess hires, and gain access to diverse candidates. **Presenter:* Cassie Barlow, SOCHE** **Facilitator:* Eric Buetikofer, University of Toledo**	
2:15 p.m.	Break and transition back to Auditorium	
2:30 p.m.	Student Panel: Military Community Advocates are Coming In this session, we will engage current Military Community Advocates from multiple campuses about their experiences representing their offices; what kind of projects they have done; and how they have managed expectations of their office partners and themselves. **Moderator:** Janet Steinbacher, Ohio State University **Panelists:** TBD	Auditorium
3:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Auditorium