

Veterans & Military-Connected Students

UW-Eau Claire: <i>Developing an Effective and Inclusive Credit for Prior Learning Program at UWEC</i>	
Funding Amount: \$5,000	Use of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipend to a faculty/staff member for curriculum development of the one-credit asynchronous portfolio course • Stipend for two CPL workgroup members
<p>Summary: A Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) workgroup from continuing education, records & registration, academic advising, and military & adult services completed a four-week professional development certificate program offered by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) (https://www.cael.org/) on Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and CPL. The group fosters CPL culture at UW-Eau Claire by working with faculty and students and implementing a new campus policy for placing CPL on student transcripts. There are plans to create a website that houses CPL marketing materials and student-facing information about the process. A 1-credit asynchronous curriculum for a CPL portfolio class is also being developed that will include clear communication strategies for students.</p>	

UW-Parkside: <i>Wellness Initiatives and Credit for Prior Learning</i>	
Funding Amount: \$2,750	Use of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds not yet expended
<p>Summary: The original grant supporting collaborative work between the Military & Veteran Success Center (MVSC) and the Center for Adult & Returning Students (CARS) on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) assessment for student-veterans was stymied when positions at CARS were eliminated. Based on student feedback, the MVSC pivoted to mental health and wellness and planned programming on meditation, non-opioid pain management, and spiritual wellness. MVSC hosted a Multi-Faith Veteran Resource Summit and based on student demand, is establishing a multi-faith meditation and wellness programming space.</p>	

UW-River Falls: <i>Mental Health Initiatives</i>	
Funding Amount: \$5,000	Use of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health training
<p>Summary: After the UW-River Falls community lost three students to suicide in the Fall 2024, the grant funding supported healing and understanding through three mental health training and awareness events. The Mental Health First Aid Training focused on how to identify and respond to mental health crises. The Diversity and Mental Health event targeted increasing multicultural competence by reducing unintentional offenses including those endured by veteran and military-connected students. The Supporting Campus Mental Health: Veteran and Military Well-Being event addressed how veterans living with trauma can lead happier, healthier lives. Over 100 faculty, staff, and students participated in the events supported by the grant.</p>	

UW-Stout: <i>Career Education and Planning for Veteran and Military Students</i>	
Funding Amount: \$2,840	Use of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and audio/visual support, room setup, refreshments • Travel for veteran alumni panel members

Summary: The UW-Stout Veteran Services Office, in collaboration with UW-Stout Career Services, provided veteran and military-connected students with a tailored, one-day event to maximize their potential for employment upon graduation. The event addressed unique challenges faced by this group including translating military skills and experience to the civilian workforce, awareness of and/or difficulty navigating available employment-related resources for veterans and finding employers who value or seek veteran employees. Student participation was less than planned, but favorable in comparison to past events organized by the sponsors.

<i>UW-Superior: Revamp and Relaunch of Success Net</i>	
Funding Amount: \$3,375	Use of Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing materials • Postcards and t-shirts • Academic planners • Adult Mental Health First Aid Training • SALUTE Veterans Honor Society membership for 11 students
Summary: Grant funds were intended to support revitalization of Success Net, which is a peer-to-peer leadership program for veteran and nontraditional students and their families. Success Net pairs participants with experienced peers who have successfully navigated campus social, community, and academic life. However, UW-Superior faced challenges with the resignation of the program coordinator and the position going unfilled for an extended time. Funding that is being held for the next academic year will support incoming students who have expressed interest in the program. Despite the challenges, the Veterans and Nontraditional Students staff inducted 11 veteran students into the SALUTE Veterans Honor Society (https://salute.colostate.edu/) and provided mental health first aid training to student success coaches and student services staff.	