Putting Together a Student Panel

VA College Toolkit Handout

Any presentation on student Veterans will be enhanced by the inclusion of student Veterans. A panel of student Veterans has several advantages over a single keynote speaker or several personal video clips.

- A two to four-person panel allows differences and similarities to be seen and heard. it is important to remember that not all student Veterans are alike. They have different personalities, experiences and opinions on their service, the military, and campus life. Try to include a female Veteran on the panel.
- A panel provides presenters with peer support. Student Veterans consistently report that other student Veterans are their single most important and valued resource on campus. It may be easier for students to build off each other's comments than to present individually.
- Having a group of Veterans provide information about their personal experiences adjusting to campus life will enrich the presentation. Questions can be set in advance, if desired.

Consider having the panel speak for 30 minutes to an hour, depending on time availability. Following are a few questions to consider:

INTRODUCTIONS

- What branch did you serve in, and what years?
- Were you deployed, and if so, when?
- What was your job duty?

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- What specific things have been helpful with your transition to student life?
- What things do you wish you knew in advance to help with your transition?
- Are there particular things that would have been helpful or would currently be helpful in your transition from the military to campus?
- What things do you want the audience to know about your military and/or student experiences?

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs