



## **PRIVATE SECTOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: VETERANS' EDUCATION TALKING POINTS**

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### **Servicemember to Student-Veteran**

- Private sector colleges and universities (PSCUs) provide an additional postsecondary option to meet the unique demands of our student-veterans that cannot be met by state colleges and universities.
- PSCUs understand the educational needs of non-traditional students and are committed to ensuring our returning heroes are equipped with the necessary education and skills to successfully transition into the private sector and build our nation's workforce, especially in high demand sectors.
- Student-veterans are mature, older, and have experienced real life challenges and hardships that distinguish them from their non-veteran classmates. Likewise, PSCU students are predominantly working adults looking to achieve the American dream by obtaining an education directly related to their career goals.
- Many servicemembers find that PSCUs best meet their needs, given their family and work responsibilities or service-related issues, as many PSCUs have flexible, student-centered classes or offer classes online.

### **The Economy, Jobs, and Value**

- Reducing the unemployment rate of our veterans is a national priority, and PSCUs are committed to ensuring that the support, resources, training, and education are present before, during, and after a Service member transitions from soldier to civilian.
- While the unemployment rate for Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans (9.8 percent) is slightly higher than the national average (9.1 percent), the rate for 18 to 24 year old Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans is a dismal 30.4 percent. Young veterans have a distinct need for practical education and specialized training that will help them secure jobs in growing, high demand industries.
- PSCUs enable veterans to pursue career-focused programs and speeds their entry into the job market. Students attending nationally accredited PSCUs boast an in-field placement rate of 70 percent.

## **The 90/10 Rule**

- The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU) supports the right of our veterans to choose the school and education that best fits their needs. Department of Defense (DoD) Tuition Assistance (TA) and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits were earned by active-duty military and veteran students through their service to their country; military and veteran education benefits are not federal student loans or grants.
- Congress originally placed caps on Title IV funding through the 85/15, now 90/10, rule as a means of measuring institutional quality and curbing the alleged abuse of federal funds. While in theory the goals behind 90/10 appear reasonable, in practice it is nothing but an arbitrary metric which punishes schools for a student's inability to pay for college. Changing the 90/10 formula to count Post-9/11 GI Bill and DoD TA towards the 90 percent only effectively force many, high-quality PSCUs to either close their doors or radically shift their mission away from educating military and veteran students. Our economy and our student-veterans cannot bear such a devastating blow to a sector of higher education instrumental to boosting postsecondary and skills attainment.
- APSCU supports reforming the 90/10 Rule as part of overall comprehensive higher education reform. Rather than radically changing the structure of 90/10, which would harm students, veterans and institutions, Congress should eliminate the rule in favor of a better, outcomes-based measurement of institutional quality.