



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Congressman David Young meets with Iowa Veterans about GI Bill Issues**  
*Active duty and former service-members earn educational benefits through  
Honorable service, but some schools target Veterans with dishonorable practices*

**DES MOINES, IA** – U.S. Representative David Young (R-IA) met today with a group of Iowa military veterans who were targeted for fraud when they utilized their GI Bill educational benefits. From excessive fees to withholding transcripts to signing students up for loans they had not authorized, Iowa Veterans have faced numerous unethical practices by schools eager to cash in on their federal benefits.

**Sean Lovelady** enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989, and deployed to Saudi Arabia as an Administrative Specialist with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne division. After he was honorably discharged, in 2009 he used federal loans to enroll in the electrical engineering/communications program at **ITT Technical Institute** in Clive, Iowa. During his time as a student, Sean faced a number of unnecessary issues caused by the school's poor administration. For example, students were provided out-of-date software that was inadequate to complete mandatory projects. Departments were short-staffed. For one particular project, each student was supposed to receive a \$1,000.00 budget, but instead groups were instructed to split a quarter of that amount among six people. Despite recruiting promises, Sean was unable to transfer his ITT Tech credits to Iowa State University or any other school. Looking back, he feels ITT Tech did a poor job at preparing him and other students for the industries they were training to work in. Nonetheless, Sean left with \$80,000, and after being laid off in 2015 has been unable to find full-time work with benefits.

**Maurice Bailey** enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1986, and served nearly 21 years until his retirement and honorable discharge in 2006. After several years in the workforce, in 2012 Maurice used his GI Bill benefits to enroll at **ITT Technical Institute** at the National City, California campus. Two years later in 2014 he earned his associate's degree in Criminal Justice Forensics, and began his bachelor's program in Project Management. Unfortunately, a family death forced him to take time off and return home to Iowa. During his trip home, ITT Tech announced its bankruptcy and closure, leaving Maurice unable to finish

his degree or transfer his credits. After several years of being unable to find full-time work, he used VA Vocational Rehabilitation to return to school at Hawkeye University where he is currently a student.

**Mark Grau** enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1987, and served four years as an aviation supply clerk until 1991. He graduated 1<sup>st</sup> among his peers at MOS school, then was assigned to Fleet Accounting and Disbursing, the precursor to Defense Accounting Service. After his honorable discharge, years later he decided to pursue his advanced education in Accounting, and began researching colleges and universities. Recruiters from **Colorado Technical Institute** were the most aggressive of them all, often calling Marc 2-3 times a day. They promised him a Veterans tuition discount, waived application fee, and guaranteed job placement after graduation, things that never occurred. Still, Marc trusted what the CTU recruiters told him, and he decided to enroll with the help of federal student loans. In 2008, Marc finished his associate's degree, and in 2010 he graduated with his bachelor's degree, Summa Cum Laude. Yet despite graduating at the top of his class, Marc has never earned anywhere near the \$60-100,000 salary he was promised by CTU recruiters. Instead, he now owes over \$60,000 in federal student loan debt, which has been in forbearance for almost six years. The few times Marc tried to contact CTU officials for help with his resume, he got no response. Through a temporary employment agency, he briefly worked part-time and without benefits for a tax company but was eventually laid off when the company's new owners learned of his student loan debt. Marc now works as a baker at a local grocery store.

“We are grateful to Congressman David Young for meeting today with these defrauded veterans and offering his assistance,” said Tyson Manker, Veterans Advocate at [Veterans Education Success](#), which provides free assistance to veterans who were deceived or defrauded by a college. “Too many colleges see veterans as nothing more than dollar signs in uniform. America's heroes should be treated with honor and respect when they become college students, not targets for consumer fraud.”

“There is no greater honor for me than representing and helping those who have served and sacrificed for this great nation,” said [Rep. Young](#). “I appreciated hearing the concerns of these Iowans and discussing the important provisions of the new veterans education law I cosponsored and supported, which provides the biggest reform and expansion of the G.I. Bill benefits in over a decade. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 improves and extends G.I. Bill benefits granted to veterans, their surviving spouses, and dependents. This bipartisan law is budget neutral and includes provisions proposed and prioritized by Veteran Service Organizations in America.”

Lawmakers in Congress have taken action to restore benefits to some student veterans who, through no fault of their own, were targeted with fraudulent and deceptive practices by unethical colleges and schools. For example, H.R. 3218 ‘Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017’ recently passed both the House of Representatives and Senate by unanimous vote and is waiting on the President’s signature. Representative Young voted in favor of this legislation, the full text of which you can read [here](#).

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