Elevating Veterans’ Voices
2018

Creating public education opportunities for veterans to share their experiences in higher education

ANNUAL | After Action Report

Submitted by: Tyson Manker
December 31, 2018
Lumina Foundation Panel
Friday, Feb. 9 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran Jonathan Ngowaki spoke on a Lumina Foundation panel about being defrauded by DeVry University, including the school taking out fraudulent loans without his consent.

Congressional Meetings
Monday, Feb. 12 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran Travis Craig visited Washington, DC to share his story of attending ITT Technical Institute, and having loans taken out in his name without his permission.

Office of Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
Social Media HERE

Office of Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
Social Media HERE
Congressional Meetings
Monday, Feb. 12 – Washington, DC

Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)
Social media HERE and HERE

Office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Social media HERE

Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)
Social media HERE

Social media HERE and HERE

US Education Department Hearing Testimony

Army Veteran Travis Craig testified at the Education Department about attending ITT Tech.
Social media HERE, HERE and HERE
VES hosted a panel discussion of student veterans in the House Veterans Affairs Committee before a packed room of Congressional staff. VES Vice President Tanya Ang moderated the panel, eliciting the students’ stories of what is and is not working in higher education for military veterans. (Social media HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE)

Jamie Huebert, Navy, Kaplan
Omar Andrews, Marine Corps, U of Southern Maine
Wesley Hughes, Army, Georgetown
Rachael Milam, Air Force, NOVA Community College
Franceska Salazar, Army, Anne Arundel College
Office of Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)  
Thursday, Feb. 22 – Washington, DC

Jamie Huebert told Sen. Kaine’s staff about being defrauded by Kaplan. ([HERE](#))

Office of Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)  
Friday, Feb. 23 – Washington, DC

Omar Andrews told Sen. Collins staff about his experiences as a student veteran. ([HERE](#))
Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)
Thursday, April 5 – Winston Salem, NC

Sen. Richard Burr met with 4 current and former North Carolina student veterans and VES staff.

April McDonald, Army National Guard, U of Phoenix  
Jason Christian, Navy, American Intercontinental University  
Charles Calamese, Army, Winston-Salem University  
Roby Lovett, Navy, Forsythe Technical Community College

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, and HERE

Nashville Film Festival
Thursday, May 17 – Nashville, TN

Marine Corps Veteran Will Walker told the audience about being defrauded by ITT Tech for the “Fail State” documentary screening.

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE
Brooklyn Film Festival
Monday, June 4 – Brooklyn, NY

Army Veterans **Milo Jones** and **John Andrew** spoke with a reporter and told the audience about their experiences at ITT Technical and U of Phoenix at “Fail State” film screening.

News media [HERE](#)

Georgetown Law Panel with Sen. Warren (D-MA)
Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran **Andrea Carlton** shared her story of being defrauded by Brown Mackie college.

Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)
Andrea Carlton taped a video with “We The Action” and met with Rep. Ted Lieu’s staff.

Social media HERE

Office of Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, DC

Social media HERE
“Fail State” Congressional screening
Tuesday, June 19 – Washington, DC

VES co-hosted a screening of the “Fail State” documentary with Rep. Seth Moulton, where Marine Corps Veteran Zach Hastie, who is featured in the film, told Congressional staffers about being defrauded by ITT Technical Institute.

Social media HERE and HERE and HERE and HERE

Student Veterans Congressional Panel
Thursday, July 12 – Capitol Hill

VES organized students’ voices at a House Veterans Affairs Committee panel with Chairman Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) and Ranking Member Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN).

Tyronda Brown, Navy, American University
Malia Fry, Gold-Star Wife, children using the Fry Scholarship
Glenn Shephard, Army, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)
Rachael Mill, Air Force, Northern Virginia Community College

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, and VIDEO HERE
Washington Meetings
Thursday, July 12 – Capitol Hill, VA

VES also facilitated a meeting for Glenn Shephard with Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD), as well as VA reps to talk about having 8 months of his GI Bill benefits restored, after ITT Tech closed while he was enrolled.

Social media HERE and HERE

Rep. Lou Correa
Wednesday, August 29 – Santa Ana, CA

Buddy Summit, USMC, Saddleback College
Aaron Edwards, USMC, Saddleback College
Rose Adon, Navy, Saddleback College
Terence Nelson, USMC, Saddleback College

Social media HERE and HERE
VES brought in Colorado student veteran Jarrod Thoma and his wife Mindy, both of whom testified at the public hearing about protecting students and veterans.

Social media HERE and HERE and HERE and HERE

Capitol Hill Congressional Meetings

VES facilitated Congressional meetings for the Jarrod and Mindy Thoma (and their children).

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Social Media HERE and HERE

Office of Sen. Cory Gardner (D-CO)
Social Media HERE and HERE

Office of Sen. Michael Bennet (R-CO)
Social Media HERE

Office of Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO)
Social Media HERE
US Education Department Hearing
Tuesday, Sept. 11 – New Orleans, LA

VES brought local student veteran **Renee Seruntine** to give testimony against the rollback of student protections.

Social media [HERE](#)

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Rep. Scott Peters
Thursday, Sept. 20 – Santa Ana, CA

VES organized a district meeting and brought 3 local student veterans to share their educational experience with **Congressman Scott Peters**.

Chris Cabrera, Navy, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)
Steven Padilla, Army, National University
Eric Dean, Navy, National University
Bob Muth, USMC, USD Law Veterans Clinic

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)
National College Access Network (NCAN) 2018
Monday, Sept. 24 – Pittsburgh, PA

VES brought Marine Corps student veteran Omar Andrews to NCAN 2018 in Pittsburgh to participate in a student panel and share his educational experiences.

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE

Education Writers Association Conference
Wednesday, Sept. 26 – Las Vegas, NV

VES brought Tiffany Jones, an Army veteran, to share her experiences in higher education.

Social media HERE
US Consumer Hearing
Thursday, Oct. 18 – Baton Rouge, LA

VES organized an opportunity for, and helped, the Louisiana Commander of The American Legion to confront US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau head Mick Mulvaney over his plan to cease investigations for Military Lending Act violations. Social media and Video HERE

“Navigating College Success for Military-Connected Students”
Friday, Oct. 19 – Sterling, VA

VES organized a public forum on student veterans, featuring Navy Veteran Michelle Tremblay, with help from Civic Nation and Young Invincibles at Northern Virginia Community College.

Social media HERE
VES brought defrauded USMC veteran Murray Hastie and his wife to the opening of “Fail State,” a documentary co-produced by Dan Rather about for-profit school abuses.

VES organized a district meeting and brought 2 local student veterans to share their educational experience with Rep. Smith (the ranking member of Armed Services Committee)
VES co-organized and co-hosted a public forum on student veterans with Young Invincibles and Civic Nation at El Centro Community College in Dallas, TX. VES brought USMC veteran Renee Monczynski and Gold-Star Wife Malia Fry to participate.

Social media HERE, HERE and HERE

VES brought Andy Kmiecik, member of the Air National Guard, to Capitol Hill to participate in TICAS event, “Of Metrics and Markets: Measuring Post-College Employment Success” that included a discussion with Congressional staffers.

(Social HERE)
Bloomberg – Featuring VES Student Veteran
Monday, May 22 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran Jonathan Ngowaki spoke with Bloomberg about his unfortunate experience at DeVry University, and the fraudulent behavior he encountered. (HERE)

The Denver Post – VES Student Veteran Op-Ed
Monday, June 25 – Denver, CO

Through VES, Army Veteran Jarrod Thoma published an op-ed in the Denver Post about his time at DeVry University, the false promises he encountered, and hewing to the rules of non-lobbying education, why a proposed bill would hurt, not help, students in higher ed. (HERE)

The New York Times – Featuring VES Student Veteran
Monday, August 17 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran Stephanie Stiefel was featured in a New York Times op-ed (Gail Collins, “The Bane That Is Betsy DeVos”) about her time at the International Academy of Design and Technology, in Tampa, the false promises she encountered, and the six-figure student loan debt she is now burdened with. (HERE)