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Dear Friends & Supporters

As Service to School enters its second decade, we should take a moment to reflect on the tremendous impact the organization has had in transforming veterans’ lives through education. In our first decade, over 15,000 veterans have used our college application resources and some 3,000 of our applicants have matriculated to the best college or graduate school for them. Additionally, our VetLink program has supported over 500 enlisted veterans’ matriculation to some of the nation’s finest undergraduate colleges and universities in its six-year history.

Our first ever VetLink Summit at the University of Chicago this June highlights the extent to which veterans have made their presence felt on campuses across the nation. VetLink boasts a 100% graduation rate and its alumni include Marshall, Truman, and Princeton Sachs Scholars.

A year with growing impacts

These veterans are showing themselves to be some of the nation’s next generation of leaders.

It is such an honor to take on the role of CEO of the incredible organization. I’m looking forward to building off the hard work Christine Schwartz and the team put in to lay the foundation for all of this success. None of this would be possible without our team of committed volunteers and supporters. Thank you so much for your belief in Service to School and our veterans.

Admission Accomplished!

Alec Emmert

Alec Emmert, CEO of Service to School
Our Mission

To prepare transitioning service members and Veterans for their next chapter of leadership by helping them gain admission to the best college or graduate school possible.

As a leading nonprofit we have helped 15,000+ U.S. veterans and transitioning service members with their college admissions. We’ve learned that it takes a village to make this kind of impact - ambassadors, admissions colleagues, admissions experts from national colleges and universities play a critical role securing the same educational opportunities available to veterans as “traditional” college students. Service to School will continue to bring these resources together to help our veterans attain their educational goals.

$0 Veterans pay nothing for our services

15,000+ Veterans & service members have used our resources
Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, I always felt a higher calling. My parents migrated to this country from Ukraine in search of a better life for their children. Despite this higher calling, most of my adolescent life was shrouded in insecurity and self-doubt. My brother served two tours in Iraq as a Marine, ultimately inspiring me to join the Navy as a Corpsman. I was committed to the idea of serving and treating Marines. After consistent poor performance in high school and a failed attempt at college, I decided to enlist in the Navy and start my journey. Two years later, I was attached to 1st Battalion 5th Marines, serving as one of two corpsmen in a TRAP (Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel) unit. Shortly after enlisting, I deployed to the Middle East on the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. One of the most significant moments in my life happened during this deployment. I was one of the first responders to the U.S.S. John McCain disaster. I was responsible for not only treating and assisting the displaced crew but also played a role in the recovery of the ten fallen sailors. During this period, I experienced the resurgence of the higher calling from my childhood, realizing my profound desire to dedicate myself to a life of civil service.

Post-separation, my Service2School advisor pushed me to apply to my dream schools as I attended my local community college. Unfortunately, my first cycle was unsuccessful, and I was waitlisted or rejected by all my target schools. Instead of letting this keep me down, I looked at what I could improve the following year. I became more involved in my community, took more rigorous courses, and increased my veteran advocacy. I was ultimately accepted to nearly all my dream schools and decided to commit to Harvard University.

As I embark on my journey as a sophomore at Harvard, I have set my sights on majoring in Government, with a specific focus on public policy, while pursuing a minor in psychology. My ultimate goal is to make a meaningful impact on the veteran community. I hope to inspire those who have gone through life unsure of themselves and show them that anything is achievable with hard work and determination.

Richard Glazunov
US Navy Veteran, Harvard University

To "Admission Accomplished" and beyond! We are always striving to transform education for veterans & help prepare them for the next stage of leadership.
“Approaching a top-tier academic institution can be intimidating as a veteran. Connecting with my mentor was tremendously helpful in building my confidence as a competitive applicant & bridged the gap from military service to the world of higher academia.”
- Andrew Fiske, Yale University 2025

“Hearing other veterans talk about their experiences and providing insights about the sorts of things they encountered on their own journey is really invaluable. It's reassuring and refreshing to know folks from very similar walks of life have achieved great things and getting that encouragement has helped propel me on my own journey.”
- Jeff Steen, Brown University 2026

“Service to School’s Virtual College Fair gave me the opportunity to speak directly with admissions officers and students from top-tier institutions, which bridged the gap towards crafting a successful application that not only highlighted my military experiences, but also who I am as an individual.”
- Quinn Ewanchyna, Harvard College 2025
The Veteran Need

Veterans are not realizing their full academic potential. The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides veterans with an incredible opportunity to attend college at little to no-cost. However, many are using it to attend for-profit institutes with low graduation rates that will not set them up for success when they leave the military.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides funding for, and many times complete coverage of, costs associated with obtaining post-secondary education. However, this benefit is often not used in a meaningful way with one in three Veterans using it at a for-profit institution.

Only one in ten veterans using GI Bill benefits enrolls in institutions with graduation rates above 70 percent, while approximately one in three veterans using GI Bill benefits attends a for-profit institution.

01. Stress & uncertainty in transition

Each year 200,000 service members exit the military and must determine, “What’s next?” Unfortunately, the stress and uncertainty that comes with the jarring transition to civilian life has left less than half of our nation’s Veterans optimistic about their future, and has created high proportions of homelessness, food insecurity, and higher-than-average unemployment rates for the Veteran community.

02. Unmet Needs that College Degrees Meet

200,000 Veterans transition from the military each year and upwards of 70% of transitioning veterans report adjustment challenges. Earning a college degree provides financial, employment, and health benefits to veterans and approximately 58% of veterans do not hold a bachelor’s degree.

03. Disappointing Enrollment Numbers

According to findings in 2017, of the nearly 900,000 veterans enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs using post 9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon funds, only 722 undergraduate veterans are enrolled at 36 of the nation’s most selective private, non-profit colleges in the United States.
S2S provides pathways to higher education for veterans and transitioning service members. Understanding the financial, employment, and health benefits of a meaningful college degree and knowing that **58% of veterans do not hold a bachelor’s degree**, S2S offers a robust portfolio of services to support and encourage Veterans to effectively use their Post-9/11 GI Bill as they consider post-secondary education.

**Peer-to-Peer Mentorship**

S2S pairs veterans with mentors, called Ambassadors, who have successfully earned admission to a selective undergraduate or graduate level program who collaborate on areas of the college or graduate school application.

Support includes reviewing transcripts, editing essays and personal statements, preparing for school interviews, helping with networking opportunities, direct connection with Admissions Officers and much more.

**Admissions Support Snapshot**

- **52%** Undergraduate applicants are persons of color
- **60%** First-generation college students
- **70%** Applicants were enlisted veterans / service members
- **73%** Veterans applied as transfer students

**2022-2023 by the Numbers**

- **2000+** Veterans Supported
- **269** Undergraduate Matriculations
- **175** MBA Matriculations
- **32** Law School Matriculations
Why VetLink

Service to School has partnered with select colleges and universities to form VetLink, a network of schools committed to expanding access and opportunity for student veterans. Our partner colleges are widely known for academic excellence, aspiring students, leading-edge research, and high graduation rates. By partnering with high graduation rate colleges, meaning at least 70% of its students graduate on time, S2S is providing an enhanced opportunity to earn a degree, break the cycle of low graduation rates, and open doors to a fulfilling career.

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2022-23 Highlights

- 189 VetLink college acceptance letters
- 119 VetLink matriculations
- 100% of VetLink applicants would recommend peer-to-peer mentorship to other veteran applicants

Top VetLink Applicant Destinations

- Princeton University: 19 veterans
- Harvard University: 17 veterans
- University of Chicago: 16 veterans
- Brown University: 16 veterans

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“VetLink Partnership has been instrumental in our commitment to increase the number of U.S. military veterans and service members at Williams College. Service to School connects us directly with prospective students so that we can build individual relationships and share about how Williams can support their goals and passions. We are proud to be part of the VetLink community in service of veterans' higher education journeys.” - Alex DiAddezio, Senior Assistant Director of Admission at Williams College
S2S furthers its mission to support veteran college access by hosting virtual events throughout the year. These offerings include admissions fairs, numerous webinars, and info sessions in addition to our one-on-one support from our staff and volunteer Ambassadors.

S2S also launched a new podcast to deliver long-form admissions information and advice for both the veteran and admissions communities.
What's Ahead

S2S plans to grow its support to students through growing its partnerships and offerings.

Grow our impact from

2500 >>> 5000

Total confirmed veteran matriculations

How are we going to do it?

01. Grow VetLink Partnerships

Expand VetLink School Partners by adding 3-5 schools per year.

02. Materials & Technology

Develop & update virtual guidebooks, blogs, webinars, as well as implementing a new virtual mentorship platform to streamline applicant/ambassador pairing and communication.

03. Virtual Events

Host virtual college fairs 1-2 times per year, open to all veterans & service members with opportunity to meet 35+ colleges & universities.
Our Team

Alec Emmert  
Chief Executive Officer

Jim Selbe  
Chief Operating Officer

Sydney Matthes  
Chief Programs Officer

Alexandra Nieves  
Director of Program Integrations

Amanda Dobias  
Director of Communications

Annie Behari  
Director of Student Success

Steven Hojnicki  
Director, MBA Program

Nathan Lowry  
Co-Director, JD Program

Paul Zebb  
Co-Director, JD Program

Peter Campbell  
Director, Healthcare Program

Anson Cheng  
Director, Graduate Program

Candice Creecy  
Program Manager, Healthcare Program

John Powell  
Chief Financial Officer

Volunteers
Board of Directors

Adrian Perkins
Board Member

Anna Ivey
Co-founder & Board Member

Augusto Giacoman
Co-founder & Chairman of Board

Gen (Ret.) Joseph L. Votel
Board Member

Bob Speith
Board Member

David Calfee
Board Member

Khalil Tawil
Co-founder & Board Member

Christine Schwartz
Board Member & Former CEO

Tim Hsia
Co-founder & Board Member
We couldn't have done it without your generous support.

$50,001-100,000
Manton Foundation

$25,000-50,000
Duchossois Family Foundation
Spieth Family Charitable Fund
Ben Faw

$10,001-24,000
Joseph Votel
Tim Hsia

$2,001-10,000
Haynes and Boone, LLP
Peter Luce Foundation
David Calfee
Augusto Giacoman
Fernando Guerrero

Spurling Family Foundation
The Military Veteran
Anna Ivey
Paul Madera
Khalil Tawil

$501-$2000
GiveList Burpee Challenge
Sands Family Foundation
Lance Dietz
Sarah and Josh Greenhill

Williamsburg VA Chapter 1754,
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Janet Shapiro
Mary Tucker

$250-500
Lucas & Christina Babbitt Family Fund
Barry Asin
William Burns

Steven Buzon
Will Calfee
Mary Jo Finley
Javier Garrido

Yibai Haney
Earl Henshaw
David Hwang
David Mattana

Savion Pollard
James Putt
Malcolm Thompson

Thank you
We thank you for the continued support of our efforts to support Veterans pursuing higher education.

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