



COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO Veteran Student Newsletter

CSI Veterans Club

Hello!

The Veterans of CSI have been gathering together since the 2014 – 2015 spring semester to organize a club that would bring together veterans of all components to participate in school and community events. We have discussed activities to do on and off campus grounds as students and as individuals. To be considered a club, we need a minimum of 4 members to attend meetings and the club needs to participate in CSI events. We also need your support to make our club flourish. Recently, Tuesday, March 1, 2016, we gathered to elect new officers and brainstorm ideas for upcoming events being held by CSI.

First, I would like to introduce you to the club's new members:

President – Landon Walker
 Vice President – Veronica Campbell
 Secretary – America Herrera
 Treasurer – Elijah Fiscus
 Representative – Devan Mitchell

Now, on to the fun stuff! We have several events coming up in the next couple of months and some of these events we need volunteers to help us out.

Easter Egg Hunt – Friday, March 18, 2016 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm (open to the community).

- For this event, we need a few volunteers to help with set up and break down of our “booth”, which will include a rock wall (pending approval) and a low crawl event.
- We also need donations to build an epic (gender neutral) Easter basket for ages 9yrs and up.

Veteran's Luncheon – Wednesday, April 13, 2016 @ 12:00pm.

- Will take place in the Taylor building.

Eagles Give Back – Saturday, April 02, 2016 from 9:00am – 1:00pm (community service event).

- There will be breakfast served to those who would like to volunteer for this event. We need at least 4 members.
- CSI has T-shirts for those who volunteer.

We will be trying to put together a Service Appreciation Day to recognize and honor the men and women that serve our community. We have a tentative date of Saturday, April 30, 2016 (from 12:00pm to about 4:00pm), that is pending approval. In order to make this event happen we need several things to fall into place. With your help we can do it!

Some things we want to do with this event:

Rockwall
 Paintball Tent
 Dunk Tank
 Military Vehicles
 Grill Hot Dogs

Lastly, I would like to mention that we need to raise funds to help our club be able to do fun activities. We have gained some media sponsorship as far as advertising, we're working on a social media page to spread awareness, and we have come up with a few ideas for fundraisers. One is selling t-shirts and another is a possibility of doing a raffle. Further information will be given out as we get closer the event.

We would love any other ideas you may have for fundraising, events, activities, and how to make our club successful please come to a scheduled meeting and get to know your fellow CSI Veterans!



Inside this issue:

Veterans Club	1
Veterans Luncheon	2
Scholarship	2
Veterans Treatment Court	2
Campus Spotlight	3
Letter from the School Certifying Official	4

College of Southern Idaho Veteran Services Contacts

Shannon Kerr – School
 Certifying Official
 skerr@csi.edu
 208-732-6239

Scott Lindquist –
 Student Advisor
 slindquist@csi.edu
 208-732-6252

Visit us Online:

<http://www.csi.edu/veteransServices/>

America Herrera
Veterans Club Secretary



CSI: Let's Go Places

The College of Southern Idaho offers a variety of activities and resources on and off campus.

Herrett Center:

View planetarium shows, amazing artwork, stargaze, and walk through history with the exhibits. Hands on activities are available for kids too!

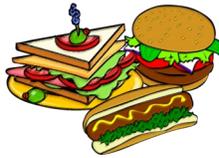
Phone: 208.732.6655

Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays & Fridays-
9:30am to 9:00pm
Wednesdays & Thursdays-
9:30am to 4:30pm
Saturdays-
1:00pm to 9:00pm

Veterans Luncheon

The College of Southern Idaho is proud of our Service Members and would like to honor all of them with a luncheon to be held at noon on April 13th, 2016. It is our sincerest hope that you and your families will be able to attend. An official invite will be emailed towards the middle of March so please keep an eye out for it.



Shannon Kerr
School Certifying Official
Student Services Specialist

Scholarship Application

Applications for the CSI Veteran's Scholarship are due August 1, 2016. There has been a change implemented this year in that instead of offering three full time \$1000 scholarships, we will be offering two full time \$1000 scholarships and two part time \$500 scholarships. We are hoping that this will open up our pool of candidates.

Please follow link for access to application. Once completed please submit to Shannon Kerr in the Registrar's Office.

<http://www.csi.edu/veteransservices/2016CSIVeteransScholarshipApplication.pdf>

Shannon Kerr
School Certifying Official
Student Services Specialist

Veterans Treatment Court Needing Volunteers

The 5th Judicial District has established a new problem solving court located in Twin Falls that is designed specifically to help military veterans who have entered the court system for various unlawful reasons.

One of the foundations of the Veterans Treatment Court model is the establishment of a multi-disciplinary, non-adversarial, and collaborative team. Part of this required team is a peer mentor role that will encourage, guide, and provide social support to the military veteran participant. The peer mentor role is filled by military veterans (Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve or Guard branches) from the community who are willing to volunteer their time to help a fellow military veteran participant in this program.

Experience has shown that military veterans who have an active, supportive relationship maintained throughout treatment will increase the likelihood that a veteran participant will remain in treatment and improve his/her chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Veterans Treatment Court program or would like more information, please contact the Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator Tabitha Eaton at eatont.5jd.vtc@gmail.com or the Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Richard Neu at (208) 735-4374 or rneu@co.twin-falls.id.us.

Monetary donations are also accepted. All donations are in support of the VTC program veteran participant Incentives and are tax deductible.

Find us on Facebook!

Idaho 5th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court www.facebook.com/Idaho5JDVTC

Tabitha Eaton



Rec Center:

Take some time to enjoy physical fitness through indoor and outdoor recreational activities.

Contact: John Twiss
Phone: 208.732.6470
Email: johntwiss@csi.edu



Campus Spotlight

CSI Counseling Services

The College of Southern Idaho proudly boasts that over 120 veterans have chosen to pursue their educational dreams on our campus. This population brings to our courses a wealth of experience, skills and cultural knowledge unmatched by any other group.

Our returning service members also face challenges unique to their culture. Sometimes readjusting to civilian life can feel overwhelming. Deep and meaningful ties to those serving together in a military unit suddenly disappear and the old ties with family and friends change—often disturbingly. We can never go back to the old world we left behind. Recent experiences force us to renegotiate all those relationships--never a tidy process.

Blend in chronic pain, bad memories, sleeplessness, feelings of emptiness, the demands of job, home and school, loneliness, and voilà! We have the perfect recipe for Stress. With a capital S.

It's a type of Stress very few people understand, limiting the people veterans can safely confide in. And there are so many things that can't be shared with most people: intrusive thoughts, images, emotions and sensations that pop up at inconvenient times with a startling urgency attached.



While most veterans find productive ways to manage these, for some, alcohol and other drugs offer welcome relief from the discomfort accompanying those moments. "Almost half of active duty service members (47 percent) reported binge drinking in 2008" (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/substance-abuse-in-military>) Those options come with a price tag, however, and only mask symptoms of much deeper unwellbeing. **Healing happens in Community.** But how do we create that?

CSI Counseling Services offers a safe, confidential, and free alternative for managing that stress, for current reservists/national guardsmen as well as those who have retired from active duty. Counselors can provide a sounding board, a place to simply unload, or trauma therapy for those ready for it. Particularly, we can teach skills for finding commonality, belonging and acceptance.

Carol VanHoozer
Counselor

Call our office or refer a friend: **208-732-6260.**



*"My wife just doesn't get it."
(a social group whose members often have a common cultural and historical heritage)
"I hate it when I see that look of fear on my son's face."*

(a group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists)

"There's no way I can explain to my boss why I come in every day with only 2-3 hours of sleep each night."

(a group of men or women leading a common life according to a rule)

"I have nothing in common with the other students in my classes."

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/community>

COMMUNITY



A Letter from your School Certifying Official

Dates to Remember

April 18, 2016

Registration opens for Summer and Fall semester.

May 13, 2016

Commencement Ceremony for graduates.

June 6, 2016

Main 8-week Summer session begins!

July 4, 2016

Campus Closed for Independence Day.

August 22, 2016

Fall semester begins!

Financial Aid Priority Processing Deadlines

May 2, 2016

Summer 2016

July 18, 2016

Fall 2016

Newsletter Contributors:

- Shannon Kerr
- Scott Lindquist
- America Herrera
- Tabitha Eaton
- Carol VanHoozer
- Erin Nunnolley

Welcome Back!!!

Hello!! Welcome to the Spring 2016 semester!! With many of the former faces still and 23 new faces, this semester has so far proven to be my favorite. I am so excited to have the opportunity to help assist you with your educational needs but also be able to be an advocate for you across campus. I know I have said it to many of you before but I really do believe that I have the best job on campus and that I am so privileged to work with the best students.

I do have a few reminders for you.

- Students receiving Chapter 30, 1606, and 1607 make sure that you are verifying your attendance at the end of each month. The VA will not issue a payment until attendance verification has been done. This can be done over the phone at 877-823-2378, or online at <https://www.gbill.va.gov/wave/>. If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.
- Please remember that the certification form needs to be filled out every semester. The majority of you have already filled out the certification form for the fall semester but in case you have not please get that in to me as soon as possible so that I can help you get your benefits. Remember that I can only certify courses that work towards your major so please make sure you are working with your advisors. Also you are only allowed to repeat a course twice and I cannot certify any courses that you have passed unless a higher grade is needed for that program.
- If you need to drop a class or change your schedules in any way PLEASE LET ME KNOW. It is imperative that I know. I am more than happy to assist you with the changes as I do have to report these changes to the VA.
- Please read your emails, chances are I am not sending you things that you do not need to know. They generally contain information concerning changes in GI Bill policy and upcoming dates.

Please stop by my office at any time and I can help you find what you need to help you best succeed. Thank you for everything you do and allowing me the opportunity to serve you. If there is anything that I can help you with or if you have ever have any suggestions on how I can better be of service to you please do not hesitate to contact me.



Shannon Kerr
School Certifying Official
Student Services Specialist
skerr@csi.edu
208.732.6239