

Student Veterans of America

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

December 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023



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Reflecting on a year of purposeful initiatives, sustainable practices, and transformative outcomes.

Student Veterans of America saw 2022 as a return to in-person programming and chapter engagement. Where we spent the last two years seeing our chapter leaders as small squares on our computer screens, the past year granted an in-person NatCon, five in-person Regional Summits, an in-person Leadership Institute, as well as in-person testimony on Capitol Hill. We shared handshakes, hugs, and high-fives and began to move into our new normal with our chapters and their members across the country.

Our government affairs team was able to pivot from pandemic related legislation to focus on more specific needs to student veterans. They supported women, parents, and survivors, improving the available supports for many in our community. Their forward-looking efforts are only gaining steam as we approach our milestone 15th anniversary year, all while being informed by data collected and analyzed by our research team. Through the annual SVA Census and other surveys and data tools, SVA is becoming the go-to resource for decision making at the intersection of veterans affairs and higher education.

Our programs and chapter services team began a year-long project of connecting back with our chapters, helping those that struggled to stay active during the pandemic and supporting those that maintained their status with SVA. They created a series of workshops to navigate the “new normal” found on campuses and modified programming so that more chapters could engage with their National Headquarters. The Regional Summits and Leadership Institute alone directly impacted about 200 chapters and 75,000 student veterans.

Your support and dedication to this generation of student veterans is making a difference in the lives of those who volunteered to serve their nation. It is also paving the way for those who continue to make the difficult transition from from military service to school to do so with fewer frustrations and with more support. The opportunities provided for our population makes that transition easier for not only the service members, but also their families. To those of you who have been on this journey with SVA for our first 15 years, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude. And to those who are joining for the next 15 years and beyond, welcome to the future of SVA. I am proud to share this report with you, and excited to see what we will accomplish together.

Thank you for not only putting your faith in our mission, but also for being inspired to be a part of it as we watch the successes grow for this next greatest generation.

Jared S. Lyon, MPA
National President & CEO
Student Veterans of America



Mission

Act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy **to, through, and beyond** higher education.

Vision

Empowering student veterans to lead and live **their best lives.**

Programs and Chapter Services

SVA's National Headquarters administers Programs and Chapter Services that empower student veterans' success to, through, and beyond higher education by focusing on the chapter-centric life cycle of student veterans.



(Left) 14th Annual NatCon in Orlando, Florida. (Left-Middle) Alex Ortiz, SVA Leadership Fellow. (Right-Middle) 14th Annual NatCon in Orlando, Florida. (Right) Leadership Institute 2022 in Washington D.C.



NATCON

Student Veterans of America's 14th Annual National Conference, or "NatCon", resumed in-person at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida. With over 2,100 registered attendees, NatCon continued to be the largest gathering of Post 9/11 student veterans. The 2022 theme "NatCon has S.O.U.L." stood for Service, Opportunity, Unity, and Leadership, which is at the core of each of our SVA Chapters across the country and abroad. The 14th Annual NatCon welcomed student veterans back in-person, brought great speakers, inspiring thought leaders, and industry leading employers to speak on the topics that matter, such as: growing and sustaining your SVA Chapter post COVID-19, funding and fundraising, building inclusive cultures, leading research at the intersection of veterans and higher education.

There was no shortage of illustrious speakers and guests: Atlas Research Senior Director Margaret (Meg), Kabat TV/Film star Remi Adeleke, TV star Jamie Gray Hyder, Secretary of Veterans Affairs The Hon. Denis R. McDonough, President of Grand Valley State University Philomena V. Mantella, Secretary of Education Hon. Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Distinguished Professor Marybeth Gasman, Ph.D., Chancellor of Fayetteville State Darrell T. Allison, and New York Times Bestselling author Sebastian Junger.



(Left) Chapter of the Year - Georgetown University. (Middle) Student Veteran of the Year - Katherine Martinez. (Right) Advisor of the Year - Jason Graven.

WASHINGTON WEEK

Washington Week returned virtually in 2022 with opportunities for SVA chapter members to participate in policy happy hours, meetings with HVAC and SVAC leadership, as well as a virtual watch party for chapter members to watch SVA National President and CEO Jared Lyon testify before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees on **SVA's 2022 legislative priorities**.

Student Veterans of America is invited annually to deliver testimony in front of a Joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and this provides the opportunity to highlight key issues student veterans and military-affiliated students bring to our attention throughout the year.



*(Top) Jared Lyon, SVA National President & CEO - Jeremy Butler, (former) CEO of IAVA.
(Bottom) Tammy Barlet, VP of Government Affairs.*

The 2022 hearing was extremely impactful. SVA's testimony focused on highlighting the lessons learned from the pandemic and the need for VA to have permanent authority to ensure VA education beneficiaries have unimpeded access to VA education benefits during national emergencies. We also highlighted the critical need for additional mental health resources on campus for student veterans through the VA VITAL Program. SVA also emphasized the need to modernize the VA Work Study Program, better support parenting student veterans, address ongoing deficiencies with the GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance, and ensure Guard and Reserve members earn GI Bill benefits the same as their active-duty peers. SVA's testimony laid the groundwork for multiple legislative successes in the following months.

REGIONAL SUMMITS

SVA's Annual Regional Summits provide the tools, techniques, and tactics needed for student veterans to manage a successful and sustainable student organization. In 2022, the Student Veterans of America Regional Summits resumed in-person across the country in five cities: Chicago, Atlanta, Phoenix, Portland, and Providence. With more than 175 attendees reached during our Regional Summits, a grand total of 46,520 student veterans across the campuses with chapter participation were indirectly impacted by this program.

Robust programming during Summits included workshops for presidents, vice presidents, finance, communications, career services liaisons, policy liaisons, disability services liaisons, as well as networking happy hours that allowed participants to connect more directly and build relationships far outside their campuses.



(All Above Images) Participants from Regional Summit events.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



SVA's Leadership Institute is the premier leadership experience in the country for student veterans serving in a recognized SVA chapter. It brings together the nation's high-performing chapter leaders from highly-ranked schools for a multi-day, values based, leadership immersion program. The Leadership Institute provides intensive training designed to help further the development of personal leadership skills and core values of military veterans in higher education institutions.

In 2022, 107 current SVA Chapter Leaders from around the nation were accepted through an application process, positively impacting 27,000 student veterans in their respective chapters. For the first year back in-person, SVA re-evaluated the Leadership Institute's delivery with feedback from participants, mentors, and staff following the 2021 Leadership Institute which was held virtually. With the addition of a new curriculum, and for the first year ever, Leadership Institute added 4-months-post-program cohort meetings which brought together the Leadership Fellows to see the scale of their efforts for themselves and for those within their cohort.



(Top-Left) The Hon. Denis R. McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(Top-Right): Jared Lyon, SVA National President & CEO.

(Bottom) SVA Leadership Institute 2022 in Washington D.C.

CAMPUS LIAISONS

Campus Liaisons are chapter leadership positions focused in one of three key areas in support of student veterans and military-connected student: policy, disability, and career services. SVA's National Headquarters supports students in each of these roles with training, outreach materials, connections to partners and decisionmakers, and other resources.

The Policy Liaison Program (PLP) is a community providing educational resources for student veterans on advocacy and policy best practices at the campus, local, state, and national levels.

Disability Service Liaisons (DSLs) are student veterans who help their peers connect to underutilized campus resources.

Career Services Liaison (CSLs) are responsible for the engagement and development of a chapter's relationship with the Career Services office on campus.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaisons (DEILs) are chapter leaders who connect with the DEI administrators on campus and help to create a more inclusive chapter.



(Above Images) Participants from NatCon 2020.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Google SVA Scholarship

Christopher Warren
Princeton University

Dylan Pierre Louis
University of Virginia - Main Campus (UVA)

Franklin Roth
Texas State University

Joe Viviano
Park University - Parkville

Juwan English
Kennesaw State University (KSU)

Michael Chavez
University of Nevada - Reno

Nailah Brogdon
Temple University

Steven Song
George Washington University
Main Campus, DC (GWU)

Raytheon Patriot Scholarship

Paul Lefebvre
Columbia University in the City of New York

Rebecca Tanielu
University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)

Raytheon Spy-6 Scholarship

Kenneth Sheehan
University of Delaware (UD)

Brennen Sanders
University of Georgia

Comcast NBC Universal Scholarship

Derek Blumke
Alma College

Samantha Jones
Pepperdine University

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rutgers CMSI and Student Veterans of America Partner to Support Student Veterans at MSIs

The Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI) partnered with Student Veterans of America (SVA) to foster meaningful relationships and aid student veterans and military-connected family members attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) with tools to navigate higher education. SVA's research has helped to spearhead public policy changes that affect all veterans in higher education, including those that have been historically excluded. Through reaching those veterans and their families attending MSIs, SVA and CMSI will provide better support and advocacy for minority veterans. With this partnership, SVA and CMSI conducted targeted outreach and gathered more data on the diversity of military families and their needs. This data played a key role in advocacy efforts, implementing change in veteran legislation, professional development, campus veteran culture, and aiding those in transition from the military to the civilian workforce. The partnership also sought to raise awareness of the diversity of Minority Serving Institutions as well as the intersectionality of student veterans and military-connected students.



Run to Home Base at Fenway Park

SVA Chapters throughout New England participated to raise funds for awareness of the work of Home Base Foundation at the invitation of SVA's partner, Raytheon Technologies.

#SVAMONDAYS

SUPPORTING STUDENT VETERANS AT MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS



Many students who are student veterans have a visible or invisible disability. According to the 2019 SVA Census Survey, nearly 2 out of 3 student veterans state they have a Veterans Benefits Administration disability rating.

Of the student veterans who shared that their disability impacts their academics, only 1 in 4 say the impact is little; 1 in 10 say the impact is severe. Nearly 3 out of 4 veterans with a disability stated that their disability affects their employment. Navigating this while on a college campus can be difficult. SVA has developed our disability services liaisons to help student veterans advocate for themselves and succeed before, through, and after higher education.

We have and will continue to support legislation that will help student veterans on all campuses. This representation starts with students telling us what they need. Contacting SVA or participating in our events are great ways to start. Establish your chapter at your institution today. Attend an upcoming coffee social or send an e-mail to programs@studentveterans.org. We are here for you.



@CenterforMSIs
@studentvets



company/center-for-msis
company/studentveterans



RUTGERS
Graduate School of Education



Mental Health Priorities

More than 18 months into COVID-19 and amidst a mental health crisis, Student Veterans of America (SVA) announced that it, along with 17 leading mental health nonprofits, would be part of MTV Entertainment Group's first convening to empower young people to drive culture from awareness to action on mental health through storytelling and media. Senior officials from the Biden-Harris Administration, including from the Department of Health and Human Services, spoke during the Forum in early 2022, culminating with a White House event. SVA also took part in ViacomCBS's Mental Health Action Day.



Research

Student Veterans of America works to inform the public, stakeholders, policy makers, and others on the concerns of students and military-connected students through empirical research. By investing in research, SVA is filling the void in data collection on the student veterans experience, highlighting their challenges and successes. We also use surveys and program evaluations for data collection and improving programs. SVA's research team conducts annual SVA Census and the Veterans Opinion Survey.

SVA Census

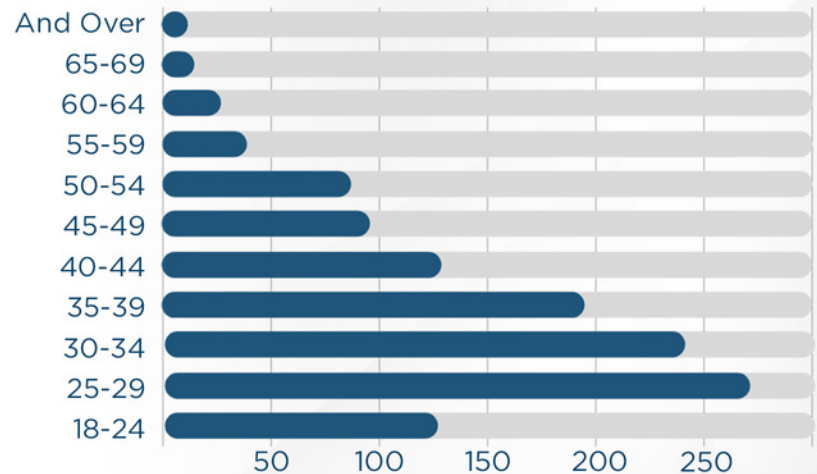
The SVA Census is an annual survey focused on collecting demographic data on student veterans and SVA alumni for use in discussions with policy makers, partners, and the public.

- 2022 SVA Census reported a higher percentage multi-ethnic/racial than the DoD military force (9.7% vs 2.5%)
- The 2022 SVA Census reported a higher Female/Woman percentage compared to the DoD military force (29.6% vs 18.7%).
- Nearly half of student veterans are also parents (47.9%).
Of those 16.6% of student veterans who are parents also consider themselves to be single parents.
- The cumulative GPA from the 2022 SVA Census is 3.4 versus vs Traditional Students 2.8 (see note 1)
- 48.8% of student veterans also reported being employed and going to school.
17.8% are working more than one job where they earn a salary.
Average hours per week of work: 35.7
- 63.1% of respondents reported having a disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Student Veteran Current Age by Groups

	Frequency	Percentage
18-24	127	10.42%
25-29	261	21.41%
30-34	236	19.36%
35-39	186	15.26%
40-44	133	10.91%
45-49	97	7.96%
50-54	88	7.22%
55-59	41	3.36%
60-64	29	2.38%
65-69	12	0.98%
70 and over	9	0.74%
Total	1,219	100.00%

Age Histogram

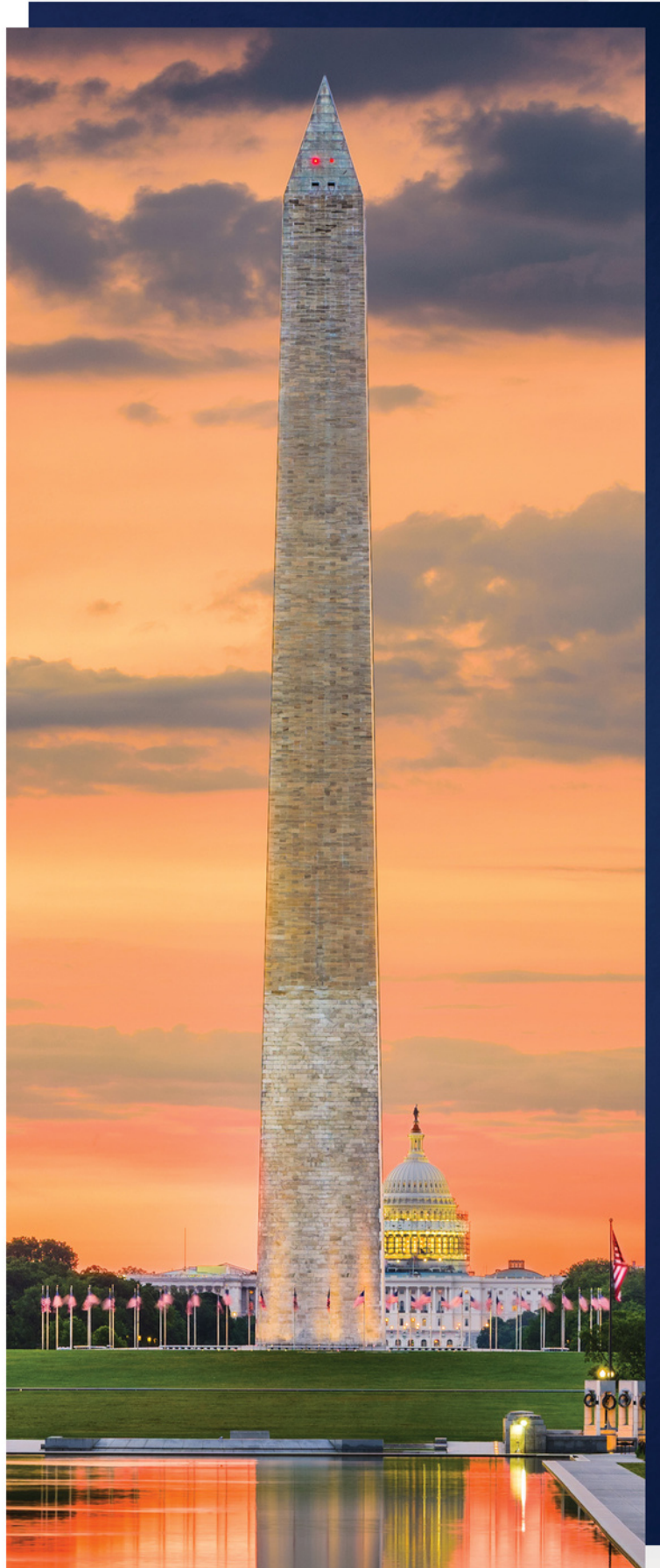


Government Affairs

SVA's Government Affairs Department shapes policy proposals and regulations on behalf of veterans in pursuit of career advancement through higher education. Our team works closely with Congress, the White House, and the federal government to promote forward-looking policies that will help veterans acquire the education they need to thrive in the modern workforce.

The Government Affairs team was highly productive in 2022. The team testified four times before Congress and offered multiple Statements for the Record, held nearly 50 meetings with Members of Congress and their staff, and numerous others with agency and White House officials. The Government Affairs team also secured multiple legislative victories, including passing legislation that secured SVA's top policy goal for 2022—cementing protections for VA education benefits during future national emergencies.

SVA's Vice President of Government Affairs Lauren Augustine attended the signing of the Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021 and three other bipartisan veterans bills at the White House including the Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021, A Bill to Require the Comptroller General of the United States to Conduct a Study on Disparities Associated with Race and Ethnicity with Respect to Certain Benefits Administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for Other Purposes, and the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021.



Policy Victories

Improve and Protect VA Education Benefits – Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022

Giving VA permanent authority to protect VA education benefits during future national emergencies was SVA's top policy priority in 2022. This legislation accomplished the following:

- Gives VA permanent authority to implement protections and flexibilities for VA education benefits in future national emergencies, like those employed during the pandemic, including providing ongoing in-person MHA if courses temporarily move online, protection against the expiration of benefit entitlement, and continued work-study payments, among others.
- Provides flexibility so student veterans can use their VA education benefits for additional study abroad programs.
- Creates a uniform application for approving education programs for VA education benefits to address documented gaps exploited by bad-actor institutions.

Improve and Expand the VA VITAL Program – VITAL Assessment Act of 2022

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 incorporated language from the VITAL Assessment Act of 2022, which:

- Requires VA to report on the VA's Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) Program.
- Compels VA to establish best practices for VITAL.
- Requires VA to conduct outreach on the program.

Expand VA Vet Center Services to Student Veterans and Servicemembers – STRONG Veterans Act of 2022

Language from the STRONG Veterans Act of 2022 was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 and allowed veterans and service members using VA education benefits and Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits to be eligible for VA Vet Center services.

Expand Protections for Guard and Reserve Members Activated During their Studies – Protections for Student Veterans Act of 2022

This bill was incorporated in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 and established the following universal set of basic protections for veterans when activated while using VA education benefits:

- Provides the right to withdraw with a full refund of tuition and fees or take a leave of absence.
- Provides protection against academic and financial penalties when withdrawing.
- Provides the option to complete their program, where possible if they take a leave of absence.

Help Veterans Track Complaints with VA – Patient Advocate Tracker Act

This bill was spearheaded by former VFW-SVA Fellow Cameron Zbikowski and is an example of how the Fellowship empowers student veterans to influence positive change on behalf of their peers. This legislation requires VA to establish an online portal to help veterans track their formal complaints with VA.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship

The VFW-SVA Legislative fellowship returned for its eighth year to connect select student veterans with members of Congress and senior policy makers. Building on the success of past fellows, 2022-23 VFW-SVA Fellow John Randolph proposed a suite of improvements to the VA Work-Study Program that he was ultimately successful in getting introduced as legislation. H.R. 9379, the VA Work-Study Improvement Act, sponsored by Representative Cartwright, received bipartisan support and called for expanding the scope of allowable activities, increasing pay, and modernizing the time-keeping process. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is a shining example of the strong collaboration between VFW and SVA that resulted from a memorandum of understanding signed by the two organizations at the SVA National Conference in January 2013.



Jared Lyon, SVA National President & CEO; Fatima Jaghoori, student veteran at Kansas State University; Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)



Joint HVAC/SVAC Testimony in Washington D.C.

“Our partnership with the VFW focuses on strengthening the opportunities and outcomes available to veterans. This fellowship ensures Capitol Hill hears directly from those impacted by the programs and services we advocate for.”

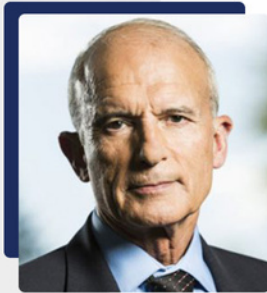
- Jared Lyon, National President & CEO

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Fifth President of Grand Valley State University (GVSU)

Allendale, MI



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Jared Lyon, MPA
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National President & CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA)

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San Francisco, CA

Financials

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2023
(15 Month Audited Financial)

ASSETS

3/31/2023

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,052,207
Accounts Receivable	\$108,007
Investments	\$250,000
Grants and Contributions Receivable, Net.	\$3,427,502
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$107,192
Right-of-Use Asset Operating, Net	\$290,497
Property and Equipment, Net.	\$204,350
Total Assets	\$13,439,755

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$47,953
Lease Liability	\$402,292
Total Liabilities	\$450,245

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions - Undesignated	\$5,736,102
Without Donor Restrictions - Board-Designated	\$1,000,000
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$6,736,102
With Donor Restrictions	\$6,253,408
Total Net Assets	\$12,989,510
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$13,439,755

Partners

SVA and our student-veteran-led chapters have convened a diverse network of corporations, foundations, and nonprofits that support our shared mission to act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy to, through, and beyond higher education. This collaborative effort has enabled our chapter leaders to build inclusive communities on their college campuses that empower student veterans to achieve their greatest potential. We thank our partners for their many years of dedication in support of student veterans, military-affiliated students, their families, and allies.



craig newmark philanthropies



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.



GENERAL DYNAMICS





Through a network of nearly 1,600 on-campus chapters, Student Veterans of America® ensures that student veterans and military-connected students achieve their greatest potential.

Student Veterans of America

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