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Colleagues and friends,

Welcome to a new semester. I hope 2022 was everything you hoped it would be and that 2023 will be everything you imagine it can be. The promise of a new year and a clean slate are very alluring, particularly given the last few years.

It has been a tough at NDSU with the impacts of COVID-19 and budget cuts. I am not sure that it is going to get any easier over the next couple of years either. But regardless of the challenges we will face moving forward, I want you to know that you are appreciated. Thank you for continuing to show up for each other, our students, and our community. You are the beating heart of NDSU. You make the difference.

NEVER FORGET
THE
Difference
YOU'VE
Made

In November, we lost VALOR board member Chris Hanson to a debilitating stroke at the relatively young age of 45. He left behind his newlywed wife, family members, a legion of friends, and thousands of folks whose lives he touched with his kindness and generosity of spirit. Chris showed up for others and he made a difference in their lives. I can think of no better measurement of a life well-lived than that. He will be so missed.

So, as we look into 2023, I hope you will live your life each day knowing the power of your ability to make a difference in folks' lives. None of us know how long we will be on this earth, but we should all know that our interactions (big and small) while we are here are carried in the minds and hearts of others. That is the true measure of a life, so go out there and leave your mark on humanity like our friend Chris did.

Take good care and stay safe.

Carol Cwiak, J.D., Ph.D.
VALOR Faculty Liaison



Board Members

- Heather Aanderud
- Brad Aune
- Carol Cwiak
- Steve Giddens
- Brennan Lemar
- Calie Lindseth
- Shelby Moen
- Devon Patton
- Jonathan Ross
- Andrea Smith
- Jerry South
- Jim Stoddard
- Amy Tichy
- James Torkildson
- Lonnie Wangen
- Thomas Webb
- Todd Yackley

In Memoriam



VALOR was saddened to suddenly lose longtime board member and friend, Chris Hanson, in late November. Chris was a well-known and much loved member of the Fargo-Moorhead community. He always had a ready smile and a willingness to help others. In his you could see the quality of his character. Chris contributed many hours of his life to serving the veteran community (of which he was a part). He was a good soul and he will be missed terribly by those who knew and loved him.

You can read more about Chris' legacy [here](#)

Christopher Andrew Hanson

1977-2022



VCO Update
Jim Stoddard

You can visit Jim on campus at the Veterans Educational Training Office in Ceres 329; or by phone at 701-231-9706; or by email at james.stoddard@ndsu.edu.



Are you interested in being a pen pal to a currently serving military member?

There are a number of reputable organizations that facilitate such pen pal connections - check out this list and connect today (<https://militarybenefits.info/military-pen-pals/>).

If you want to do something closer to home, consider connecting with Fargo's VA Health Care System to donate your time or other items. You can connect with them here (<https://www.va.gov/fargo-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate/>).

Great News

I'll start with our biggest announcement: we now have a space identified and are moving ahead with plans for a combined veteran resource center on campus! The exact timeline is still to be determined, but the physical office moves should begin during this current semester. Both the School Certifying Official and the VET office, along with the veterans' computer lab/study space, will be relocating to suite 112 in Morrill Hall. We look forward to having a consolidated point of service for all our military students!

Please join me in congratulating NDSU student Mandy Hofland on winning a \$5000 Military and Veteran scholarship from Sanford Health for 2023! Master Sergeant Hofland is a PhD candidate in the field of Counselor Education and Supervision, and currently serves in the Force Support Squadron of the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing. In case you missed it, there was an article on [NDSU's News page](#).

26 military students graduated in December 2022, and 19 of those 26 (73%!) had a GPA of 3.0 or better. We wish fair winds and following seas to all of them as they begin their next adventures!

For this current semester (spring 2023), NDSU had 384 GI Bill students registered (as of Dec 30th). This is up slightly from 370 in the previous semester (fall 2022), and about the same (389) as veteran enrollment a year ago in spring 2022. Only 2 are new freshmen or transfers to NDSU this spring.

Here's what our spring 2023 military-connected students are studying by College:

Engineering: 85

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences: 63

Business: 62

Health Professions: 53

Science and Mathematics: 41

Human Sciences and Education: 37

Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources: 30

Undeclared or Non-degree: 13

Graduate School: 0* (*There are 35 military students working on advanced/professional degrees within Colleges other than the Graduate School.)

Within the College of Engineering, the most popular discipline is Mechanical Engineering (22/85), with Computer Science/Engineering a close second (20/85).

The second-most popular College for our military students, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, covers a lot of ground. To break it down a bit, over half (43 of 63) are majoring in one of only four programs: Criminal Justice (16), Architecture (15), Emergency Management (6), and Political Science/Public Policy (6).

Similarly, looking closer at the College of Science and Mathematics, nearly all military students (34 of 41) fall into one of only two disciplines: Biology/Biological Sciences (17), and Psychology (17).

Within the College of Business, nearly half of military students (28/62) are studying Business Administration, with another large group (12/62) majoring in Finance.

Please let me know if I can help with any student issues that are related to military connections!

Veterans carry with them a legacy of love for their nation .

NDSU President Cook says military-related students bring “value” to NDSU

By Craig Schwinden

After a rigorous hiring process which included 46 other notable candidates, Dr. David Cook was named the 15th President of North Dakota State University in February of 2022. Cook, who came from the University of Kansas where he spent 24 years in various roles, assumed his position on May 16th.

According to North Dakota State Board of Education Chairman Casey Ryan, “I have the utmost confidence in Dr. Cook’s leadership skills and commitment to the future of North Dakota State University and the entire state.”

“We had a committed group of representatives from all facets of the NDSU and Fargo community and we all knew that we were doing very important work for the future of North Dakota State University,” Dr. Jill Louters, SBHE vice chair said. “I appreciate everyone who provided input to the presidential search committee. Through the process, we realized that we wanted a president who has a philosophy that is consistent with North Dakota values and has a vision that weaves into that culture. Dr. Cook is that person.”

A couple of key things Dr. Cook will focus on is addressing the sloping student retention rates and looking to strengthen local business relationships with student internships that will hopefully lead to jobs and keep North Dakota-educated students in North Dakota.

“It’s how do we work better with non-traditional students, taking a look in terms of what we have to offer in terms of academic programs and how that truly aligns with the workforce needs in the state,” Cook said in an interview with Fargo’s KVRRTV.

It is in that segment of non-traditional students where our student veterans

sit. In a recent VALOR interview with NDSU’s President, Cook addressed both the needs and future of the military student veterans currently on campus and those he hopes to attract to NDSU in the future.

“I would have to think that there is a natural or parallel alignment between what one learns and experiences in the military and what, I would say, North Dakota is all about,” Cook said. “It’s a tough, rugged, individualistic place. I think the values align really well. Frankly, we’ve got some tough jobs in North Dakota. Being out on the oil patch and agriculture...those are tough. You’ve got to be entrepreneurial and be able to deal with diversity. And frankly, you’ve have to know how to deal with tough times and adjust to things out of your control.”

President Cook says a veterans’ center “is a priority for me.”

With regard to a campus veterans’ center, Cook is fully supportive. While in his role as associate vice chancellor for community engagement at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Cook actually started a veterans’ center on that campus. “This is something I have supported in the past and deeply believe in,” Cook expressed. “I’d love to sit down and have a proposal put in front of me and get something like that done here at NDSU. When you start something new, you’re drinking from the firehose and so I’m dealing with a lot right now. Let’s talk about it and see what you want. You (VALOR) mentioned some incredibly important assets that are already onboard. That sounds great to me, and I’d love to hear more.”

When asked what can be done to make NDSU’s campus and educational experience more attractive to military members looking to attend college, Cook talked about both the veterans’ center and the academic program offering linking NDSU with the needs of a student military member. “I think it is what you just said [the veterans’ center]. I’m all in on that. I think NDSU’s culture and programs fit well with that. When you look across the state, the infrastructure and the programs really align. We need to talk and see how we can work on that together.”

Regarding budget cuts and how they may affect the student veteran community, Cook feels that while this will be a challenge, at least initially, it also provides an opportunity to connect with our community. “I think there is a huge opportunity here. We’ve probably got to stop doing some things when budget times are tough,” Cook explained. “At the same time, we have to look for opportunities, look for places to invest, look for, candidly, new markets. This is where we need to think about diversifying and becoming a more diverse student body. I think we are in a great place. We can work the ROTC angle as well as the local guard and veterans angle. It’s a great opportunity and we, as a university, should be very interested in it.”

Finally, Dr. Cook expressed admiration and deep respect for the military communities and the sacrifices they have made. “Sincerely...this is a priority for me,” Cook said. “I have a very good track record in this space. Let’s talk.”

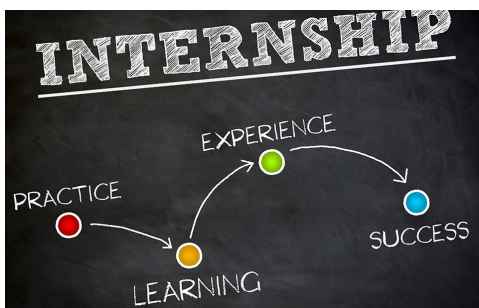


Career Corner

Jerry South, Assistant Director, Career Coaching, NDSU Career and Advising Center



I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Now that it is over, it is time to refocus on school and prepping for your future career. Internships are a great way to do just that. An internship or Coop experience give you a chance to 'test out' a particular aspect of the degree, and hopefully career path, you have been working toward. Often, this experience solidifies your plan and provides some hands-on training that will help prepare you for a full-time career in that field of work after graduation. Internships and Coops also give you some great resume building material that directly relates to your future career, and employers love to see relevant experience that sets you apart from others.



There are several ways to find an internship or coop. You can start by asking upper classmates what companies they have interned with before. This can give you some valuable insight about that company as well. Another way is to reach out to a company yourself and ask them if they would be willing to meet to discuss a potential employment opportunity. You can also look on your major's website where faculty may have suggested previous company connections. Searching the company's website or job boards is another good place to look. Finally, you can look in Handshake, the NDSU job board, for internship or coop opportunities as well as upcoming career events.

The Career and Advising Center is once again hosting an in-person Career Fair in the FargoDome on February 8th where typically over 250 employers attend. You can find information about all our upcoming events in Handshake and on the NDSU Career and Advising Center's website. To best prepare for these events you should research employers, their positions, find their booth number and location for in-person events or schedule a virtual meeting for our online fair.

As always, if you need help translating your military experience on your resume, searching for opportunities or practice interviewing, we are here for you. And if you don't have professional interview clothes readily available, we have a Career Closet where you can sign something out for up to two weeks, free of charge. Drop in our zoom or physical studio Monday thru Friday, 10 AM thru 4 PM for assistance. If you would prefer an appointment, just reach out via Navigate.

February 1 – Marketing and Sales Hiring Fair; Barry Hall 9 AM- Noon

February 8 – Spring Career Expo; FargoDome 11AM - 3 PM

March 2 – Part-Time & Summer Job Fair; Memorial Union 1 - 4 PM

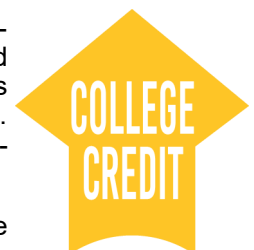


Fire Watch

Brennan Lemar and Devon Patton, BSV

BSV is happy to announce that our policy of translating overseas experience to college credit is approved and being moved to Registration and Records for policy implementation. This process is counting days overseas toward 3 credits of Global Perspective and 3 credits of Cultural Diversity. We will be announcing more about the policy once its process is fully implemented by Registration and Records.

We look forward to helping out all the military students moving into the spring semester.



Welcome Back!

Military and Veteran Certification Office



Todd Yackley

Greetings from the Military and Veterans Certification Office. Fall was a crazy busy semester with a lot of changes. As you should know, Army ignited changed this semester to 2.0 and required each student to create their own tuition assistance Request or TAR. The deadline to apply has passed. If you didn't get it in, there is no way to apply late. The Army gave a hard deadline and I sent out multiple emails and texts telling everyone for the deadline and requirements.



You can still request STR if you are a MN Guard member up to 90 days after the semester ends. ND Guard is a bit different and you must sign up for STA by the start of the semester with a requirement to sign up for FTA as well. Check with Chief Bohl at the ND Education Office for the Guard at 701-333-3064.

On another note, The Military and Veterans Certification office will be moving sometime this semester. As we get closer to the move date an email will be sent out with our new location. We will be Combined with the VETs Program to allow a one stop shop for everything Veterans. As always if you have any questions, I can be reached at 701-231-9782 or by email at todd.yackley@ndsu.edu.

COMING UP

January

New Year's Day January 1
 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday January 16

February

Four Chaplains Day February 3
 USO Birthday February 4
 National Salute to Veteran Patients February 12-18
 President's Day February 20
 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday February 19

March

Navy Reserve Birthday March 3
 Hug a GI Day March 4
 Seabee Birthday March 5
 K9 Veterans Day March 13
 American Legion Birthday March 15
 Rosie The Riveter Day March 21
 Medal of Honor Day March 25
 National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29

April

Gold Star Spouses Day April 5
 Air Force Reserve Birthday April 14
 Army Reserve Birthday April 23

Local Events

On the **second Wednesday of every month from 10 AM—12 PM** you can visit the **Fargo Air Museum** located at 1609 19th Ave N in Fargo) for **Veterans' Coffee Hour**. Complimentary coffee and donuts are available.



On the **third Monday of every month from 1-4 PM**, there is a **free walk-in legal clinic** to help low-income veterans with civil legal matters at the **Fargo VA's Community Resource and**

Referral Center (CRCC). Note: this service is not at the VA hospital; the CRCC is on 1st Ave N in downtown Fargo, next to the Federal Courthouse.



Giving Hearts Day

Giving Hearts Day is a well-established charitable giving event in our area. This year, please consider giving to one of the charities that supports military members or veterans. You can check out all the charities and donate [here](#).

