

VALOR

VETERAN ★ ALLIANCE



September &
October 2022

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Colleagues and friends,

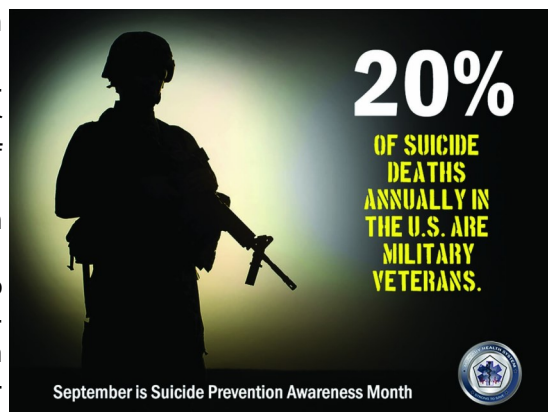
I hope you have settled into the new semester and are looking forward to a pleasant fall. I always find it curious how quickly the beginning of semesters go, only to be followed by a middle segment that seems to drag on. When the final few weeks of a semester approach we are right back to time flying. I am sure there is an explanation here, perhaps a seasonal phenomenon or a preference for starts and finishes over the middle, regardless the unbalanced perception of the passage of time endures.

Fall is the favorite season of many with the changing colors, cooler temperatures, and the much anticipated return to favorite sweaters. Fall also brings us to our annual call to reflect upon the epidemic of suicide, particularly veteran suicide, during National Suicide Prevention Month (recognized annually each September). This month's *Call to Action* urges you to reach out to family, friends, and colleagues who are veterans to maintain connection and open lines of communication, today and every day. The physical, mental, and emotional burdens veterans carry based on their service is something that stays with them all their lives. These burdens can be quite challenging to carry.

Of the suicide deaths in the United States, veterans represent 20% which is disproportionate based on their percentage in the overall population (7%). It is estimated that 22 veterans die by suicide each day. We know that connection and support systems matter in this fight to reduce veteran suicide. Please keep the important mission of reducing veteran suicide at the forefront of your thoughts, we must do better.

If you have any student veteran matters that you need assistance with, do not hesitate to reach out to me or Jim Stoddard. As always, thank you for your commitment to VALOR and our student veterans at NDSU. Have a lovely fall.

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



VALOR will resume its Veterans Day celebration this year with a ceremony on November 10th. Look for specific details in the next edition of the VALOR newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.



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.



Check this out!

Please take a minute to watch this excellent (and funny!) [video](#) from Student Veterans of America encouraging all veteran students to join their school's SVA chapter (<https://fb.watch/fcRqEt-afD/>). And be sure to check out BSV at NDSU .

Even during the summer break, we are working on improvements to services for student veterans! This summer, I became aware of a collaborative program between the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and (currently) about 100 well-respected universities around the country. In this special partnership, an Air Force student can, in most cases, transfer in to a participating university and build directly on a CCAF Associate's degree to earn their Bachelor's degree in a closely-aligned area of study by completing no more than 60 additional credits.

This partnership is called the "Air University Associate's to Baccalaureate Cooperative" (AU-ABC), and is similar to other transfer agreements or sometimes called "articulation agreements". Four-year universities that are partners in this program determine which of their Bachelor's degrees align closely enough with one or more of CCAF's associate's degrees, and develop a kind of matrix of approved transfer matches. For example, one AU-ABC partner institution might approve a student with a CCAF Associate's in Public Health to earn their B.S. in Public Health after earning no more than 60 additional credits, while another institution may not approve that for their Public Health degree. But they might accept that Public Health A.A.S. as part of a General Studies bachelor's. More specifically at NDSU, it seems like a Bachelor's in University Studies could be a good match to almost all CCAF degrees, and there are probably a few other good match candidates.



Four institutions in North Dakota (UND, Minot State, Bismarck State College, and University of Mary), and at least 3 other land-grant institutions (Arizona State, Mississippi State, and University of Wyoming) are already partners in this program, but NDSU currently is not. The good news is that NDSU is taking a new look at joining this collaborative so that NDSU would be a more competitive and accessible option for Air Force students (active, Guard, or Reserve) looking to complete their bachelor's degrees. I will provide updates on this effort as they become available.

As we head into a new semester and school year, I thought I'd just pull some raw data and see if this prompts any thoughts or discussions. It's good to know what the educational demand of our military students is so we can ensure the right programs are available at NDSU! As of Aug 31st, NDSU has 370 GI Bill students registered for the fall 2022 term, which is up very slightly from fall 2021 (363). About 50 are new freshmen or transfers to NDSU this fall, while we had 59 military students complete their degrees in spring or summer 2022. Here's the current distribution of NDSU's military-connected students by College:

Engineering: 85
Business: 60
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences: 56
Health Professions: 48
Science and Mathematics: 43
Human Sciences and Education: 35
Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources: 32
Undeclared or Non-degree: 11
Graduate School: 0*

* 35 students are working on advanced/professional degrees within Colleges other than the Graduate School. (continued on page 3)



Veteran's Voice

Craig Schwinden

VALOR Student Veteran Representative

Welcome back fellow student vets.

It is the second week of the new fall semester as I write this article and I am finding myself overly busy as usual for this time of year. I am hopeful that things will begin to settle down and I, and all of you, will get into some sort of a routine for the rest of the semester.

I am hoping as many of you as possible have had your registration confirmed. I have not seen anything confirming mine, but I did get my housing allowance today, so I guess that it a good sign. Since that has started, it has been a bit of a slow go. But it is necessary so all we can do is push on.

The Bison Student Veterans (BSV) have published their meeting schedule and they will be holding their business meetings on the first Thursday of each month. In addition, there will be a monthly social meeting where the focus will be stories, fun and camaraderie. Those will be the third Thursday of the month. For the current semester, the business meetings are scheduled for: Sep. 1st, Oct 6th, Nov. 3rd and Dec. 1st. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 5 PM and will be in the Memorial Union. When entering the Union, just check the television monitors for the room in which the meeting will be held. I'm sure BSV has reservations set up already, but make sure you check the monitors in case of changes...it has been known to happen. I highly encourage you to get involved with this organization as they have built up the membership and have made positive things happen for the student veteran population here at North Dakota State.

One of the things you may hear about at this meeting is that Minnesota's legislature passed, and Governor Walz signed, the first-ever Veterans Omnibus Bill that includes funding for a Post-911

Veterans Service Bonus. This is available to eligible veterans who served from 9/11/01 to 8/30/21. This sounds like a great law for our Minnesota veterans. If you think you qualify, follow this link: [Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus / Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs - State of Minnesota](https://mn.gov/veterans-service-bonus/) (mn.gov).

On the federal side, Secretary McDonough of the VA sent out a message to veterans welcoming them to the fall semester. Here it is: [Welcome to the 2022 Fall term!](https://govdelivery.com) (govdelivery.com). I encourage you to click on the links and make sure your email address and notifications are set up so you can get the very latest news and updates on medical care and G. I. Bill changes. I will help keep you up to date as well...

Lastly, please email me with any questions about benefits you may have. We here at VALOR and the BSV are here to help and if we can't answer your question, we will find someone who can. You can reach me at: craig.schwinden@ndsu.edu

Have a great semester!

Craig Schwinden, MSgt/E7 (ret),
USAFR

VCO Update (continued from page 2)



Within the College of Engineering, the most popular discipline is Mechanical Engineering (25/85), with Computer Science/Engineering a close 2nd (18/85). Within the College of Business, nearly half of military students (25/60) are studying Business Administration, with another large group (13/60) majoring in Finance.

The third-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 (35 of 56) are majoring in one of only four programs: Architecture (13), Criminal Justice (11), Political Science/Public Policy (6), and Emergency Management (5), with just 1 - 4 students in all of the other AHSSC majors. Similarly, looking closer at the College of Science and

Mathematics, nearly all military students (38 of 43) fall into one of only two disciplines: Biology/Biological Sciences (22), and Psychology (16).

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



Name: Teddy Schauer

Major/Minor: Agribusiness

Originally from: Lake Park, Minn.

Current city: Fargo, N.D.

Career plans after college: After college I plan to work full time for the ND Air National Guard here in Fargo as well as work "part time" on our family farm. Though part time is often a lot more work than it sounds.

Military Service/Awards: I am a member of the North Dakota Air National Guard and I have been enlisted for 4 years. After completing basic training in San Antonio, TX and Tech school in San Angelo, TX most of my time in service has been working in Fargo. However, I have been able to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi and Niagara, NY on temporary duty.

NDSU activities/engagement: I participate in the Agribusiness Club and Bison Catholic Club as well as basketball, volleyball, and football intramural sports.

Community activities/engagement: I am a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

College scholarships, awards, etc.: NDSU Provost Award and I have made the Dean's list the past two semesters.

An interesting tidbit about the veteran: One interesting tidbit about me is that I love being outdoors. My biggest hobbies are hunting and fishing. I also like hiking and camping.

Favorite experience/memories/etc. at NDSU: One of my favorite memories so far that is unique to NDSU was being at the semi-final playoff game last year against James Madison. The game is memorable because of the one-handed interception that Destin Talbert had to win the game. This all happened right in front of the student section where I was sitting.



CALL TO ACTION: **REACH OUT**

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Each year, 20% of the national suicide deaths are veterans. We lose 22 of our veterans a day to suicide. These are unacceptable losses, we must do more to address this epidemic. Reach out to the veterans in your life, whether they are friends, family members, or colleagues. Let them know you are available to talk, listen or to just hang out. Be the connection that saves a life. And demand action from your elected officials to abate this ongoing tragedy.

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 - press 1 or send a text message to 838255



[valor.veteran.alliance.organization/](https://www.valor.veteran.alliance.organization/)

Fire Watch*Brennan Lemar and Devon Patton, BSV*

Greetings NDSU veterans, faculty, staff, and allies; we hope that your summer was enjoyable and you are excited to be back at it once again.

Going forward our meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month at 1730, and the social hour will take place on the third Thursday at the same time. We are looking for presenters for our October, November, February, March, and April meetings. If you or someone you know may be interested in speaking at one of our upcoming meetings, we encourage you to contact us.

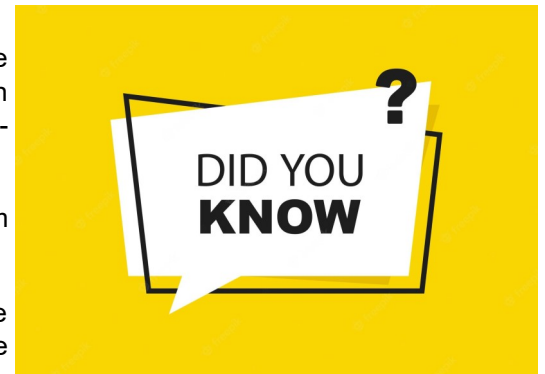
We are still working with NDSU administration to have overseas military experience accredited to fulfill the global perspectives, and cultural diversity requirement. It may be worth your time to check back in with us before registering for a course in this category.

Our elections were held in April, and we are excited to say that we have several new officers fulfilling new positions. It is great to see continued interest from NDSU's student veteran population.

We thank you for your support and look forward to the year ahead.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- If you have military orders that will result in class absence you can submit your orders to NDSU's official reporting system (https://www.ndsu.edu/deanofstudents/student_advocacy/excused_absence_policy_and_notifications/) and they will notify all your instructors for you.
- The Gilman-McCain scholarship provides \$5,000 to undergraduate dependents of active or activated military personnel to study or intern abroad. Learn more about this scholarship and other Gilman scholarship opportunities at gilmanscholarships.org.
- SVA also provides a robust complement of scholarships - check them out [here](#).
- The VA has many outreach events scheduled each week on a wide variety of topics relevant to veterans that you can access for free - see them [here](#).
- If you are interested in student discounts for veterans and military members, check out this [site](#). They even have a free newsletter you can subscribe to with more discounts.
- North Dakota Veteran Affairs has an extensive listing of benefits and services available - check it out [here](#).
- NDSU has emergency loans for students who experience unexpected expenses. You can learn more about these loans [here](#).
- [The Military Times](#) has a robust collection of news stories and resources specifically about, and for, veterans.
- Team Rubicon, staffed in large part by veterans, deploys to disaster areas to assist with debris removal, getting supplies into remote areas, and other response and recovery-oriented missions. If you would like to volunteer with this noteworthy organization, you can learn more [here](#).
- [Warrior Rising](#) supplies free support to veterans and their immediate family members interested in starting their own business.
- You can track legislation that affects veterans at the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs [page](#).



Career Corner

Brandon Schutz, Career Coach, NDSU Career and Advising Center



Fall semester is now underway and as summer ends there are a lot of opportunities for new beginnings at NDSU. Some of you may be approaching graduation and preparing for what's after college while some of you may be fresh out of the service and starting to discover what it is you want to do next. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming trying to figure out who you are or what you want to get out of your education. This year, we at the Career and Advising Center are rolling out a new career and major exploration tool called Focus2Career that can help you figure out what academic options you could pursue and the kind of careers you can attain with that degree.

Focus2Career is an exploration tool that assesses five major areas including Values, Interests, Leisure, Personality, and Skills that combine to create suggestions for academic majors and possible career options that you can choose from to help decide what you want to do with your future. Once you have taken all five of the assessments on Focus2Career you can then combine them to find professions that best fit who you are and what you enjoy. While navigating Focus2Career you can look job descriptions, duties, average salaries, future outlook, and majors offered at NDSU that would give you academic foundations to work in that industry. To use Focus2Career follow the steps below:



1. Go to the [Focus2Career page](https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/focus-2-career/) on our Career and Advising Center webpage (career-advising.ndsu.edu/focus-2-career/) and click the big green button labeled "Focus 2 Career Login. Once you have moved to the next screen you'll want to click "register" and complete this section using the access code "bison" and your NDSU email address.
2. After registering your Focus2Career account you will want to complete the three career readiness sections at the top as well as the five main assessments toward the middle of the page. On average it should take thirty minutes or less to complete.
3. After you finish taking the assessments you should use the "combine assessments" button to explore careers and NDSU academic majors that fit your personality and skills. You can save majors and jobs that interest you to view the next time you are using Focus 2 Career.
4. When you have found some majors or careers you think you would like to explore more in depth you should think about scheduling a meeting with your advisor or a career coach to discuss what you have discovered and how you can start to pursue a career or major going forward.

My father was in the Air Force Reserves for 30 years and held several positions ranging from heavy equipment, water purification, and plumbing. He always enjoyed learning new things but it took him awhile to find some of his passions without a lot of knowledge of what he could do and what was a good fit for him. Focus2Career is a tool that can help you explore what you want to get out of your education and career.

If you have questions feel free to contact me at brandon.schutz@ndsu.edu. Good luck with the fall semester!



The Career and Advising Center have a number of upcoming employer events that you may be interested in, check them out [here](https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/events/) (career-advising.ndsu.edu/events/).

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

~ Confucius

Welcome Back!

Military and Veteran Certification Office



Todd Yackley

Hello and welcome back to another semester. This semester is off to a whirlwind start and I want to apologize for the delay in emails and phone calls. We had to shut down office visits during the start of the semester due to certification process being so intense.

For the Guard and reservists, ArmyIgnitED 2.0 is up and running and will be used for the Spring Semester. You can start loading your classes 60 days prior to the semester starting but no later than eight days prior. It is up to you to load your own classes now.



We are starting to load tuition and fees for Chapter 33. We have to wait until the drop/add date so we can alleviate some of the mass changes to schedules that seems to occur prior to that. It is another tedious process so if you are trying to reach us and not getting an immediate answer be patient and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We had a good turn out for a Summer Zoom informational session that was held in August. We plan on having another one soon so watch for an announcement.

On a final note, I will be hiring for a new work study position. If you are interested, please let me know. It is for up to 20 hours a week and the pay is \$10 an hour. The nice thing is, you can set your hours around your schedule.

COMING UP

September

National Suicide Prevention Month	Month of Sept.
National Service Dog Month	Month of Sept.
V-J Day	September 2
Patriot Day	September 11
National POW/MIA Recognition Day	September 16
Air Force Birthday	September 18
Air National Guard Birthday	September 18
Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day	September 25
VFW Day	September 29

October

U.S. Navy Birthday	October 13
Day of the Deployed	October 27

November

National Family Caregivers Month	Month of Nov.
Warrior Care Month	
National Veterans & Mil. Family Month	
National Veterans Small Bus. Week	November 1-5
Marine Corps Birthday	November 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Armistice/Remembrance Day	November 11

December

Civil Air Patrol Birthday	December 1
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
U.S. National Guard Day	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 18

Local Events

On **Wednesday, Nov 16th** from **Noon to 1 PM** (CST on Zoom) there will be a panel discussion titled "Veteran Perspectives on Campus" - this is part of NDSU's "Including U" series. Watch for the link announcement. This series is open to all of the NDSU community.

Free Flu Shot Schedule at the Fargo VA Medical Center (2101 Elm St. N):

-Sept. 21 and 28 from 8 AM to 2 PM via drive-through (follow the signs in the parking lot).

- Oct. 6, 12, and 18 from 8 AM to 3 PM in the first-floor north entrance.

- Oct. 4 and 13 from 3 to 6 PM in the first-floor primary care department.

For questions about eligibility, call 1-800-410-9723, extension 3428. Veterans should bring their Veteran ID card and wear a mask and appropriate clothing such as a short-sleeve shirt to receive a flu vaccine. Veterans experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should present for their flu vaccine when it has been at least 5 days since the onset of symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms need to be improved, and at least 24 hours without fever greater than 100.0 F. If you have questions regarding COVID-19 and the flu vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider.