



VETERANS

EDUCATION SUCCESS

Elevating Veterans' Voices
2018

*Creating public education opportunities for veterans
to share their experiences in higher education*

ANNUAL / After Action Report

Submitted by: Tyson Manker

December 31, 2018



Lumina Foundation Panel Friday, Feb. 9 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran **Jonathan Ngowaki** spoke on a Lumina Foundation panel about being defrauded by DeVry University, including the school taking out fraudulent loans without his consent.



Congressional Meetings Monday, Feb. 12 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran **Travis Craig** visited Washington, DC to share his story of attending ITT Technical Institute, and having loans taken out in his name without his permission.



Office of **Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger** (D-MD)
Social Media [HERE](#)



Office of **Sen. Ben Cardin** (D-MD)
Social Media [HERE](#)



Congressional Meetings Monday, Feb. 12 – Washington, DC



Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)
Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Social media [HERE](#)



Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)
Social media [HERE](#)



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



US Education Department Hearing Testimony

Army Veteran **Travis Craig** testified at the Education Department about attending ITT Tech.
Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Student Veterans Congressional Panel Thursday, Feb. 22 – Washington, DC

VES hosted a panel discussion of student veterans in the House Veterans Affairs Committee before a packed room of Congressional staff. VES Vice President **Tanya Ang** moderated the panel, eliciting the students' stories of what is and is not working in higher education for military veterans. (Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#))

The collage consists of several screenshots from the Twitter account Veterans Education Success (@GiBillRights). The top left post features a quote from Jamie Hubert about his experience at Kaplan University and the #DefendStudents hashtag, accompanied by a video of him speaking. Below this is a quote from Wesley Hughes of Georgetown University about his college journey. The top right post is a tweet containing a YouTube link for a video titled 'Improving College Access and Success through the Voices of Student Veterans'. The middle right post shows Omar Andrews speaking at a panel. The bottom left post features Rachael Milam's testimony about transitioning from military to education. The bottom right post shows Francheska Salazar's testimony about choosing a community college. Each post includes the VES logo and a 'Follow' button.

Jamie Huebert, Navy, Kaplan

Omar Andrews, Marine Corps, U of Southern Maine

Wesley Hughes, Army, Georgetown

Rachael Milam, Air Force, NOVA Community College

Francheska Salazar, Army, Anne Arundel College

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

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Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Office of Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) Thursday, Feb. 22 – Washington, DC



Jamie Huebert told Sen. Kaine's staff about being defrauded by Kaplan. ([HERE](#))



Office of Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) Friday, Feb. 23 – Washington, DC



Omar Andrews told Sen. Collins staff about his experiences as a student veteran. ([HERE](#))



Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) Thursday, April 5 – Winston Salem, NC

Sen. Richard Burr met with 4 current and former North Carolina student veterans and VES staff.



April McDonald, Army National Guard, U of Phoenix
Jason Christian, Navy, American Intercontinental University
Charles Calamese, Army, Winston-Salem University
Roby Lovett, Navy, Forsythe Technical Community College

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#),
[HERE](#), and [HERE](#)



Nashville Film Festival Thursday, May 17 – Nashville, TN

Marine Corps Veteran **Will Walker** told the audience about being defrauded by ITT Tech for the “Fail State” documentary screening.



Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Brooklyn Film Festival Monday, June 4 – Brooklyn, NY

Army Veterans **Milo Jones** and **John Andrew** spoke with a reporter and told the audience about their experiences at ITT Technical and U of Phoenix at “Fail State” film screening.



News media [HERE](#)



Georgetown Law Panel with Sen. Warren (D-MA) Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, DC

Army Veteran **Andrea Carlton** shared her story of being defrauded by Brown Mackie college.



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



“We The Action” Video Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, DC

Andrea Carlton taped a video with “We The Action” and met with Rep. Ted Lieu’s staff.



Social media [HERE](#)



Office of Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, DC



Social media [HERE](#)



“Fail State” Congressional screening Tuesday, June 19 – Washington, DC

VES co-hosted a screening of the “Fail State” documentary with **Rep. Seth Moulton**, where Marine Corps Veteran **Zach Hastie**, who is featured in the film, told Congressional staffers about being defrauded by ITT Technical Institute.



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Student Veterans Congressional Panel Thursday, July 12 – Capitol Hill

VES organized students’ voices at a House Veterans Affairs Committee panel with Chairman **Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN)** and Ranking Member **Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)**.



Tyronda Brown, Navy, American University
Malia Fry, Gold-Star Wife, children using the Fry Scholarship
Glenn Shephard, Army, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)
Rachael Mill, Air Force, Northern Virginia Community College

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and VIDEO [HERE](#)



Washington Meetings Thursday, July 12 – Capitol Hill, VA

VES also facilitated a meeting for **Glenn Shephard** with **Rep. Sarbanes** (D-MD), as well as VA reps to talk about having 8 months of his GI Bill benefits restored, after ITT Tech closed while he was enrolled.



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Rep. Lou Correa Wednesday, August 29 – Santa Ana, CA



Buddy Summit, USMC, Saddleback College
Aaron Edwards, USMC, Saddleback College
Rose Adon, Navy, Saddleback College
Terence Nelson, USMC, Saddleback College

Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



US Education Department Hearing Monday, Sept. 10 – Washington, DC

VES brought in Colorado student veteran **Jarrold Thoma** and his wife **Mindy**, both of whom testified at the public hearing about protecting students and veterans.



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Capitol Hill Congressional Meetings

VES facilitated Congressional meetings for the Jarrold and Mindy Thoma (and their children).



Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Office of Sen. Cory Gardner (D-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Office of Sen. Michael Bennet (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#)



Office of Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#)



US Education Department Hearing Tuesday, Sept. 11 – New Orleans, LA

VES brought local student veteran **Renee Seruntine** to give testimony against the rollback of student protections.



Social media [HERE](#)



Rep. Scott Peters Thursday, Sept. 20 – Santa Ana, CA

VES organized a district meeting and brought 3 local student veterans to share their educational experience with **Congressman Scott Peters**.



Chris Cabrera, Navy, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)
Steven Padilla, Army, National University
Eric Dean, Navy, National University
Bob Muth, USMC, USD Law Veterans Clinic

Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



National College Access Network (NCAN) 2018 Monday, Sept. 24 – Pittsburgh, PA

VES brought Marine Corps student veteran **Omar Andrews** to NCAN 2018 in Pittsburgh to participate in a student panel and share his educational experiences.



Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Education Writers Association Conference Wednesday, Sept. 26 – Las Vegas, NV

VES brought **Tiffany Jones**, an Army veteran, to share her experiences in higher education.



Social media [HERE](#)



US Consumer Hearing Thursday, Oct. 18 – Baton Rouge, LA

VES organized an opportunity for, and helped, the Louisiana Commander of The American Legion to confront US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau head Mick Mulvaney over his plan to cease investigations for Military Lending Act violations. Social media and Video [HERE](#)



“Navigating College Success for Military-Connected Students” Friday, Oct. 19 – Sterling, VA

VES organized a public forum on student veterans, featuring Navy Veteran **Michelle Tremblay**, with help from Civic Nation and Young Invincibles at Northern Virginia Community College.



Social media [HERE](#)



“Fail State” Documentary Opening Friday, Oct. 19 – Los Angeles, CA

VES brought defrauded USMC veteran **Murray Hastie and his wife** to the opening of “Fail State,” a documentary co-produced by Dan Rather about for-profit school abuses.



Social media [HERE](#)



Rep. Adam Smith Monday, Oct. 29 – Seattle, WA

VES organized a district meeting and brought 2 local student veterans to share their educational experience with Rep. Smith (the ranking member of Armed Services Committee)



Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Congressman Smith Retweeted VES Tweets after the meeting, [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



“Navigating College Success for Military-Connected Students” Tuesday, Oct. 30 – Dallas, TX

VES co-organized and co-hosted a public forum on student veterans with Young Invincibles and Civic Nation at El Centro Community College in Dallas, TX. VES brought USMC veteran **Renee Monczynski** and Gold-Star Wife **Malia Fry** to participate.



Social media [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)



Capitol Hill Briefing December 11 – Washington, DC

VES brought **Andy Kmiecik**, member of the Air National Guard, to Capitol Hill to participate in TICAS event, “Of Metrics and Markets: Measuring Post-College Employment Success” that included a discussion with Congressional staffers.



(Social [HERE](#))

CONNECTING VETERANS WITH NEWS OUTLETS



Bloomberg –Featuring VES Student Veteran Monday, May 22 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran **Jonathan Ngowaki** spoke with Bloomberg about his unfortunate experience at DeVry University, and the fraudulent behavior he encountered. ([HERE](#))



The Denver Post – VES Student Veteran Op-Ed Monday, June 25 – Denver, CO

Through VES, Army Veteran **Jarrod Thoma** published an op-ed in the Denver Post about his time at DeVry University, the false promises he encountered, and hewing to the rules of non-lobbying education, why a proposed bill would hurt, not help, students in higher ed. ([HERE](#))



The New York Times – Featuring VES Student Veteran Monday, August 17 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran **Stephanie Stiefel** was featured in a *New York Times* op-ed (Gail Collins, “*The Bane That Is Betsy DeVos*”) about her time at the International Academy of Design and Technology, in Tampa, the false promises she encountered, and the six-figure student loan debt she is now burdened with. ([HERE](#))