



August 20, 2014

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Innovation and Improvement
Attn: Military Affairs Team
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Director of the Military Affairs Team:

Bluefield State College is encouraged by the efforts taken by the Obama Administration to support service members, veterans and military families, and thus affirms support for the 8 Keys to Veterans' Success.

Bluefield State College recognizes the significant value that student veterans bring to our campus and believes it is important that we ensure that veterans receive the best possible educational experience. We are committed to implementing, and sharing, promising practices such as:

The 8 Keys to Veterans' Success

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support for veterans from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space (even if limited in size).
5. Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.
6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention and degree completion.
7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.

Executive Order 13607, "The Principles of Excellence"

We, Bluefield State College, affirm support for the "Principles of Excellence." We, Bluefield State College, acknowledge that this letter is not a confirmation of compliance with the Principles of Excellence, however, which are administered through a separate process run by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Signature of Authorizing Official: *Marsha V. Krotseng*

Date: August 20, 2014

Printed Name: Marsha V. Krotseng