



The Veterans View

December 1, 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

Greetings from the Director

Greetings, My name is Shukura Bakari-Cozart, the new Director for the Veterans Upward Bound Program (VUB). This is our first newsletter under the direction of a new staff. For the past few months VUB has been under construction. We have been busy reshaping the program to more adequately fit the needs of our veterans. We added new staff and they have contributed fresh ideas. We are committed to the success of our veterans as we assist them with their financial and academic needs. Our goal in conjunction with our mission is to prepare, motivate, provide, and assist military veterans with the necessary training and support that will enable eligible veterans to successfully enter into college or any other post-secondary institution. In addition to the standard services VUB provides to its participants we have added a new on-line software to assess and improve our veterans math and language skills; publication that will address all type of veteran related topics (e.g. financial planning, stress management, suicide prevention, resiliency in action), along with and workshops that build skills that lead our participants to personal and academic success. I hope you enjoy our newsletter and if you have any questions feel free to contact our office.



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VUB Meet and
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Comfit On-line learning
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- Where to obtain VUB services



We've been under some major construction and now we have a new staff , new ideas, new programs!



Meet our new staff

L-R: Brad Webster, Abdulaziz Abdulaziz, Sheri Daniel-Washington, Shondella Umeh, Shukura Bakari-Cozart, and Stacia Lyday

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE
VETERANS
THE VETERAN SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS/ AGENCIES THAT ATTENDED
THE FIRST ANNUAL VETERANS UPWARD BOUND (VUB)
MEET AND GREET ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014.**

VUB Staff Appreciate You!

What is the Average Salary for a Bachelor's Degree?

The average salary paid to people with a bachelor's degree is dependent upon several factors, such as major, job position, location and years of experience. Depending on what the degree is in, those holding only a bachelor's degree can earn a median salary ranging from \$34,000 to just over \$100,000, according to *PayScale.com*. The April 2014 salary chart at *PayScale.com* for median salary by job for a bachelor's degree indicates the following:

Job	Median Salary
Software Engineer	\$72,721
Staff Accountant	\$44,192
Operations Manager	\$58,873
Mechanical Engineer	\$63,144
Financial Analyst	\$54,051

Salary survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)

Engineering	\$63,000
Computer Science	\$60,000
Business	\$54,000
Communications	\$43,000
Math & Sciences	\$42,700
Education	\$40,000
Humanities & Social Sciences	\$37,000



The VUB office has purchased the QuickSeries Publications that are free

and specialized for our veterans. We have guides ranging from Family Care Planning to Thrift Savings Planning.

QuickSeries Publishing is a specialty publisher that concentrates on creating smart, reliable pocket guides that capture the essential information you need to lead you through everyday life. We specialize in compiling the most credible information into a concise and interactive format. This unique, easy-to-carry format allows readers to rapidly find pertinent information wherever they are..

IS THERE A NEED TO BE ASSESSED BEFORE YOU ENTER COLLEGE?

COMFIT ON-LINE LEARNING

VUB has purchased an on-line internet based tool to help veterans improve and develop stronger math and language skills. Come in and get assessed to see where you stand and improve your skills.

VUB Legend



Riley Leroy Pitts

(October 15, 1937 – October 31, 1967)

The dedication ceremony for the Captain Riley Leroy Pitts Military and Veteran Student Center was held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7 in the Shirley Beggs Ballroom (305 RSC). WSU honored Captain Pitts who graduated from Wichita State in 1960 with a degree in Journalism and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Pitts was a United States Army Captain and the first African-American commissioned officer to receive the Medal of Honor. The medal was presented posthumously by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson on December 10, 1968 for actions in Ap Dong, South Vietnam.

Riley Leroy Pitts was born in Fallis, Oklahoma. Pitts married Mrs. Eula Pitts and had a daughter, Stacie, and a son, Mark, while employed with the Boeing Corporation. After being commissioned as an officer in the Army, he was sent to Vietnam in December 1966. Pitts had seven years of service in the Army.

In Vietnam, Pitts served as an information officer until he was transferred to a combat unit. As a Captain, he then served as commander of C Company "Wolfhounds", 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment. On October 31, 1967, just one month before he was to be rotated back home, his unit was called upon to reinforce another company heavily engaged against a strong enemy force.

After his company landed in an airmobile assault, several Viet Cong opened fire with automatic weapons. Captain Pitts led an assault which overran the enemy positions and was then ordered to move north to reinforce another company engaged against a strong enemy force. As his company moved forward intense fire was received from three directions, including four bunkers, two of which were within 15 meters of his position. His rifle fire proving ineffective against the enemy due to the dense foliage, Pitts picked up an M79 grenade launcher and began pinpointing the targets. Seizing a grenade taken from a captured Viet Cong's web gear, he lobbed it at a bunker to his front but it hit the foliage and rebounded. Without hesitation, Pitts threw himself on top of the grenade which, fortunately, failed to explode. He then directed the repositioning of the company to permit friendly artillery to be fired. Upon completion of the fire mission, he again led his men toward the enemy positions, personally killing at least one more Viet Cong. Displaying complete disregard for his personal safety, he maintained continuous fire, pinpointing the enemy's fortified positions, while at the same time directing and urging his men forward, until he was mortally wounded.

Captain Pitts is survived by his wife, Eula and his daughter Stacie and son Mark. Numerous organizations have honored the first black officer Medal of Honor recipient by naming parks and organizations after him. He is buried in Hillcrest Memory Gardens Spencer, Oklahoma.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riley_L._Pitts



GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE CHECKLIST

The Federal Student Aid Department has put together a checklist to aid you in preparing financially and academically for college.

Remember, VUB can assist you with your checklist and provides the services that can make this process much easier for you. Come and visit our office at 1845 N. FAIRMOUNT, BRENNEN HALL 1, ROOM 404.

To Do:

- () **Look** into getting a General Educational Development (GED) certificate if you don't have a high school diploma, try searching online for "GED" Certificate" and your state's name.
- () **Research** careers and the need for various jobs in Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bis.gov/oco.
- () **Use** College Navigator at www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator to find the right school for your career intentions.
- () **Check** the yellow pages and ask employers to recommend schools that provide training in the skills you will need for the career you choose.
- () **Ask** your employer if assistance is available to help you pay for school.
- () **Use** the U.S. Department of Labor's scholarship research at www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch to find scholarships.
- () **Apply** for federal student aid by following the guidance in "FAFSA Filing Time"
- () **Get** to know the financial aid staff at the school you plan to attend; they can help you with aid applications and explain the types of aid available.
- () **Apply** to the college you have chosen; prepare your application carefully and pay close attention to deadlines.
- () **Request** all required documents (e.g. transcripts, letters of recommendation) to the college that you are applying to.
- () **If** you can set up a college visit with the university you are applying to or are interested in.
- () **When** you get your acceptance letter from the interested university and have decided which school you will attend notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposits.

The Veterans Vision

Veterans Embrace Franchising Opportunities

USA Today—Kelly Horn

11/5/2014



Ronald Edinger

Franchising plays an important role in employing veterans and more importantly in offering veterans opportunities to go into business for themselves.

In 1964 Ron Edinger began his military service as an Army Officer just as the Vietnam War was heating up. Four years later, In August of 1968, Edinger was discharged from the Army as a Captain, having served as a platoon leader and eventually as a Company Commander of combat units. In September of the same year, Edinger attended Columbia University in pursuit of his MBA. “I’m certain I was accepted to Columbia on the back of my military experience,” says Edinger. With my experience overseas I was more world-wise and had deeper insights into global affairs compared to most. It became apparent to the veteran that his leadership skills would be best exhibited when in charge of his own business. In 2008 Edinger decided to open his own Liquid Capital franchise. (www.lcfranchise.com)

VUB Messenger

“Always remember: You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

A.A. Milne

Talk to our Program Specialist—Brad, Shondella, or Stacia about ways to go to the college of your choice. They can help you with your financial and academic needs.



WATC

WATC is a Servicemembers Opportunity Col-



Butler Community College is listed in the top 15% of military Friendly Schools

Are you seeking

A BETTER JOB

- **MORE SKILLS**
- **A NEW CAREER**
- **HIGHER PAY**
- **AWAY TO MOVE FORWARD**

Come visit the

Veterans Upward Bound Office—WSU

1845 Fairmount Street, Box 137

Wichita, Kansas 67260-0137 (316)978-6



First Annual VUB Meet and Greet October 31, 2014



FUTURE FOCUS

2015 AUGUST: WATC Gunsmithing Program . For more details go to www.watc.edu or call (316)677-9400

2015 January, March, June: Police Science Program to be held at the WATC Southside Center. For more details contact Dalisa Turner 316-677-1626 or email dturner@watc.edu

THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW VETERANS PREFERENCE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT MORE VETERANS TO WORK FOR THE UNIVERSITY.



ONE STOP

Thanks to the new OneStop, students have a go-to-resource for fast, accurate answers and student-focused support for virtually all WSU-related needs.

The physical OneStop will have office hours from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays in 122 Jabara Hall. , get assistance 24/7 via webchat at <http://www.wichita.edu/onestop> and by telephone at 855-978-1787. For more information, go to <http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/wsunews/enews/?enid=14288>.

Four Events in 2015

Winter * January 20, 2015

CAREERQUEST

Professional Job Fair

Spring * April 7, 2015

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

CE - Careerespospring

Summer * July 8,2015

Century II Exhibition Hall

Statewide Diversity Job Fair

Urban League of Kansas & Community

Resources Expo

Autumn * October 6, 2015

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

CE - Careerespospring

If you've completed your COMFIT pre-test please schedule an appointment to do your post-test . Call (316)978-6742 or e-mail Shondela.Umeh@wichita.edu to schedule your appointment soon.



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“The Veterans View”

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