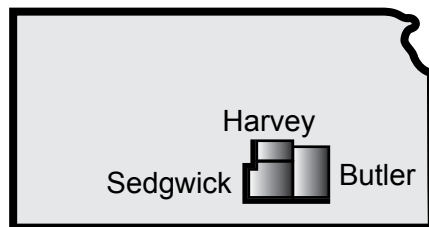


The New Kid on the Block

Barbara Kae

A new program geared towards providing educational services to Veterans is in Wichita. Veterans Upward Bound-WSU began last fall with two staff members and borrowed space from Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP in Brennan Hall on the Wichita State University (WSU) campus. The program has come a long way since then. Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is now located in Jardine Hall, Room 415 and with the recent addition of a Curriculum Coordinator, will have a full staff.

Although VUB is hosted by WSU, the area served includes all of Sedgwick county as well as Butler and Harvey counties. VUB's goal is to prepare Veterans for a post-secondary education no matter which college, university or vocational-technical school that they choose.



**Area Served by
Veterans Upward Bound-WSU**

★ VUB's Staff ★

Lawrence Britton - Executive Director
James Holland - Curriculum Coordinator
Barbara Kae - Data Specialist
Jenna Hart - Administrative Assistant
Talal Agha - Student Assistant

Veterans Upward Bound-WSU joins an already existing group of TRIO programs at WSU including other Upward Bound programs. The addition of VUB brings the total number of TRIO programs to nine. What distinguishes VUB from the other programs is that it serves adults who are Veterans.

What's In a Name



The newsletter needs a name. If you are creative, inventive, or just have a way with naming things please enter your favorite name for this newsletter. There will be a prize for the winner.

In addition, if you have a particular subject, issue, comment or question that you would like addressed in this newsletter, send your ideas to our email address at veterans.upwardbound@wichita.edu

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Lawrence Britton

“Those that are willing to do what others are not willing to do, will have what others will not have in the future.” Les Brown. Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) encourages, supports, and prepares willing participants to attend post-secondary institutions that prepare them for higher paying jobs with greater job mobility, more flexible career opportunities, and productive transition into civilian life. Comprehensive but academically focused services provided by the program aid participants in fully realizing educational potential and options.

The program designs courses, workshops and seminars, presentations, activities and services to ensure veterans have an opportunity to prepare and succeed in post-secondary education, a career and life after high school. The curriculum, services, and activities include:

- 1) Completing basic skills and advanced classes that prepare participants to successfully complete secondary and college courses;
- 2) Understanding the state and national standards developed for course curriculums;
- 3) Understanding advanced and basic skills for effectively using academic course techniques;
- 4) Improving English and math skills, including comprehension, writing, speaking clearly, math concepts and ability to pass English and math proficiency exams;
- 5) Using techniques and strategies for test taking, study skills, critical thinking and improving reading and time management;
- 6) Applying for financial aid and scholarships; reading a college catalog and registering for classes; and understanding how to apply for college;
- 7) Exploring career options and understanding requirements to acquire skills and abilities (i.e. developing a resume and use of acquired skills.);
- 8) Communicating with other ethnic and racial groups; and
- 9) Pursuing other academic and educational avenues.

Veterans Upward Bound is here to support you in reaching your goals. We should, *“Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.”*
Dag Hammarskjold



Lawrence Britton
VUB's display table at the
VA's Block Party Event
during the River Festival
May 2008

The Voice of Veterans Upward Bound

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jenna, and I am the administrative assistant to Veterans Upward Bound. When you call our office, I will more than likely be the one to talk with you and answer your questions. Please feel free to call if you have questions about our program or want more information about higher education. If our program cannot provide a certain service that you are looking for, I will be more than happy to find out who can provide that service for you. So please do not hesitate to call 316-978-6742!



Summer Support : Operation Classroom

James C. Holland

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is designed to support qualified Veterans in successfully attending college and graduating. VUB provides courses that began in mid-June and will accept incoming Veterans to new classes each semester. The following refresher courses are offered: English Literature, English Composition, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Computer Applications, Spanish, and Biology. VUB suggests that each Veteran choosing to participate in refresher courses enroll in at least two of the courses. Tutors are also available to assist students.

To accommodate work schedules, classes are scheduled early evenings. Also, all of VUB classes, materials, supplies and services are **free** to all qualified Veterans.

Steps to enter into the VUB program are to:

- (1) Pick up and complete VUB application
- (2) Return application along with proof of 180 days Active Duty Service (DD 214)
- (3) Complete academic assessment to determine strengths and weaknesses
- (4) Enter the University you choose and enroll in courses

Financial aid and grants are available in many cases to finance your degree. We are committed to you and your continued success. For more information, please contact James Holland, Curriculum Coordinator, VUB, 316-978-6742.

VUB Equation = Refresher Courses → Financial Aid/College Application → College → Highest Academic and Financial Potential



K A N S A S

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2008

Nicole Corcoran, Press Secretary
785.368.8500

Sebelius signs two bills helping military families

Governor Kathleen Sebelius has signed two bills today addressing the needs of members of the military and their families.

“When a member of the military is deployed, it greatly impacts their family,” said Sebelius. “This extended time away from families forces us to make adjustments in the way parents who are divorced or separated balance their children’s time with the other parent. It’s a complicated situation that hopefully can be simplified some with this legislation. At the same time it’s imperative that the deployed parent knows his or her rights are protected.”

According to SB 32, when a divorced or separated parent receives military deployment, mobilization, temporary duty orders, or unaccompanied tour, they are required to establish permanent parenting plans. These plans must include provisions for custody and parenting time while deployed, mobilized, on temporary duty, or unaccompanied tour.

The legislation also allows for expedited hearings for good cause shown, when military duties have a material effect on the parent’s ability to appear in person at a regularly scheduled hearing. Any order modifying previously ordered custodial or parenting time rights shall indicate that the deployment is the basis for the modification and that the order is temporary in nature. The court may delegate the deploying soldier’s parenting time to another family member with close ties to the child/children.

This bill goes into effect after its publication in the Kansas Register.

HB2923 allows a full-time military service member who has been or will be deployed outside of the United States to defer all or part of the real property tax owed for his/her home in Kansas for up to two years while serving on active duty. In additions, the bill provides free annual hunting and fishing licenses to disabled veterans and makes military persons currently on active duty eligible for distinctive license plates. It also increases the one-time activation payment of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for State of Kansas employees who are called to full-time military duty.



The bill specifies that funds raised from the Kansas Lottery will contribute to Kansas National Guard scholarships, the Kansas Veterans Home, Kansas Soldiers Home, Veterans Cemetery System, and to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. This bill funds a new position in the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

This bill goes into effect after its publication in the Kansas Statute Book.

Sebelius also signed four other bills into law today, bringing the total number of bills signed in the 2008 Legislative Session to 157 with three having been vetoed.

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 212S, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1590
Voice 785-296-3232 Fax 785-296-7973 <http://www.governor.ks.gov>

Above is a portion of a press release from Governor Sebelius' Office regarding Veterans and their families. This was copied with permission from the Office of the Press Secretary. To see this press release in its entirety go to www.governor.ks.gov and click on **Press Releases** (left-hand column), then click on **Press Release Archive 2008, May** (right-hand column) and scroll down to **May 14, 2008 Sebelius signs two bills helping military families**.



Did you know...

- ◆ that free classes from VUB replace the college classes called "non-credit courses" that do not count towards graduation and are not free
- ◆ that there are tests available like CLEP and DANTES/DSST that may be taken and if passed can save both time and money by providing credit hours that apply to a college degree
- ◆ that a college undergraduate student may take some master level courses and pay undergraduate course prices and the courses will apply towards the master's degree
- ◆ that some courses and/or training taken while in the service may be applied towards a college degree
- ◆ that after leaving the service there is only a 10-year period in which educational benefits from the GI Bill may be used
- ◆ that college financial aid offices can ascertain the educational funds available for each Veteran
- ◆ that there are many ways to help finance educational goals including an installment payment plan

Housewarming Connections

Jenna Hart

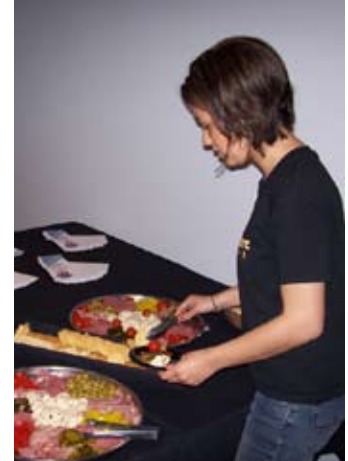
As a new program hosted by Wichita State University (WSU), Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is still becoming acquainted with Jardine Hall and the various WSU departments and programs. VUB held its housewarming event on April 25 and attendance was great. The VUB staff introduced themselves and the program to those who attended. Members from



J. Holland, R. Hicks, J. Martin, and L. Britton

other TRIO programs, the disability support programs, colleagues of the VUB staff, and VUB's Jardine Hall neighbors were invited. Currently VUB shares Jardine Hall with the following WSU departments: Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, Office of Transcripts, Office of Veteran Services, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Center for Teaching & Research Excellence, and Fine Arts. Everyone has been very welcoming and eager to support VUB. The Office of Financial Aid was even kind enough to donate a bookshelf for the new office. The VUB staff is thankful to work with such a great group of people here at WSU.

Since the housewarming, the VUB staff has been meeting with other support programs and colleges to build a reference base for Veterans. Aaron Hamilton, Assistant Director from WSU Undergraduate Admissions, came to speak about the admissions process and campus resources. Loretta Jackson, Financial Aid Counselor for Veteran Services, spoke about Veterans' benefits and the financial aid process. Grady Landrum, the Director of Disability Services, informed the staff about various support services from his department. Vanessa Souriya-Mniraj, Associate Director of Student Support Services, informed the staff about the assistance their program offers to students while they are attending WSU.



Jenna at the buffet table

Two colleges came to inform VUB of their degree programs. Terri Laurhammer, the Director of Academic Support at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, spoke about their certificate programs, Aeronautical and Technical Management Degrees. Yangchen Austin, Admissions Counselor for Newman University, presented information about the pre-professional programs, special rate programs, and associate, bachelors and masters degrees. VUB will continue to make connections at WSU, with other colleges

and in the community so that the Veterans served here will have a wide range of resource references available.



L. Britton, B. Kae, J. Holland and J. Hart

Veteran Student Quote

“A lot of my GI bill funding went towards basic courses. If Veterans Upward Bound had been around when I started, I could have used the program.” Lindsay Mellan

Summer Classes Underway

Barbara Kae

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) has added two instructors this summer. Sherridyn Meyers who is teaching Spanish and Bryan Flores who is teaching English Composition. Talal Agha is teaching Algebra and Pre-Calculus along with his other duties at VUB. Lawrence Britton who has a Bachelor’s degree in cellular biology is teaching Biology. Some of the classes are held at WSU and some of the classes are being taught in Winfield.

Sherridyn Myers

Sherridyn Myers has a Masters of Arts in Spanish and a Bachelors of Arts in Spanish and French. Part of her studies included spending two summers in Puebla, Mexico. She has worked as a Bilingual (English and Spanish) Safety Instructor and Administrative Assistant for Pearson Excavating, Inc. There her duties included instructing employees on various aspects of machine and workplace safety and assisting employees with interpreting and translating work manuals. She has held various positions at WSU including Graduate Research Assistant, Academic Tutor/Advisor for both Spanish and French, and Lecturer in Spanish.

Bryan Flores

Bryan Flores has a Master of Fine Arts in English-Creative Writing and a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies with minors in English and Creative Writing. Flores has worked as a freelance writer in corporate office environments, lectured and taught a variety of writing classes at WSU including College Composition I and II, Business and Technical Writing, and English as a Second Language. He also worked as an English Instructor for the U.S. Department of Defense in Prague, Czech Republic. While there he organized and coordinated a language program for the Czech military, taught conversational English to members of the Czech government and worked with Czech translators on English documents and press releases.



Talal Agha

Talal Agha has been with Veterans Upward Bound since February 2008. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with his major in management information systems and has a strong background in business math. He plans to begin studying for his Masters in Business Administration at Wichita State University soon. He has worked as a troubleshooter for high speed internet at NuComm and has worked testing software at CCH, Inc.

Veterans Upward Bound - WSU
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www.wichita.edu/vub

Mission Statement

The mission is to provide necessary training and support that will enable eligible Veterans to successfully enter into college or any other post-secondary institution.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a Vietnam Era Veteran, or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Director

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity
Wichita State University

1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0205
Tel # (316) 978-6791; Email: ted.ayres@wichita.edu



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