



2015 | 2016

## BUSINESS PLAN



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### ***Mission Statement***

The Student Veterans of America at Florida International University is committed to providing veterans, active military members, and their dependents with the support, advocacy and resources necessary to succeed in higher education.

### ***Organization Background***

The SVA at Florida International University was established by a handful of students who saw the need for a student veteran organization on campus. SVA at FIU has challenged and advocated for fellow student veterans and have received support from university department, administration, faculty, community organizations, and community leaders. Florida International University also has been very supportive of the student veterans. In fact, the university has provided the only stand-alone on campus building designated for veterans' statewide. Many of our SVA members provide support to our student veteran population on a daily basis and are work-study students based out of our FIU Veteran's Center.

### ***University History***

Florida International University is recognized as a Carnegie engaged university. It is a public research university with colleges and schools that offers more than 180 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations, architecture, law, and medicine. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU contributes \$9.8 billion each year to the local economy. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. FIU has awarded over 200,000 degrees and enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and three centers. It is the largest university in South Florida, the 2nd-largest in Florida, and the 7th-largest in the United States.



*The Tower: Florida International University's most iconic and historical building, founded in 1969. What was once a single building in an abandoned airfield, today it thrives as a resource center for student veterans.*

## **Resources**

### *Veteran and Military Affairs Office*

Provides educational benefit programs and supportive services to Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard, and eligible dependents registered at FIU.

### *Center for Academic Success*

Supports student retention and on-time graduation by providing examinations and resources that assist with academic and professional advancement.

### *Disability Resource Center*

Guides and supports students with disabilities throughout their college experience from pre-admission through graduation.

### *VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Full-time-Department of Veteran Affairs*

The VetSuccess on Campus program aims to help Veterans, Service members, and their qualified dependents succeed and thrive through a coordinated delivery of on-campus benefits assistance and counseling; leading to completion of their education and preparing them to enter the labor market in viable careers.

### *Veteran to Veteran Mentorship Program*

Allows for peer to peer support in receiving education, job skills, personal development opportunities, and leadership skills. Student Veteran Mentors provide support to their mentees as they go through the collegiate experience, as well as ongoing support to graduates in order to ensure their continued educational, personal, and professional success.

### *Warriors for Wellness*

Facilitates access to intramural sports, fitness programs, and partners with recreational therapy organizations to promote a positive and healthy lifestyle. This program strives to enhance overall health through motivation, education and guidance.

### *Excellence in Civic Engagement Medallion of Distinction*

Awards students for participation in community service and service learning for support projects on and off campus.

**Goals, Objective and Strategies**

Goal 1: Membership retention and expansion

*Objective 1.a:* Establish a scholarship for veterans at extreme financial risk by the end of spring 2016

*Strategy i:* Conduct survey of veterans to identify wants and needs

*Strategy ii:* Request statistics on dropouts/transfers ins and outs

*Objective 1.b:* Increase SVA active participation by 10% by summer 2016

*Strategy i:* Launch official website to facilitate interaction and collection of data

*Strategy ii:* Create Veteran Spotlight

Goal 2: Educate Veterans on Benefits

*Objective 2.a:* Any SVA/work-study hired be trained and evaluated on Educational benefits and tested within 30 days

*Strategy i:* Develop study guide and make it available to SVA/work-study

*Strategy ii:* Evaluation will include practical exam which will be evaluated by committee

*Objective 2.b:* Conduct an informative orientation before or within the first month of a semester for returning and new veterans and dependents

*Strategy i:* Will hold a presentation during orientation at MMC & BBC (live online)

*Strategy ii:* Provide prerecorded online presentation for students unable to physically attend

Goal 3: Facilitate opportunities for mentorship {SVA Survivability}

*Objective 3.a:* By Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, have the draft write up a process must be established for incoming and outgoing executive board members

*Strategy i:* Election date held at least 30 days before official turnover

*Strategy ii:* Create and update turnover folder for each position and change of command ceremony

*Objective 3.b:* By mid-semester, executive board members and committee chairpersons' shall identify candidate pool for future election

*Strategy i:* Send candidates to leadership conferences and university sponsored training

*Strategy ii:* Candidates character must conform to the SVA mission statement to hold leadership