STUDENT VETERAN ORGANIZATION

VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

UNITED WE STAND

2015/16 BUSINESS PLAN
On the cover

Is a representation of our “Veterans United” SVO’s brand logo. This logo was designed by Student Veteran Gregory Scargall, and contains features that are indicative of our local culture in Santa Fe, NM. The Eagle symbolizes freedom, liberty, and Patriotism. It is holding on to peaceful pursuits, and the strength to defend itself. The United States of America flag and New Mexico flag are flanked opposite each other. They represent love of country, and the pride of our local community. The shield contains our school Logo, and our VRC logo. On our campus we have overcome many obstacles to get where we are today. The shield symbolizes that we will defend and protect our position on campus, while offering a “Safe Harbor” for all veterans and their families. In the place of usual olive leaves are inverted chile ristras representing our beloved red, and green chile peppers, which happen to be our state vegetable. The slogan “United We Stand” represents the importance of student veterans to build camaraderie, and unity, as we did during our military service.

We also included the five seals of our military branches. Also included is the seal of the National Guard. This was in order to honor a large local population of guard and reserve units. SFCC has been designated for the past two years the #1 “Best for Vets” 2 year career technical college by Military Times. We also have made the Military Friendly List. And last but not least we would not be where we are today without the partnership, and network of the Student Veterans of America.
Table of Contents
Mission Statement:

Create a welcoming environment that supports student veterans and their families.

(Upon first sight of the newly remodeled VRC lounge SFCC President Randy Grissom is quoted “Now I know where I can come to relax on campus”)

Background
In 2013, the student veterans club petitioned Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) administration to look into creating a Veterans Resource Center (VRC) on campus. The initial request was well received by the Governing Board, and shortly after the college’s first VRC was opened on November 3rd, 2013. Since opening the VRC we have seen a positive student veteran response, and high utilization of the new campus resource. In just under two short years we are honored to have been selected #1 Best for Vets for 2 year Technical and Career Colleges by Military Times for two years in a row. This acknowledgement is indicative of the amount of hard work and commitment of our VRC Specialist/Student Veterans Gregory Scargall, the administration, and faculty have demonstrated towards supporting veterans and their families on campus. This past February the VRC and its staff leveraged the high flow of student veteran traffic and the Military Times Best for Vets designation to request a larger space on campus. The request was granted and the VRC is more centrally located, and much more accessible for our veterans and their families.

The new space however was in need of some remodeling. The SVO decided to put in for the SVA/Home Depot Vet Center Initiative and where awarded $10,000 of the $40,000 overall project funding through the VCI grant. To date the VRC is coming along with the computer lab and lounge being completed. The space is more inviting and student veterans can finally have a place to call their own.

A key part of our mission is to connect with the community, through outreach. Over the past school year we have participated in over 15 community service events, including feeding the homeless, cleaning up our local riverbed, picking up trash for the “Keep Santa Fe Beautiful” campaign, and the Homeless Veterans Stand down project to name a few. To further our effort we held two Veterans & Family Resource Days that brought 30 Veteran Service Organization on campus, this event was heavily attended and provided necessary resources to our student veteran population. Our plan is to continue this model of leading by example to continue our success in the years to come.
Business Plan

Goal 1: EMPOWER- Ensure veterans and their families have greater personal awareness of the multitude of services, resources, and support available to them.

Objective 1: Conduct twice a month tabled outreach events on campus and in the community in order to distribute SVO information and connect one on one.

1. Strategy: Team up with Office of Student Development to schedule major campus recruitment events during the school year.
2. Strategy: Work with Office of Recruitment to schedule opportunities for community outreach during the school year.
3. Strategy: Volunteer as a team to participate in ongoing community service events.

Objective 2: Work with faculty members and departments including HR, Counseling, and Recruitment to provide soft skills training to active SVO members & VA work-study’s, VRC specialist, and the SCO

1. Strategy: Coordinate with HR staff to request soft skills training at the start of Fall & Spring semesters.
2. Strategy: Coordinate with counseling team to request best practices training for working with veterans and their families.
3. Strategy: Invite local VSO’s to come on campus to promote resources and services.

Objective 3: Host an annual Veterans & Family Appreciation Day – Career and Resource Fair around Veterans Day.

1. Strategy: Submit funds request to SGA during the spring semester prior to the event in the fall semester.
2. Strategy: Coordinate with marketing department to reserve campus conference rooms needed for event.
3. Strategy: Invite local VSO’s and community partners to table a booth during the event.
4. Strategy: Coordinate with marketing department to publicize the event in the local media, and on campus.
Goal 2: SUPPORT- Establish a scholarship to help veterans without GI Bill benefits, and immediate dependents.

Objective 1: Raise $8,000 by May 2016 to fund fall 2016 & spring 2017 scholarships
1. Strategy: Approach SFCC Foundation to see if they have any current donors willing to provide the endowment for this scholarship.
2. Strategy: Approach City of Santa Fe Veterans Advisory Board to request financial contribution into this scholarship
3. Strategy: Start holding fundraising events within the community through May 2016

Objective 2: Select a five-person oversight committee made up of veterans & community partners no later than June 1st 2016
1. Strategy: Create criteria of eligibility to serve on the scholarship oversight committee.
2. Strategy: Reach out to local VSO’s and community partners to recruit committee members.

Goal 3: Maintain an effective continuation of leadership that leads to a sustainable program for our student veterans at SFCC.

Objective 1: Coordinate with campus SCO to have all new students fill out SVO questionnaire.
1. Strategy: Contact and invite all new student veterans that indicate an interest to join the SVO.

Objective 2: Encourage classroom first priorities, and develop a culture of student success.
2. Strategy: Acknowledge student achievements through campus newsletter.
3. Strategy: Hold SVO elections towards the end of each semester.
4. Strategy: Review this business plan each spring semester after elections to update in accordance with evolving priorities.
Annual Veterans & Family Appreciation Day – Career & Resource Fair
Over 40 VSO’s and community partners come on campus to connect with student veterans and their families.

Campus SGA Leadership

Community Service
(L) Toss No Mas Community Trash Clean Up, (R) Love Your River Day

Community Events

(L) New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez 4th of July Pancakes on the Plaza, (R) Flag Day at the Santa Fe Veterans Memorial
Community Advocacy

Student Veterans were the driving force behind getting these two city programs passed.

SFCC VRC 2014-2015 RECAP

1. Hosted NM US NAVY Submariners OCT 13th
2. Named #1 2 YR Career Technical College in the nation by Military Times
3. Recognized by GI JOBS Magazine as a Military Friendly School Top 16%
4. Hosted the 2nd Annual Veterans & Family Resource Day

VRC Staff & Student Veterans Volunteered at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Esperanza Shelter 3 Days</th>
<th>Interfaith Homeless Shelter 3 Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep SF Beautiful Toss No Mas</td>
<td>SF Watershed Association Love Your River Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA2K Walk for Homeless Vets</td>
<td>Homeless Veteran Stand Down 2 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VRC Staff & Student Veterans Participated in these Community Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SF Thunder Run ½ Marathon</td>
<td>Veterans Day at the NM State Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Day Parade</td>
<td>VA CBOC Ribbon Cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet w/ Honorable Mayor Gonzales</td>
<td>NM Veteran Artist Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFCC Day at the Legislature</td>
<td>Military Day at the NM Legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bataan Death March</td>
<td>Bataan Memorial Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War 150th Memorial Service</td>
<td>Free NM Rail Runner Vet Passes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam 50th Anniversary</td>
<td>Pacifica Senior Center Memorial Day Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Day Massing of Colors</td>
<td>National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Day on the SF Plaza</td>
<td>Pancakes on the Plaza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>