

2019

The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

Sept. 2019

A Division of Enrollment Management

Welcome Home

It's hard to believe we are starting our fall semester already. It seems like yesterday we congratulated our graduating veterans and said goodbye for the summer to many others. One thing we hear the most from our students is "enjoy your summer." I love seeing their reaction when I tell them we will be right here in the VRC working. While summer seems relaxing for some, in the VRC it is a whirlwind of hosting orientation sessions, strategically planning for next year, preparing for what lies ahead with the GI BILL, and meeting new students and their families. It really seems like a never-ending two months of scrambling to prepare for a new fall semester.

But I guess we wouldn't have it any other way. That is really what the VRC is all about. We love meeting students, planning fun things, and making sure we serve our students the best way we can. We want them to come "home" to campus and it's our mission to make the VRC "home".

Did we enjoy our summer? Yes, we did, but we are more excited to welcome students home for the fall. We have lots of exciting things coming this academic year and you will hear more about them in future newsletters. But for now, I hope you enjoy the "Welcome Home" edition!

Jayetta Rogers

VRC Staff

Jayetta Rogers

Director/Certifying Official

Vickie Clark

Coordinator/Certifying Official

Thomas Cruise

Coordinator/Certifying Official

Contact Us!

<https://veterans.utk.edu>

Email: utkva@utk.edu

Phone: (865)-974-5420

VRC Partners

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Student Counseling Center
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Knoxville Vet Center
lyle.allen@va.gov

In this issue:

- » A heartfelt thank you
- » Meet the new veteran career counselor
- » Meet our new VRC Work Study Students!
- » Save the date for Veterans Day week

To submit information please contact Thomas Cruise

• tcruise@utk.edu



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Thank You Rickey McCallum

The Veterans Resource Center would like to send out our heartfelt thank you to Rickey McCallum, close partner and friend of the VRC.

Rickey, who was formerly the Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Engagement, brought multiple opportunities into the VRC through his hard work and dedication to veterans.

While the list is too large to mention, Rickey's impact on the VRC will be forever lasting. When reflecting on Rickey's impact, Jayetta Rogers, VRC Director, notes his passion for serving the veterans at UTK.

"If you were fortunate enough to cross paths with Rickey McCallum, consider yourself blessed. Rickey has a passion for what he does that can't be taught or learned.

I can't tell you how many times we watched amazing things

unfold in front of our eyes while working together. Rickey and I met before the VRC existed.

He continued to work with us during the construction, the grand opening, and right up until the day he left his position in development.

But, despite all of that, my best memory of

working with Rickey is seeing him with his father, a Vietnam veteran, at our grand opening. I think the photo of them says it all."

On behalf of everyone at the VRC, we would like to congratulate Rickey on his new position as Vice President of the Cherokee Farm Development Corporation (CFDC) and send well wishes.

While we will miss Rickey, we know that his positive energy and drive for success will take him to great places and have a positive impact on everyone he will meet.

Most importantly, he will always have a place here in the VRC!



Rickey (right) gives a hug to his father, a Vietnam Veteran, during the VRC's grand opening ceremony. (Credit: UT Media.)



Photo credit: UT Media.

Thank you



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A Big Orange Welcome to the New Veteran Career Counselor, Cierra Bussard!

Name:

Cierra Bussard

UT Department:

Center for Career Development

Position/Job title:

Career Counselor for Disability, Veteran, and Inclusion Initiatives

Job description:

- Provide career counseling and programming for identity specific populations of students such as but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and veteran status.
- Connect students with employers that utilize inclusive hiring practices.
- Implement programs and services to address student needs.



How long have you been at UTK?:

I just moved here in June!

What did you do prior to coming to UTK?

Prior to UTK, I worked in the Office of Career Development as a Career Advisor while completing my master's degree in College Student Affairs with a concentration in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

How long have you worked with veterans?

I've worked with veterans for two years. After some impactful appointments with veteran students, I created a program at my previous job to help student veterans job search, network, create civilian friendly resumes, and leverage their military experiences to market themselves to employers.

What is your favorite part of your job?

When a student thanks you for helping them land a job or internship. It's the most rewarding feeling!

How can veterans reach you?

The best way to reach me is by email: cbussard@utk.edu or stop by one of the Career Drop-Ins I'll be hosting each week in the Veteran Resource Center.



To submit information please contact Thomas Cruise

• tcruise@utk.edu

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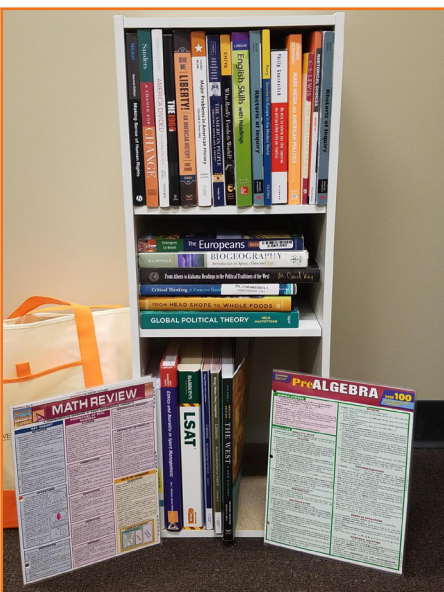
Looking for a textbook?

Thanks to the generous donation of former and current student veterans, the VRC has started a book program to help student veterans throughout the year.

The textbooks range across several majors and are available at a first come, first serve basis. These can be used for specific courses or research.

There are also a limited number of study guides such as GRE prep and "Quick Study" sheets.

Please contact the VRC at utkva@utk.edu for availability and check-out policies.



Meet Our VRC Work Study Students!



Colin McCarl
USMC



Josh Crum
USMC



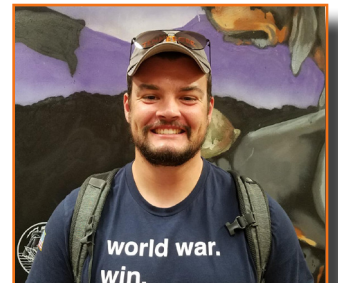
Jess Contreras
USAF



Kianna Zolkiewicz
Military Family



Bobby Behan
USAF



Jeremy Uccardi
USN

Go Vols!



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Don't Forget!!

Save the Date for:

“VETERANS DAY AT UTK”

Bringing the campus & veteran community together!

A week of events!

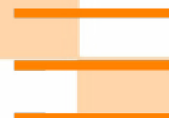
- **Monday 11/11 - Veterans Day observed**
- **Tuesday 11/12 - Green Zone Training for UTK Faculty & Staff w/ a live Q&A panel of student veterans**
- **Wednesday 11/13 - Green Zone Training for veteran employers and UTK faculty & staff w/ a live Q&A panel of veteran employees**
- **Thursday 11/14 - Veteran appreciation dinner on campus**

Tentative schedule - subject to change

**For more information, please contact
Thomas Cruise at the
Veterans Resource Center
tcruise@utk.edu or 865-974-8716.**



VETERANS
RESOURCE
CENTER



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• tcruise@utk.edu

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Important Contacts

National Veterans Crisis Hotline

1-888-244-6711

www.mentalhealth.va.gov

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

1-800-827-1000

www.va.gov

Tennessee Dept. of Veteran Affairs

615-741-2345

www.tn.gov/veteran

Veterans Healthcare Eligibility & Enrollment

1-877-222-8387

www.va.gov/healthbenefits

Do you have a 3.0 GPA or higher? Are you active, guard/reserve, or military veteran? If yes, then SALUTE may be for you!



Contact the VRC for more details!

Sept 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 FB v. BYU
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 FB v. Chattanooga
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 FB @ Florida
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Oct. 1	2	3	4	5 FB @ Georgia

To make a donation to the Veterans Resource Center/ Veteran Student Services please visit <http://giving.utk.edu/veterans>

