

**S** Syracuse University  
Office of Veteran  
& Military Affairs



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Syracuse University is a private research university that advances knowledge across disciplines to drive breakthrough discoveries and breakout leadership. Our collection of 13 schools and colleges with over 200 customizable majors closes the gap between education and action, so students can take on the world. In and beyond the classroom, we connect people, perspectives and practices to solve interconnected challenges with interdisciplinary approaches. Together, we're a powerful community that moves ideas, individuals and impact beyond what's possible.

## OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) serves as Syracuse University's "single point of entry" for all veteran and military related programs and initiatives. It collaborates and coordinates with the university community and stakeholders to best serve veterans, military-connected students, and military family members who are students or employees at Syracuse University.

By offering a diverse range of programming, support, and resources specifically focused on our student veterans and their families, OVMA seeks to make the Syracuse University campus more veteran friendly and relevant for every student veteran.

## COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING AND HIRING VETERANS

Syracuse University has a long history of engaging veterans and the military-connected community through its educational programs, community outreach, and employment programs. After World War II, Syracuse University welcomed more than 10,000 returning veterans to our campus, and those veterans literally transformed Syracuse University into the national research institution it is today. The University's contemporary commitment to veterans builds on this historical legacy, and extends to both class-leading initiatives focused on making an SU degree accessible and affordable to the post-9/11 generation of veterans, and also programs designed to position Syracuse University as the employer of choice for military veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members.

## COMMITMENT TO A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Syracuse University maintains an inclusive learning environment in which students, faculty, administrators, staff, curriculum, social activities, governance, and all other aspects of campus life reflect a diverse, multi-cultural, and international worldview. The University community recognizes and values the many similarities and differences among individuals and groups. At Syracuse, we are committed to preparing students to understand, live among, appreciate, and work in an inherently diverse country and world made up of people with different ethnic and racial backgrounds, military backgrounds, religious beliefs, socio-economic status, cultural traditions, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. To do so, we commit ourselves to promoting a community that celebrates and models the principles of diversity and inclusivity.

## EEOC

Syracuse University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law to the extent prohibited by law. This nondiscrimination policy covers admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs, services, and activities.



# WELCOME

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Over the past year, the Syracuse University Office of Veteran and Military Affairs adjusted to the policies put in place to protect public health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We did so by providing added virtual support, addressing financial pressure by awarding scholarships, and celebrating our student's success online. As we turn a page to a "new normal" we have begun to reimagine how we provide the support we offer to our military-connected students.

While we have certainly missed gathering on campus, we have been offered an opportunity to meet our military-connected students where they are at: in their homes, classrooms, and around the world. We have heard stories about our students coming together for the greater good, continuing their service to others. Out of the hardships faced throughout the pandemic, we have seen a community united by the bonds of service. As we look forward to a year of coming together in person, we will continue to serve our military-connected students in-person and online.

This report chronicles the OVMA team's accomplishments over the last 12 months, based on its lines of effort: education, employment, programs, campus culture, and development. These designations represent the strategic initiatives that effectively leverage Syracuse University's strengths - leadership, resources, alumni, community partnerships, supporters, faculty, and staff. It is my hope that this report is a reminder of our military-connected students' achievements in both academic excellence and community service, which enriches our university and reflects what it means to serve our country and our communities while exemplifying what it means to "Be Orange."

The military-connected students detailed in these pages reflect the very best of Syracuse University's student veterans. As a veteran and Syracuse University alumnus myself, it is an honor to serve and be part of this amazing community by enabling their success in higher education and beyond. **Go Orange!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Novack", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Ron Novack, G'20**  
COL (Ret.), U.S. Army  
Executive Director, OVMA

# NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



**2021 Air Force ROTC Commissionees**

# EDUCATION

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S MILITARY/VETERAN RELATED RANKINGS



The Military Times' annual "Best for Vets" college rankings continues to recognize Syracuse University as one of the best private schools for veterans. Syracuse is the only school among the top five private schools to have a formal military support system. This system consists of a dedicated team of military and veteran-specific advisors, including admissions, academic affairs, veterans' benefits, and career services. The Office of Veteran Success provides support for academic assistance, counseling, and more. In addition, our students have a 90 percent graduation rate and a 100 percent job placement rate for those seeking employment.

"Syracuse University has an intimate understanding of the needs and priorities of military-connected students, veterans and their families. This ranking represents the best of our combined efforts—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—to engage and welcome our nation's veterans," says J. Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation.



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—Jessica Calhoun  
Assistant Director of Veteran and Military Admissions at Syracuse University

### OPERATION VETERAN PROMISE

Decades of research conducted by Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families at shows that veterans have a tough time transitioning out of the service. This is especially the case after their first term of service.

“We’ve seen the data from our own IVMF [research] just how stressful that transition process can be,” said Jessica Calhoun, Assistant Director of Veteran and Military Admissions at Syracuse. “You don’t know what you’re going to be doing. You’re returning to civilian life, not the regimented experience that you had.”

Given those experiences, Syracuse University has created a brand-new pipeline program called Operation Veteran Promise. It is specifically for high school seniors heading into the military right after high school. When they get into this program, they will have a guaranteed admission at Syracuse University when they complete their initial term of service or are honorably discharged. The program is available for students who graduate on or after spring 2021 and complete an initial term of service on active duty, in the reserves or the National Guard. Students need to graduate high school with at least a cumulative unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 to be eligible.

### VETERAN’S COMMENCEMENT

The Syracuse University student veteran commencement was unable to be held in person due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, but that did not stop us from celebrating our student veterans and their academic achievements. Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Michael Haynie and guest speaker retired Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kubala, Director of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law, recorded special messages for the Class of 2021 military-connected graduates.

“With the title of alumni comes responsibility...after you walk across that stage and receive your diploma, your mission is to continue to tell the Syracuse University story...Embrace your role as an ambassador of all things Orange. Represent why Syracuse University is the best place for veterans,” Lt. Col. (Ret.) Elizabeth Kubala, Executive Director, Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic.



## ROTC COMMISSIONING

This past May, twenty-one U.S. Army and eight U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets officially became the next generation of military leaders at Syracuse University's Annual Commissioning Ceremony held at the National Veterans Resource Center's K.G. Tan Auditorium.

"This year's commissioning cadets thrived in unprecedented circumstances and were instrumental in Syracuse University's COVID-19 response. This year's class gave back and helped ensure not only their successful completion, but that the entire campus could remain open during the health crisis," says Col. (Ret.) Ron Novack, Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs at Syracuse University



## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

### 2021 Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference

Syracuse University student veterans and staff attended the 2021 Student Veterans of America conference virtually from February 19-20, 2021. This year, the Syracuse University Student Veteran Organization was one of three finalists for Chapter of the Year.



NATCON 2021—FEBRUARY 19-20

### Employment Landscape

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Veteran Career Services collaborated with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families on a series of presentations on the current employment landscape for veterans amidst the COVID pandemic. The presentation included information on veteran employment statistics followed up with actionable steps that veterans can incorporate in support their jobs search. The presentation was featured at the Student Veterans of America conference and IVMF's VETNET.



### VETNET



Veteran Unemployment Trends

### Featured Engagements and Representation

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Veteran Career Services participated in numerous national-level organizations and conferences. These efforts highlighted best practices that support student veteran career pathways to employment. Veteran Career Services was featured in several blog posts and presentations. Most notable was serving as a Co-Lead for the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Veteran Affinity Group. The group provides professional development and resources to individuals serving or recruiting student veterans. Veteran Career Services was also interviewed by NACE on ways employers can successfully recruit veterans and steps that higher education practitioners can take to support the career development of their student veteran population.



### DELIVERING EFFECTIVE CAREER SERVICES TO STUDENT VETERANS

BY JENNIFER PLUTA POSTED 03-02-2021 08:00

RECOMMEND

March 2, 2021

Jennifer Renee Pluta is assistant director of Veteran Career Services, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, Syracuse University, and a Master Sergeant, U.S. Army Reserve. She co-leads the NACE Individuals Serving/Recruiting Student Veterans Affinity Group.

# PROGRAMS



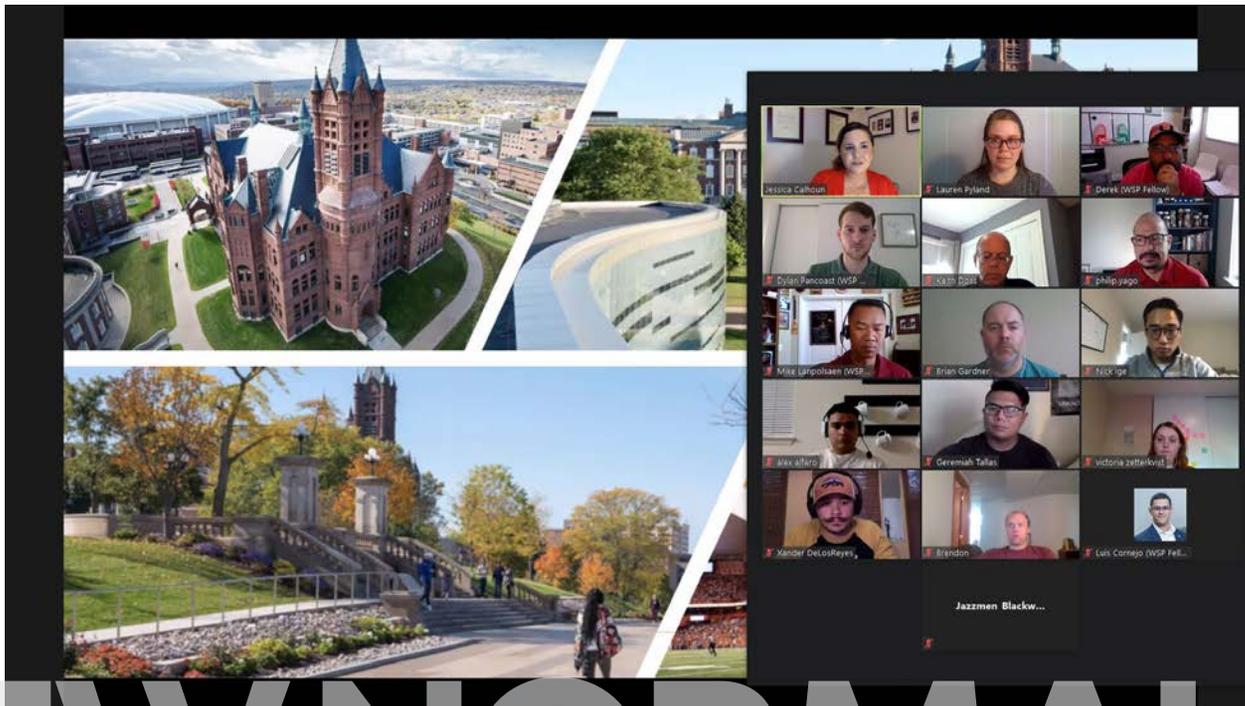
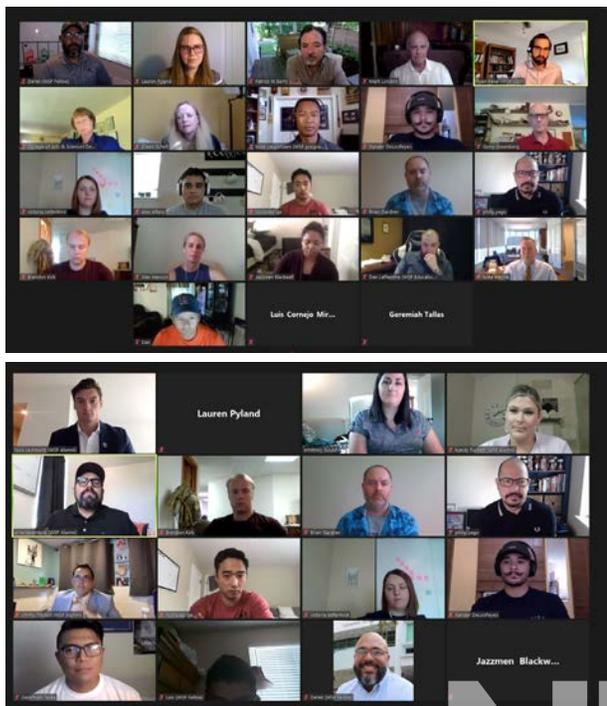
2021 Military Visual Journalism Graduates

### 2020 SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT

For the sixth year in a row, Syracuse University hosted the esteemed Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP), a no-cost academic boot camp for first-year student veterans. Normally held on campus to allow for a comprehensive campus experience, the 2020 program was moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 cohort consisted of four active-duty incoming students, four veterans and a reservist, representing branches of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps. Participants attended virtually from Hawaii, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, Washington D.C., Nevada, Ohio, and Iowa.

“Considering the COVID-19 health pandemic and the consequences it has imposed on colleges and universities, this year’s Warrior Scholar Project is especially important in helping student veterans succeed in new, non-traditional, and virtual learning environments,” says Col. (Ret.) Ron Novack, Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs at Syracuse University.



# NEW NORMAL

## BETTY AND MICHAEL D. WOHL VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

### KEEPING OUR PROMISE, HONORING THEIR SERVICE

Founded in 2015, the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law is now in its sixth year of providing quality legal advice to veterans in Syracuse and across New York State. The Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) provides legal representation to veterans and their families who are seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs or upgrading a military discharge through the various military branches. The VLC is staffed by student attorneys in their 2L or 3L year at the College of Law, many who are veterans themselves or who have a connection to the military and a passion for serving veterans.

The VLC serves two critical functions on the Syracuse University campus. First, VLC provides legal advice to veterans and their families. Second, it provides a training opportunity to empower law school students as veteran advocates. Student attorneys at the VLC learn about veteran’s law, military law, and federal administrative law. Student attorneys manage actual veteran clients and their cases, engage in fact investigation, draft persuasive letters and briefs to the various governmental agencies, and orally advocate for clients.

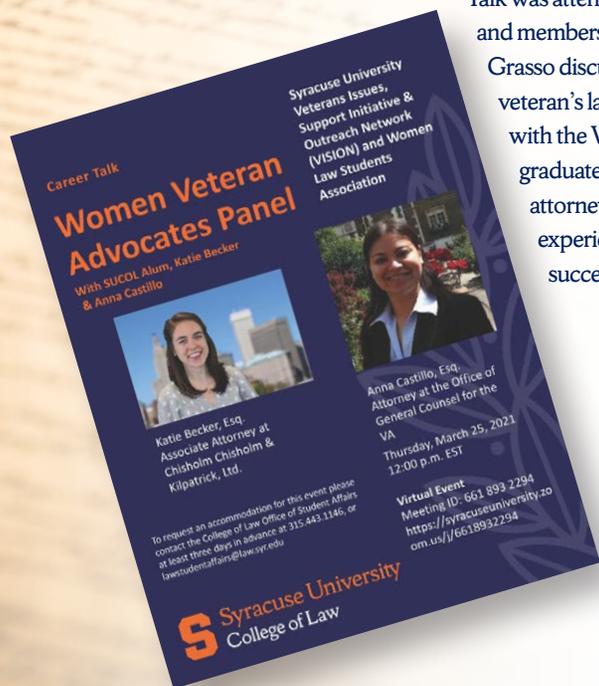
This past year, the global pandemic challenged the traditional model of legal service delivery. However, student attorneys embraced new lawyering skills and continued to zealously represent the community’s veterans. The VLC began the academic year by participating in a virtual National Bootcamp, collaborating with Veterans Legal Clinic students and practitioners from law schools across the country. Students quickly adapted to a hybrid learning model and found innovative ways to meet and counsel clients remotely. The VA shifted all Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) hearings to virtual tele-hearings, which provided many students the opportunity to represent their clients before Veterans Law Judges. Student attorneys practiced in federal court by preparing briefs for appearances before the Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Truly practicing law at every level, students also teamed up with the University of Missouri to draft an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding a complex benefits appeal for a Vietnam era veteran.



## VISION

VISION (Veterans Issues, Support Initiative and Outreach Network) is a student-run College of Law organization that provides Syracuse University College of Law students an opportunity to engage and assist veterans in the community. This year with COVID-19 restrictions, VISION took the opportunity to engage the campus community about its mission and outreach initiatives. In the fall semester, the VISION student leaders, 3L Alexandra Calhoun and 2L Ryan Marquette, presented an informational update on the club's activities to the Syracuse University Veteran's Affinity Group to better inform partners on campus of services available to our veterans here at the University. VISION co-hosted the College of Law's third annual Veterans Day Celebration in a ceremony that honored service. The ceremony featured the senior uniformed lawyer in the U.S. Army, LTG Charles N. Pede, who shared his perspectives on the origin of Veterans Day and why our nation celebrates Veterans 'service with the College of Law Community.

In the spring semester, VISION hosted a virtual "Career Talk" called "From Syracuse to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims with newly appointed US Court of Appeal for Veterans Claims Judge Grant Jaquith and his Judicial Law Clerk Laura Grasso L'20" on April 16, 2021. This Career Talk was attended by members of the campus community, local veteran's law attorneys and advocates, and members of the Army's Fort Drum Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Judge Jaquith and Clerk Grasso discussed current veterans' legal issues, advocacy tips, and advice for pursuing careers in veteran's law. VISION also hosted a virtual "Women Veteran Advocates Panel" in partnership with the Women Law Students Association on March 25, 2021, featuring recent SU Law graduates Anna Castillo, an attorney at the VA's Office of General Counsel and Katie Becker, attorney at Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, Ltd. The recent women law grads discussed their experiences in veterans' law in both government and private practice, and shared insights into successfully navigating your first few years as a new attorney.





## MILITARY VISUAL JOURNALISM

The Newhouse School is home to two Department of Defense-sponsored programs that teach active-duty service members photojournalism and broadcast journalism. The government students enrolled in the Military Photojournalism (MPJ) and Military Motion Media (MMM) programs are serving in the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Army as mass communication specialists, photographers, and videographers. They come to Newhouse for 10 months to learn how to become better storytellers, taking 30 credits of coursework in communications, photojournalism, photography, broadcast and digital journalism, design, sound, and documentary production.

The MVJ program had a successful year, despite COVID-19. Most 2020-2021 classes were held in a hybrid format, with a few classes online and in-person. The successful 2021 military class has left to fill positions at commands such as AFN Italy, Space Operations Command, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and USMC Communications--Pentagon.

## DEFENSE COMPTROLLERSHIP PROGRAM (DCP)

Since 1952, Syracuse University's Martin J. Whitman School of Management has been home to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP). The DCP represents a unique cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. The curriculum is a 60-credit hour program that the students complete in fourteen months. Graduates are awarded a Master of Business (MBA) degree and an Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) degree. Students take 42 credits at the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and eighteen credits at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. The name was changed from the Army Comptrollership Program (ACP) to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP) starting with the class of 2006. Since its inception, the DCP program boasts 2,039 graduates including 28 participants in the class of 2021.



**2021 Defense Comptrollership Program Graduates**

## VETERAN CAREER SERVICES

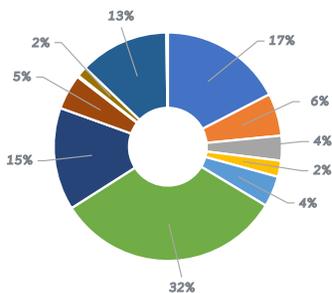
Syracuse University Veteran Career Services (VCS) is a dedicated resource, which continues to address the career development and employment needs of Syracuse University’s student veterans. For the fifth consecutive year, Veteran Career Services achieved 100% job placement for graduating undergraduate student veterans.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR GRADUATING STUDENT VETERANS 2020

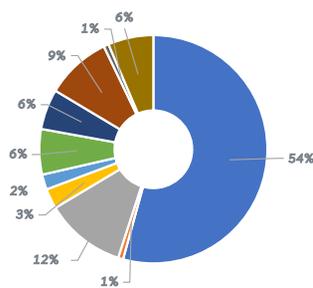
\*According to the OVMA First Destination Survey (FDS)—Veteran-Class 2020 Outcomes

#### STUDENT VETERANS CLASS 2019-2020 BY COLLEGE CLASS 2019-2020

Graduate Student Veterans (by Colleges)



Undergraduate Student Veterans



- College of Art & Sciences
- College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs
- School of Education
- College of Engineering and Computer Science
- David B. Falk Collage of Sport & Human Dynamics
- S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication
- School of Informatio Studies
- College of Law
- Martin J. Whitman school of Management
- School of Architecture
- University Collge

#### RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Working	98.5%
(Includes Working, Continuing Education, Military and Volunteering)	
Still Looking	0%
Not Seeking	1.5%

#### WHO HIRES SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY STUDENT VETERANS TOP EMPLOYERS

U.S. Department of Defense	JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Syracuse University	L3Harris Technologies
Amazon	Liberty Mutual Insurance
Veterans Affairs (VA)	Oracle
General Electric	Wells Fargo

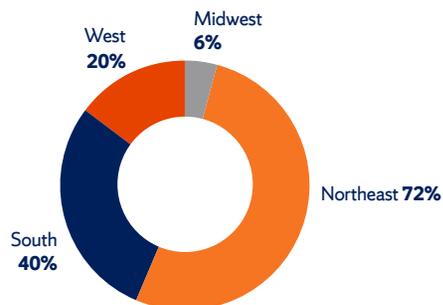
#### AVERAGE SALARY

Average salary for Undergrad Student Veterans:	
Syracuse University (FDS):	\$55,978
Students Nationally (NACE)	\$50,000
Syracuse University Student Veterans (FDS)	\$63,505

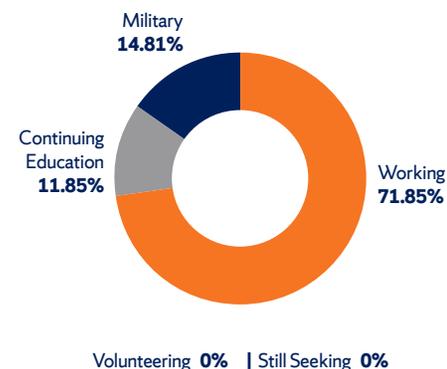
#### RESPONSE BY LOCATION

Where Student Veterans work after graduation?

Majority of those student veterans who responded work within the Northeastern Corridor.



#### RESPONSE BREAK DOWN BY TYPE OF WORK



## 2021 NEW CAREER SERVICES OFFERED

### Purepost

OVMA has partnered with Purepost to ensure student veterans get the highest value from their education and work experience.

Purepost is a free service for student veterans that analyzes military experience and converts it to civilian skills. With free registration, the “Purepost Sherpa” will make a student veteran’s military resume easily comprehensible to civilian employers. Students first create a personalized profile that will optimize their job search. Military occupations entered will generate “achievement statements” that can be used on a resume. These statements have been developed to help describe the many duties, leadership capabilities and technical skills embedded in a military job title.

### Career Corner Digital Video Library

The Career Corner Digital Library is a collection of videos produced exclusively for student veterans. Each video touches upon a variety of career-related topics. Student veterans have an opportunity to hear from employers, alumni, experts, and peers as they share their insights and advice on a variety of career-related topics to prepare and develop student veterans’ paths to employment.

The series, called “Gathering Your Tools,” (GYT) was added to the digital career library and is tailored to student veterans who are on the go and want to learn career advice from experts on their own time in preparation for their career of choice after college. These videos are available on OVMA’s YouTube Channel.

### Undergraduate Internship Award

In response to a growing demand for student veteran internships and to eliminate financial barriers, OVMA launched the Syracuse University Student Veteran Undergraduate Internship Award. This provides financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate student veterans at Syracuse University during the summer semester to increase access to internships that create career pathways to employment. The internship award covers the cost of 1-internship credit hour, travel, living expenses, up to \$5,000.

This year, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the OVMA awarded one internship award.

### Student Veteran Virtual Career and Internship Fair

Student Veteran Virtual Career and Internship Fair, exclusively for student veterans and employers to connect virtually for job and internship openings. The Virtual Fair was an opportunity for student veterans to get to know companies that understand the value of hiring veterans for careers within their organization. Veterans also built out their network and related to industry leaders in a virtual environment.



### U.S ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (USASMA)

The Syracuse University School of Education and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy began a partnership in August 2019 to offer USASMA. The fellows will complete master's degrees in instructional design, development and evaluation (IDD&E), offered fully online through the School of Education. The fellows, who are assigned to Fort Bliss for three years, will finish their degrees within a year and go on to design and instruct the academy's Sergeants Major Course, which educates the military's enlisted personnel to operate on all levels of leadership. The second cohort of ten USASMA fellows began in Summer 2020.

“ Because of what you accomplished here at this place, you are equipped with the tools and knowledge to literally make the Army better each and every day. ”

—Vice Chancellor Mike Haynie to 2021 USASMA Graduates



### PEER ADVISORS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION (PAVE)

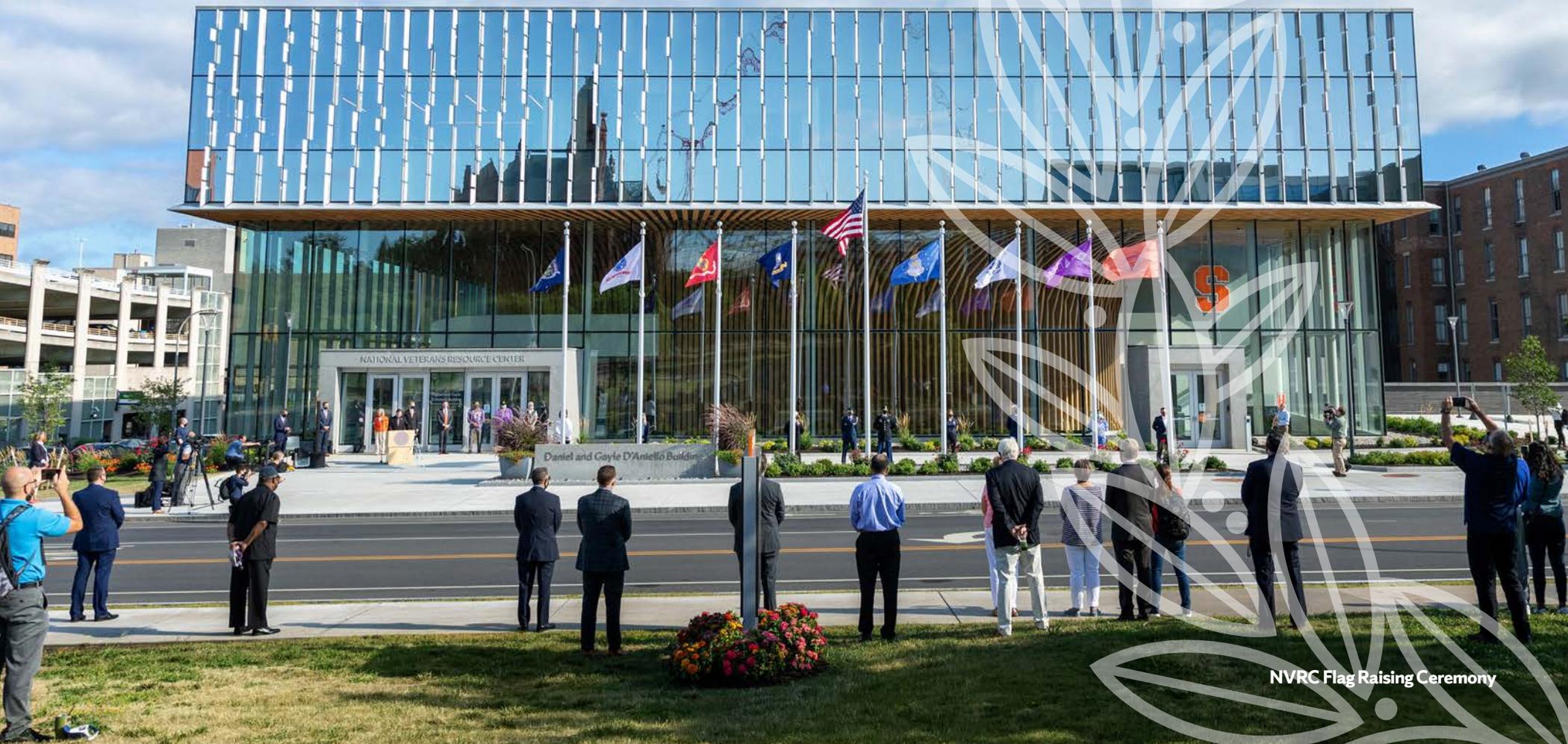
Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) is a peer support program that connects incoming student veterans on college campuses with student veterans who are trained as Peer Advisors. These advisors help them navigate college life by addressing challenges they may face with referrals to appropriate resources on and off campus and providing ongoing support.

Successful student veterans are trained as Peer Advisors to work one-on-one with student veterans to help them transition to campus life. The program is managed on each campus by a student veteran Team Leader with the help of the Veteran Services Coordinator (VSC) and support of a University Champion- a leader in the veteran space at the university who advocates for student veterans.

As a PAVE partner for the fifth year, Syracuse University's PAVE team is led by team leader Daniel Rubio '22. Rubio. This year the PAVE team consisted of ten Peer Advisors serving 62 undergraduate student veterans.



# CAMPUS



NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony



Onondaga Nation Tadodaho Sid Hill offering a Thanksgiving Address at the NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony

## NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (NVRC)

### NVRC Flag Raising Ceremony

The opening of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building was recognized at the start of the fall 2020 semester with a flag raising ceremony. Flags representing the United States, New York State, all five military branches, the Haudenosaunee, and Syracuse University were raised in front of the NVRC by individual military-connected Syracuse University students, alumni, and staff during a small ceremony. The flags flying before the NVRC represent the University’s deep connection to the indigenous lands, its commitment to veteran service, and its pursuit of knowledge.

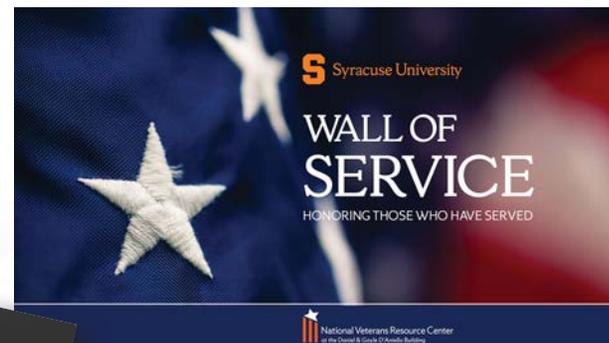
The ceremony paid significant homage to the University’s connection to the Onondaga Nation. Tadodaho, Sidney Hill, offered the traditional Haudenosaunee “Thanksgiving Prayer” and attended in recognition of the service on behalf of Indigenous men and women. Indigenous men and women historically have served in the military at a rate higher than almost any other segment of the U.S. population. Sam Babcock, a WWII veteran, and the oldest living veteran of the Onondaga Nation was also in attendance. In his honor, Suzanne Hill ’20, Babcock’s grandniece and US Marine Corps veteran raised the Haudenosaunee Flag.



### NVRC Wall of Service

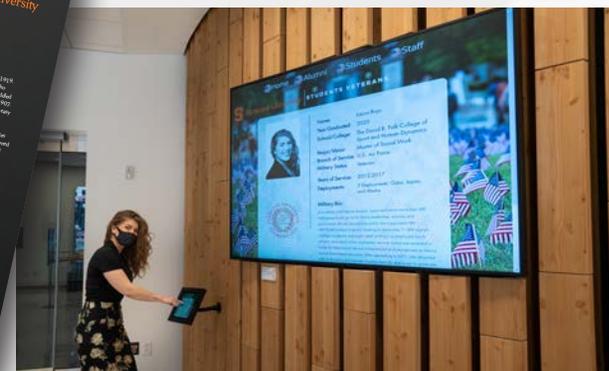
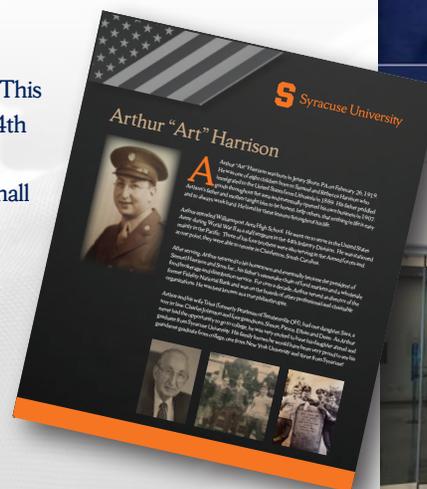
On Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) unveiled the new “Wall of Service” inside of the National Veteran Resource Center.

This digital display, located on the ground floor between the Gallery and Hall of Honor, tells the individual stories of our current military-connected students, veteran alumni and employees using self-submitted content. These stories play an important role in making Syracuse University the “Best Place for Veterans™.” Veteran and military-connected alumni, to include family members that would like a bio featured in the Wall of Service can contact vma@syr.edu to be included.



### SSG Arthur Harrison (US Army) Community Room

The SSG Arthur Harrison Community Room in the NVRC was completed in the spring of 2020. This room is named in honor of WWII veteran Arthur “Art” Harrison, in memory of his service in the 44th Infantry Division. This room was made possible thanks to generous donations from Sara Harrison Johnston ’86 and Family, the Jon Ben Snow Foundation & Memorial Trust, the Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation, and LeChase Construction Services, LLC. Throughout the adjacent halls are photos from around the Central New York Community which depict the region’s strong commitment to veterans, military service members and their families. This room will be used for community gatherings and meetings once the building is officially open to the public.





In response to COVID-19, U.S. Army Cadet Command made changes to their summer training programs. This included Operation Agile Leader (OAL) which adjusted most Advanced Camp tasks to both on-campus training and a rigorous, task-force level off-campus field training exercise during the fall and spring semesters. Operation Agile Leader trained Army ROTC MSIV cadets at Fort Drum, NY in August 2020. Cadets were transported to Fort Drum for OAL in Chinook helicopters from Syracuse University's South Campus.



# OPERATION AGILE



# LEADER 2020

## 2020 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Veterans Day ceremony was not held in Hendricks Chapel as it has been for many years. This year’s ceremony was held virtually and included addresses from student veterans Laura Buys ’19, G ’21 and Charlie Poag ’22, as well as Veteran Affairs School Certifying Official, Kari MicKinkle. In addition, Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud provided a virtual address and introduced keynote speaker, Dino Babers, Syracuse University football head coach and son of a U.S. Navy veteran.

“At a very young age, my respect and admiration for our armed forces was instilled in me. Growing up in a military home is an essential part of what makes me the man I am today,” said Dino Babers, Syracuse University Football head coach.

## VETERANS DAY PROFILES

In celebration of Veterans Day, the University recognized the experiences and stories of student, faculty, and staff veterans throughout November 2020. These stories are just some of the many from among the veteran and military-connected community members on campus whom the University is dedicated to supporting.

### Marion Dorfer



When Associate Professor Marion Dorfer joined the U.S. Army, she did so even though her mother, father and brother had all served in the US Air Force. “I think I joined the Army instead of the Air Force because I was more of a rebel. I wanted something different,” says

Dorfer, who has taught surface pattern design, computer-aided pattern design and computer design classes in the College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Design since 1992.

Dorfer served four years in the Army.

### James E. Baker



The Hon. James E. Baker has always known that he was meant for a life of public service. Growing up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he was raised—as his mother once told him—to be a teacher. But he had other plans.

“I came to the conclusion at a young age that anybody who had the educational opportunities I was given

had an obligation to perform public service,” says Judge Baker, a professor in Syracuse University’s College of Law and director of the Institute for Security Policy and Law. “Teaching is public service, but I embraced the concept of the citizen-soldier.”

Baker joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18. He started his military career as an infantry officer in the Marine Corps and subsequently joined the staff of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, a federal civilian court that hears military justice appeals, for 15 years before retiring in 2015.

### Miguel Pica



Miguel Pica is a student veteran, majoring in biology with a minor in public health, a path he is pursuing to connect his interest in medicine with his desire to help people. When his son was born at the end of this summer, Pica, who is also majoring in history in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School, started to focus on what he may want to do in the next chapter of his life.

Pica served in the U.S. Army as a diesel wheeled vehicle mechanic, which was of particular interest to him after participating in a program in high school that focused on trade skills. Pica serves as a PAVE Advisor, volunteers at a local high school for programs with minority students, serves as a senator for the University Senate, works on research within the biology department, serves as the secretary of the Student Veterans Organization and works with the University admissions office. He is most passionate about the times he can help his fellow veterans though, especially those making that leap from military service.

### Janina Rios



Growing up, Janina Rios did not think that going to college was a fit. “Coming out of high school, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. I knew higher education wasn’t for me,” she says.

That belief has certainly changed now that she is in her first semester at Syracuse University. After graduating from Suffolk County Community College earlier this year with an associate degree in radio and television production, she is now pursuing a bachelor’s degree in film in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

In the National Guard, Rios served as a 25U, also known as a

## OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

signal support systems specialist. Her job included working with communications signal support systems and terminal devices. After serving for nearly seven years, Rios decided it was time to think about her next chapter. Now, Rios is at Syracuse chasing her dreams. In addition to her film major, Rios is considering minors in photography and psychology.

### Mike Frasciello



Mike Frasciello served on active duty for 10 years. He says he was fortunate to be assigned to squadrons that valued developing junior enlisted airmen into future leaders. “I was actively encouraged to take advantage of leadership development programs, pathways, and opportunities,” he says.

Frasciello worked as an airman during the day and took college courses at night and on weekends. His dedication allowed him to finish three degrees. Twenty years after leaving the Air Force, Frasciello completed a Ph.D. while working full-time. Today he serves as dean of The College of Professional Studies, Syracuse University’s gateway for part-time students whose goal is to pursue a degree or earn a certificate or credential from any of the University’s schools and colleges. “So maybe college was for me,” he says.

### Scott Taylor



As the director of transfer and veteran admissions in the Office of Admissions, Taylor recruits, admits, and enrolls student veterans into undergraduate programs at Syracuse University. Additionally, his office helps veterans adjust to life in higher education and find the support they need to succeed at Syracuse University and beyond.

A veteran himself, Taylor served the country for 20 years as part of the United States Army. Over the course of his career

Taylor worked in a variety of roles around the world. He served in Korea working on stateside assignments, was deployed to Afghanistan three times including once in October 2001, right after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A Syracuse University Alum, Taylor attended graduate school at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, graduating in 2006.

### Shannon Meeks



Originally from South Korea, Shannon Meeks met her now-husband while he was stationed there. After they married and returned to the US, she recalls having difficulty figuring out what she wanted to do for work. “When I first came to the US, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” she says. “Even though I spoke English as my second language, it seemed difficult to find opportunities for myself.” As a military spouse and familiar with the Army through her husband, she ultimately decided to enlist alongside her husband.

Following her first contract, Meeks, a new mom at the time, entered civil service. After working for 12 years in civil service as a budget analyst, she took a three-week finance course at Syracuse University. Here, she learned about the University’s Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP), a unique cooperative endeavor between the University and the Department of Defense in which candidates earn both a master’s degree in business administration (MBA) and an Executive Master’s Degree of Public Administration (EMPA) degree.

### Jennifer Vollbrecht

When Jennifer Vollbrecht returned from serving in the US Marine Corps, she was not sure what her next step would be. Now the owner and primary consultant at J Vollbrecht Consulting, Inc., Vollbrecht’s path to entrepreneurship started with the skills and traits she developed during her military service.



Vollbrecht discovered Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV), a program created by Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) that offers cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans and family members. Vollbrecht attended EBV through the UCLA chapter. “I went in without a business plan or idea,” she says. “In EBV, I gathered information, soaked it up, and became super motivated to start my own business.”

### Scott and Lauren Deutsch



It is common for children to follow in a parent’s footsteps by attending their alma mater. But attending the same law school at the same time is much more unique. At the College of Law, father-daughter duo Scott and Lauren Deutsch are making pursuing a J.D. a family activity.

“We’re not just a 1L and 2L—we’re father and daughter,” says Scott, who is in his second year of his studies in the JDinteractive (JDi) program, Syracuse’s fully online law degree program.

Scott is a veteran of the U.S. Army, retiring as a captain after serving both as an enlisted soldier and officer.

OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**SU Vs Georgia Tech**

September 26, 2020  
U.S. Air Force Veteran,  
Laura Buys '18, G '21



**SU vs Duke**

October 10, 2020  
U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant  
Kirsten Brandes



**SU vs Liberty**

October 17, 2020  
Army ROTC Cadet and  
NY Army National Guard  
Sergeant Felicia Showers '21



**SU vs Wake Forest**

October 31, 2020  
U.S. Army Captain Jay Knight  
G '21



**SU vs Boston College**

November 7, 2020  
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran,  
Charlie Poag '22



**SU vs NC State**

Nov 28, 2020  
U.S. Air Force Master  
Sergeant Joseph Hernon



2020-2021  
HOMETOWN HERO

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT OF THE MONTH FEATURES

**Laura Buys**



In its fourth year as one of just 15 Pat Tillman Foundation University Partners, Syracuse University announced Laura Buys '18, G'21 as its 2020 Tillman Scholar. Buys was one of only 60 students nationwide to be awarded the prestigious scholarship in 2020.

After honorably separating in 2017, Laura was able to fully immerse herself in a career in human services, choosing to pursue a bachelor's degree in Women's and Gender Studies and a Master of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. Laura also served as the school's disability services liaison for student veterans, a confidential program where she helps connect student veterans like herself to the Center for Disability Resources and other community and campus wellness programs.

"Syracuse University truly is the best place for veterans—I know this from experience, having earned almost two degrees here. There are so many resources for military-connected students and veterans. I can't say enough good things about the opportunities I've been given here," says Laura Buys '18, G'21.

**Dan Rubio**



Dan Rubio is one of the many student veterans here at the University using his post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to pursue his academic goals. In his case, this means a dual major in biology and environment, sustainability and policy in the College of

Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Rubio is also the team leader for Peer Advisors for Veterans Education (PAVE), a peer support network that connects incoming undergraduate student veterans on campus with other student veterans who can help them navigate college life, address challenges, refer them to appropriate resources on and off-campus, and provide ongoing support.



**Chinedu Nwankwoala**

If money makes the world go around, then military finance officers are a vital link connecting our nation's military and its commitment to the U.S. taxpayer. For Major Chinedu Nwankwoala, a member of the National Guard, a career in finance was a gateway to explore a much larger world—even larger than either of the continents he grew up on. Nwankwoala attended Syracuse University through the Defense Comptrollership Program. The DCP at Whitman School and the Maxwell School is a joint program between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. Being a finance guy, Nwankwoala was not initially excited about the EMPA part of his studies, but that quickly changed once classes started.

"When I signed up for this program, they told me it comes with this EMPA, and I didn't care too much back then," says Nwankwoala. "Now, that statement couldn't be further from the truth. It helped me not only reflect on my time as a military officer, but also as husband, dad, and a person. I didn't know there were techniques out there to help me deal with some of the things I was dealing with."

**Divyne Hutchinson**

Divyne Hutchinson '24 has always wanted to fly. The ambitious first-year Syracuse University student has been fascinated by airplanes since she was



a child, and after her uncle enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, she was inspired to pursue the same dream. Hutchinson got her first glimpse of Syracuse University on the way back from a high school trip to Canada. After that visit, chatting with a university representative at her high school, and some research into the aerospace engineering program in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, she knew she wanted to apply.

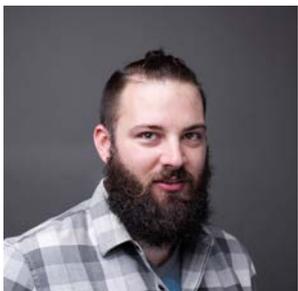
**Shaei Rodriguez**



Some people graduate from high school knowing exactly what they want to study in college. Others go straight into the workforce. For Shaei Rodriguez '22, the path wasn't so clear. He joined the United States Air Force after high school to gain some wisdom and experience, and to help with the financial aspects of higher education.

Rodriguez is a senior airman (soon to be staff sergeant) at Camp Springs, Maryland, where he works as a knowledge manager administering the base's SharePoint system. To expand his expertise, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in knowledge management online at Syracuse University. Rodriguez is not physically located on the Syracuse University campus, but he says he still feels part of the Orange community.

**Aaron Cass**



As a mortarman with the US Army, Aaron Cass '21 knows a thing or two about camaraderie, which is why he was pleasantly surprised by the sense of teamwork he discovered while pursuing his degree in Syracuse University's School of Architecture.

Looking to gain some independence, Cass joined the Army out of high school to find out who he was and what he wanted to do in life, ultimately deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. His four years in the service provided him with "nuggets of gold" for which he is thankful.

"Syracuse really values its veterans. Whether you are in a five-year program like me or a four-year program—or going into law enforcement like many veterans do, or even a more creative field—it is important to have those opportunities. That is why it's great that the University is so welcoming," says Aaron Cass '21.

**Darasha Singleton**



Darasha Singleton is a military-connected student. She has three veteran parents - her mother, father, and stepfather. Now a graduate student studying broadcast journalism at the nation's leading communications school, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, she's proud Syracuse University makes veterans and their families a priority.

"I'm forever a military child. Looking back, I see what a huge sacrifice they made on their part, for the country and for me. It's something that is very near and dear and you don't understand until you look back." - Darasha Singleton

**Vincent Miczek**

Vincent Miczek '21 recently earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) and commissioned into the United States Air Force and will be headed to Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. At the end of 2021, he will start pilot training.



Miczek says his degree will be applied almost immediately as he learns the intricates of his assigned aircraft. "I can't wait to start this next chapter in my life," he says.

**Joshua Reid**



For Joshua Reid, an active-duty soldier now stationed in Japan, his training gave him the tools he needed to "continue the climb" while finishing his degree through University College

at Syracuse University. "As a 10th Mountain Division soldier, the climb to glory for me is being a role model for my nieces and nephews, and also to my friends and in my community," he says. Reid says that the time management and discipline he is learned serving in the military helped him accomplish his goal. "I accept my duties as a soldier and a scholar with a deep reverence."

## VETERANS AFFINITY GROUP



**E**stablished in 2014, the Syracuse University Veterans Affinity Group is an inclusive organization that is open to all members of the University community who've served in the Armed Forces or those who support those who have served our country. The group consists of employees from all areas of the University and represents all branches of service. This past year's Veteran Affinity Group highlights include:

### BUILDING COMMUNITY

Members of the Affinity Group come together every month to host presentations on a wide range of topics from speakers from across the University and beyond. Highlights from this year's presentation include Chancellor and President of Syracuse University, Kent Syverud, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation, Mike Haynie, IVMF Research and Analytics Team, College of Law's VISION, Syracuse Vet Center, and ViacomCBS Veterans Network.



### SERVICE PROJECTS

Despite the challenges over this past year, the Affinity Group was able to come together once again to clean and give honor to the Veterans section of Oakwood Cemetery. We continued our support to the veterans at Oakwood Cemetery as part of our participation in the national initiative Wreaths Across America.



### CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

The Veterans Affinity Group participated in the flag-raising ceremony for the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello building raising one of the flags and playing accompaniment music. Speaking at this year's Veterans Day Ceremony, was Affinity Group member Kari Mickinkle from the Office of Veteran Success, who shared the history of the creation of what is today's Veterans Day.





## STUDENT VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

### SVO AWARDS

In an awards ceremony at the National Veterans Resource Center, the Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and the OVMA awarded several annual recognitions, including the Best for Vets Award, the Community Support Award, the Danny Facto Student Veteran Work-Study Award, and the Student Veteran of the Year. The SVO also introduced its new slate of officers to lead the Syracuse University chapter beginning this month.

SVO's Best for Vets Award was given to Ryan Marquette. Marquette is currently pursuing a J.D. from the College of Law and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

SVO's Community Support Award went to Daniel Rubio. Rubio has supported new student veterans, as the Team Leader for the Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) chapter at Syracuse University.

The Danny Facto Student Veteran Work-Study Award was given to Miguel Pica. Pica has worked with the Syracuse University admissions team over the last year. Pica is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, a Bachelor of Arts in history in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School, and a minor in public health in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics.

Laura Buys was named Student Veteran of the Year. During her time at Syracuse University, Laura has been committed to the veteran community at Syracuse University. In 2019, Laura became a Disability Services Liaison (DSL) to better serve her peers. Laura's work as a DSL highlighted her passion of social work and serving student veterans with disabilities. Additionally, Laura was selected as the 2020 Tillman Scholar for Syracuse University.

In addition, to these awards, the SVO announced new executive leaders for the 2021-2022 academic year:

**President:** Janina Rios

**Vice President:** Anthony Ruscitto

**Secretary:** Harris Krahn

**Public Affairs Officer:** Daniel Szarek

**Treasurer:** Sam Tanner

## ARMY AND AIR FORCE ROTC

### University's ROTC Cadets Bring the Fight to COVID-19



On October 6, the University's Public Health Team identified an emerging cluster of positive COVID-19 cases on campus. Testing revealed more than 60 new cases over the next four days. After consulting with the Onondaga County Health Department, the University determined that aggressive action was needed. This new threat demanded enhanced surveillance testing. "We needed a lot of help and support," says Pruthvi Kilaru, program manager in the Department of Public Health in the Falk College. Volunteers were needed to swab and log samples at the stadium on a mass scale. The Public Health Team also needed assistance in the lab to pool samples before they were sent to the lab.

The University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) answered the call. Led by political science and Middle Eastern studies major Zach Baxter '21 since October 7 a total of forty-three (43) cadets have logged 175 volunteer hours and facilitated an estimated 6000 tests. "Zach has been an integral part in getting people signed up and getting us staffed. They have really been amazing," says Kilaru.

### CHANCELLOR'S REVIEW

At the Annual Chancellor's Review Ceremony, ROTC cadets who have distinguished themselves through superior performance in academics, ROTC, and extracurricular activities were recognized with awards sponsored by civilian and military organizations. Syracuse University's ROTC is the longest consecutively running program in the United States. Among the many awards recognized, the OVMA awarded the "Commitment to Service award to one cadet from both the Army and Air Force Program. This year's Commitment to Service award recipients were Army ROTC cadet Stanley Smudin '22 and Air Force cadet Tyler Pirro '21.

This year's awards ceremony was held in the National Veterans Resource Center. Traditionally held in the university's stadium, the Pass in Review portion of this year's ceremony was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC HEALTH REMINDER

**SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES**

- Stay at least **six feet apart**.
- Wear a mask or face covering.
- DO NOT** get on a crowded elevator.
- If area is crowded, consider returning at a different time.

STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY. DO YOUR PART.

**S**

**TESTING HOURS**

**Monday - Friday**  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Wednesday Evening**  
5 p.m.-10 p.m.

**Sunday**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY. DO YOUR PART.

**S**



## OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

### Air Force ROTC Leadership Labs



Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, Air Force ROTC cadets participated in weekly leadership labs where cadets and applicants learned about guidon procedures, stationary drill, flag folding, reporting-in procedures, warrior knowledge, building entry procedures, stationary drill, first aid, and more.

### Army ROTC Field Training Exercise



In April 2021, Army ROTC cadets traveled to U.S. Army Fort Drum, 10th Mountain Division to conduct a joint training exercise with Clarkson Universities Army ROTC Golden

Knight Battalion, Cornell Army ROTC, and Mohawk Army ROTC. Cadets practiced qualifying at the range, land navigation skills, and conducting Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes.

### Ranger Challenge Competition



Syracuse University Army ROTC cadets took part in the "Ranger Challenge" competition at Fort Dix, New Jersey in March 2021. The Syracuse team took first place in the "Place the Burden" challenge and second place in the tug-of-war.

### Bataan Memorial Death March



Stalwart Battalion cadets participated remotely in the Bataan Memorial Death March on April 10, 2021. The annual Bataan Death March commemorates the tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers who, on April 9, 1942, were surrendered to Japanese forces and were forced to march more than 60 miles in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died and those who survived faced the hardships of prisoner of war camps. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging and grueling march that tests both mental and physical abilities. For the 2021 virtual experience, marchers were encouraged to choose a challenging stretch of road or trail in honor of the historical march. Cadets completed the 26.2-mile ruck march at the Erie Canal Trail.

### Staff Ride



In May 2021, Senior Army ROTC cadets participated in a staff ride to Sackets Harbor where they completed a battlefield analysis of the War of 1812 battles on Lake Ontario, NY.

**Syracuse ROTC Cadets Get First Opportunity to Attend Special Operations Civil Affairs Branch Assessment and Selection Course**

Syracuse University Army ROTC cadets Madeleine Gordon and Patrick Little became the first cadets from any ROTC college program in the nation to attend the U.S. Army Special Operations Civil Affairs Assessment and Selection Course (CAAS) in December 2020 held at Fort Bragg, NC. Working alongside active-duty officers and enlisted soldiers, Gordon and Little applied lessons learned inside and outside of the classroom and were selected as future special operations civil affairs leaders.

**ROTC Alumni Network**

A special bond unites graduates of the Syracuse University U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Launched on LinkedIn in April 2021, the Syracuse University ROTC Alumni Network gives ROTC alumni the opportunity to connect with each other as well as network with current cadets. Alumni can share career opportunities, offer expertise as a mentor, leverage personal connections to help fellow ROTC alumni and cadets advance, and discover what their peers have been up to since graduation.



To join the ROTC Alumni Network on LinkedIn, please email [vma@syrr.edu](mailto:vma@syrr.edu).



## 2020-2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following military-connected scholarships were awarded during the 2020-2021 school year. Scholarship support is the gift of opportunity and knowledge. Endowed and current-use scholarships enable Syracuse University to deliver the best education experience possible for military-connected students.

### **Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Undergraduate Student Veteran Scholarship**

John Nipper '23  
Charlie Poag '22

### **Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Military Family Member Scholarship**

Sarah Hoag L '23  
Britney Kokesh '22

### **Gerald B. Faigle Jr. and Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

Scott Deutsch L '22  
Lucy and Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship  
Shaei Rodriguez '22  
Michael Griffin '21  
Dania Tompkins '24

### **Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**

Kyle Huff '21  
Divyne Hutchinson '24  
Jarod Okamura '22  
Hanna McNabb '21

### **Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

Hanna McNabb '21  
Michael Hahn-Rauch '22  
Amanda Lalonde '23

### **Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**

Brian Mixon '23

### **Dottle Family Endowed Scholarship**

Madeline Messare '22  
Robert N. Fraser '24  
Michael McDonough '24  
Jason P. Yu '24  
Gerrit VanVranken '24  
Mingeun Song '22  
Quinn Pelichoff '23  
Nikolaus Sarisky '21



# OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



## National Veterans Resource Center Donor Roll

The National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at Syracuse University serves as a class-leading national exemplar of academic, government, and community collaboration positioned to empower those who have served in defense of our nation. The following donors have provided capital support for this historic endeavor.



**Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello Building**

Mr. Daniel A. D’Aniello & Mrs. Gayle V. D’Aniello

**K.G. Tan Auditorium**

Dr. Kwang G. Tan

**Bisignano Family Program and Services Wing**

Mr. Frank Bisignano, Mrs. Tracy S. Bisignano & their children

**Captain Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder Hall of Honor**

Mr. Clifford J. Ensley & Mrs. Susan Ensley  
Mr. Theodore A. Lachowicz & Mrs. Cheryl H. Lachowicz  
Ms. Felicia L. Walker & Mr. Jeffrey D. Saferstein

**SSGT Arthur Harrison Community Room**

Mrs. Sara H. Harrison Johnston & Family  
The John Ben Snow Foundation & Memorial Trust  
The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation  
LeChase Construction Service, LLC

**Haydon Student Veteran Study Room**

Mr. Richard L. Haydon & Mrs. Helen F. Haydon

**J. Michael Haynie Conference Room**

Anonymous Donor

**Col James C. Dottle, U.S. Army, Retired Office**

Mr. Paul M. Dottle & Family

**Ginsburg Family Office**

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Jay Kyoon & Young Hee Lee  
Sung & Karen Lee  
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Kyung Jin Park  
Nak & So Ok Shim  
Bong Hee & Kihui Woo

**Tihic Family Fountain**

Mr. Mirza Tihic & Family

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Dr. Susan B. Bastable  
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Mrs. Deborah Foley  
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## PROVIDING ACCESS FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

Scholarship support is the gift of opportunity and knowledge. Endowed and current-use scholarships enable Syracuse University to deliver the best education experience possible for military-connected students.

The following individuals have empowered student success by providing transformative levels of support.

### **Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship** Mr. Paul M. Dottle & Family

### **Gerald B. & Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

Mr. Gerald B. Faigle Jr. & Mrs. Roberta M. Faigle

### **Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans** Mr. Barry G. Flanik & Mrs. Kirsten P. Flanik

### **Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship**

Mr. Millard Hall, Jr., & Dr. Lynette G. Hall

### **Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military Connected Students**

Mr. Wilder J. Leavitt & Ms. Mary P. Morningstar

### **Louis A. & Patricia H. Mautino Endowed Veteran Scholarship**

Mr. Louis A. Mautino & Mrs. Patricia H. Mautino

### **Lucy & Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship Endowed Fund**

Mr. Ernest L. Herrman & Dr. Kathleen Herrman

### **Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents**

Mr. F. Glenn Richardson & Mrs. Carol Richardson

### **Spall Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans**

Mr. Theodore F. Spall & Mrs. Suzanne A. Spall

## IMPACTFUL AREAS OF SUPPORT

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships provide access to the best education experience and are a tremendous way to show your support for military-connected students.

Consider establishing a scholarship to show your support for military-connected students.

#### **The Millard Hall, Jr. G '86 and Lynette G. Hall '89, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**



The Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in January 2021 to enable minority student veterans to attend Syracuse University and experience the benefits of a

Syracuse University education and the opportunity to become “Forever Orange”.

With a desire to promote a diverse student body, the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and military connected students pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“Syracuse University provided a foundation that continues to favorably impact our lives, professional development and career growth. This scholarship is an opportunity for us to give back and bless someone else,” says Mickay, who earned an MBA from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management through the U.S. Army Comptrollership Program. He retired from the Army at the rank of lieutenant colonel after 20 years of service in the Quartermaster Corps and as a comptroller and has subsequently held senior operational leadership positions with Coca-Cola, Valassis Communications and ISS Facility Services.

Lynette attended Syracuse through the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). Between HEOP and other

scholarships, she was able to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing with minimal educational expenses and went on to earn a master’s in nursing from Emory University in 1992 and a doctorate of nursing practice from Georgia State University in 2015. She is currently a family nurse practitioner at the Southeast Permanente Medical Group. “The opportunity to attend Syracuse provided the foundation for my career in nursing,” she says. “Every nurse has a desire to care, to serve, or to help and I can pay it forward by creating a scholarship for minority students like me.”

The Halls’ scholarship is the first through the OTHC program created specifically for a veteran.

#### **The Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**



With a gift in support of the Forever Orange campaign, Barry '93 and Kirsten Flanik have established the Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans.

“Kirsten and I are proud of SU’s well-earned reputation as the country’s top private school for veterans, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to help those who have done so much for our country.”



The Inaugural Flanik Family Scholarship was awarded to student veteran Brian Mixon.

An U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army veteran, Brian is pursuing his degree part-time in Cybersecurity Administration at Syracuse University while working full-time in federal cybersecurity.

“In my mind though, when I hear ‘thank you for your service’, I consider ‘you’ to include my family,” he says. “They have also sacrificed quite a bit over the years in support of our great nation.

My job was always to grab my pack and go, while they each

had to make huge adjustments to their lives.”

#### **The Wilder J. Leavitt '86 and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**



The Wilder J. Leavitt '86 and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students was established in Spring 2020 to empower students to their fullest potential.

With a preference for students studying science or engineering,

the scholarship is awarded semiannually and is open to undergraduate student veterans and ROTC cadets pursuing their educational goals at Syracuse University.

“Even though I grew up with limited means, my parents went to bat for me. The Air Force showed me generosity. I talked to my wife Mary and we knew we had to pay it forward. This scholarship is an expression of gratitude. I am immensely grateful for what was given to me and I know there has to be a student out there with an experience like mine. I want to be a part of pushing their dreams a bit further. So many people rolled up their sleeves and did their best for me. Now, we are in a place where we can do the same and make a difference.”

One of this year’s Leavitt-Morningstar Scholars was Air Force ROTC Cadet Divyne Hutchinson. An aerospace engineering major from Bronx, New York. Divyne Hutchinson dreamed of attending Syracuse University since she was in the eighth grade. Now on campus as a student, Hutchinson has participated in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program and is a U.S. Air Force ROTC Cadet. This past fall, she volunteered at the University’s COVID-19 testing site.

“This award will significantly contribute to my success and will be a driving force on my journey to a degree in aerospace engineering and commissioning into the world’s greatest Air Force. Thank you for helping my dreams become a reality.”



Air Force ROTC Cadet Divyne Hutchinson

## OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

### CAREER IMMERSION



A gift to The Veteran and Military-Connected Student Career Immersion Program will help prepare students to successfully secure civilian careers upon graduation.

The Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program prepares students for civilian careers upon graduation. Through a combination of skills assessment, preparatory career-focused seminars and courses, and a three-day immersion trip to major metropolitan areas across the country, this experiential offering provides student veterans with valuable career networking and engagement opportunities.

“My family is honored to be part of everything that is happening at Syracuse University in support of veteran and military-connected students on campus. A unique challenge faced by many of our student veterans is the task of navigating career opportunities. That is why I chose to endow the Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program. As a veteran and a proud father of a former U.S. Air Force officer, I can’t imagine a better cause to support.”

—Paul Dottle

*Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Chair*

### ROTC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



A gift to the ROTC Professional Development Fund empowers aspiring cadets to develop management, team building, and communication skills to unleash their potential as future leaders.

ROTC Professional Development helps to support additional leadership training and activities that enhances the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. It offers numerous opportunities for cadets to participate in staff rides, retreats, lectures, and seminars to learn how to effectively inspire, develop, and lead others.

“The University helped to shape me into the person I am today, and I am tremendously proud of my alma mater as they support and empower my fellow veterans, service members and their families. I established the ROTC Professional Development Fund to ensure cadets would have the opportunity to test their mental agility, communication skills and overall leadership abilities.”

—Retired Major General Peggy Combs '85

*Highest-ranking female military officer to graduate from Syracuse University, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Member*

## Veteran Legacy Fund (VLF)

The Veteran Legacy Fund provides unrestricted support to the Syracuse University military-connected community. We would like to thank the donors who made a gift to the Veteran Legacy Fund between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

*We are grateful to the those listed below for their gifts and continued generosity:*

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VETERAN LEGACY FUND

# Leadership Circle

Powerful group of supporters

## Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle

Members of the Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle shape the future of veteran and military-connected students and employees at Syracuse University. Members make a five-year pledge of \$1,000 or more annually to the Veteran Legacy Fund.

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To all our current members, thank you for your generous support and leadership.

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We believe each supporter of the VLF deserves special recognition. Understanding the challenges our recent graduates face as they transition to the workforce, start new careers, and begin to continue raising families, OVMA created the “1944 Circle” as a way to recognize “graduates of the last decade” (G.O.L.D.), who desire to take their commitment a step further. Veteran Legacy Fund 1944 Circle members make a gift of \$250 or more annually to provide unrestricted support to our military-connected students.

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To all our current members, thank you for your generous support and leadership.

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