OUTCOME
Student veterans and military-connected students will develop connection and belonging on campus through the support of the veteran community and the assistance of the Veterans Resource Center (VRC).

OUTCOME SUPPORTS
- University: Goal 2
- Division: Goal 5
- Department: 
- Other: 

OUTCOME TYPE
- Performance Outcome
- Student Learning Outcome

ASSESSMENT APPROACH
- Direct assessment
- Indirect assessment

DATA COLLECTION METHODS
- Survey

METHODS AND MEASURES
The VRC believes that student veteran persistence is supported by developing a community with their peers. Through connection and belonging, student transition into the university is eased and their emotional and academic well-being is improved with the support of their veteran peers and the VRC.

The VRC will utilize an end-of-year survey to measure the following:

- Do students feel they are connected to the campus?
  - What contributed to the students feeling connected on campus?
- Were they involved in VRC programs or events?
  - If yes, how many VRC programs or events did the students participate in during the academic year?
    - If yes, did their involvement in VRC programs or events influence their connection and belonging on campus?
    - If no, what are the reasons their involvement did not influence their feelings of connection and belonging on campus?
  - If no, what are the reasons why students were not involved in VRC programs or events?
- Are the students more committed to their academic goals because of their involvement with the veteran community and the VRC than they were before they were involved?
  - If yes, how do they perceive their involvement influence their commitment?
  - If no, how can the veteran community and the VRC support their academic goals?
- Do students feel supported by the VRC and veteran community?
  - If yes, how do the students feel supported?
  - If no, how can the veteran community and the VRC support the students?

Survey will be sent out to all military-connected students who are registered with the VRC during the spring semester for a period of 2-3 weeks.
CRITERIA OF SUCCESS
Out of the survey participants:

- 80% of the students believe they have a connection or sense of belonging on campus.
- 80% of the students believe their involvement in the VRC programs or events impact or influence their connection and belonging on campus.
- 80% of the students are committed to their academic goals because of their involvement with the veteran community and the VRC.
- 80% of the students feel supported by the VRC and veteran community.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS
Of those surveyed:

- 84% (32 of 38) agreed or strongly agreed they have a connection or sense of belonging on campus.
- 50% (34 of 69) of the participants believe their involvement in the VRC programs or events impact or influence their connection and belonging on campus.
- 87% (33 of 38) of the participants are committed to their academic goals because of their involvement with the veteran community and the VRC.
- 79% (30 of 38) of the participants feel supported by the VRC and veteran community. Of the four criteria of success, two met the 80% goal.

IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS
1. Increase Attendance & Engagement
   “I bring students that do not have previous ties to the veteran community to VRC related events in my hopes to build a stronger and well-connected community.”

   Increase total attendance and participation numbers for overall programming events offered year-round. This will include aggressive marketing strategies to inform military-connected students of the VRC’s services and resources, and engaging with the community on a one-on-one basis.

2. Enhancing Friendly Environment
   “Every time I would enter the VRC, even if I did not know the people in there, I was asked about my day and everyone was very friendly and ready to help.”

   Continue to create an open and friendly environment for military-connected students who visit the VRC. This will include connecting with the students at the time of their visit, focusing on the needs of the students through focus groups and/or follow up surveys, and further discussing how the VRC staff can contribute to the overall success and integration of the student into the university.