Operation GW VALOR - Summary

Historically positive GW support to military and veteran students and the efforts of the Operation GW VALOR team over the past 2 years has contributed to additional success.

- GW launched “Operation GW VALOR” on 18 May 2013 (Armed Forces Day). This is a comprehensive, collaborative, and unified effort amongst key stakeholders whereby GW student Military members, their Families, and Veterans Accelerate Learning Opportunities & Rewards (VALOR). GW’s military, veteran, and military family member students are considered “VALOR students”.

- Operation GW VALOR mission is, “to maximize the success of VALOR students via excellence in learning and service, achieving the highest graduation rates nationally, and enhancing the careers of GW student military members, veterans, and their families”.

- The GW VALOR student growth strategic “end” is to improve access and affordability of the quality GW education for the military and veteran community which therefore enhances the diversity of learning in GW classrooms, as additional non-traditional military, veteran, and military family member students learn collaboratively along with GW traditional students.

GW VALOR results during the first two years include:

- Some success is being realized. Based on US News and World Report rankings of the National Universities and Colleges, the Military Times magazine, and the GI Jobs magazine, GW is one of only 9 schools within the Top 100 ranked National Universities & Colleges selected as both “Best for Vets” and “Military Friendly”, and is one of only 7 percent (14 of 200) of the Top 200 ranked National Universities & Colleges selected both “Best for Vets” and “Military Friendly” in 2015. GW School of Business was also identified as a “Best for Vets Business School” in 2015.

- University priority. GW VALOR supports the GW President’s emphasis on expanding “access and affordability” of the high quality George Washington University education.

  Access. GW VALOR plans to expand access so as to double the percentage of VALOR students in four years, so that GW may accelerate learning opportunities and rewards for more students as they enhance the diversity of learning in our classrooms. Improved Access provided via expansion at the GW Hampton Roads Center, programs at newly participating military facilities, and Online Programs - globally. GW also established a relationship with Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington. GW is also partnering with top Community Colleges to expand access of the quality GW education for students who wish to complete a four year degree.

  Affordability. As a reward to accelerate learning opportunities, we are making the quality GW learning more affordable for VALOR students. GW Undergraduate Online Degree Programs are offered at about a 60% reduction in cost, and in May 2013 GW doubled our contribution to Post 9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program- making most GW Masters degree programs free of personal cost for tuition & fees for fully qualified veterans and their families. GW has re-affirmed this commitment each subsequent year.

- VALOR student numbers have increased by 50% in under 2 years (from approx. 1,000 students in FY13 to over 1,500 in Fall 2014), resulting in the military, veteran, and military family member student population being about six percent of total GW undergrad and graduate student body. These students enhance the diversity of learning in our classrooms. About 33% of these students are undergrads, and about 67% are graduate students. VALOR students are approximately 42% veterans, 53% military in uniform (active, reserve, guard), and about 5% military dependents. Average age for VALOR undergrad students is 25, and 35 for grad students.

- VALOR students are achieving success and our traditional students, faculty, and staff better understand and support America’s military and veteran community as they are integrated within our academic community. 364 VALOR undergraduate and grad students graduated in May 2015- the largest number in years.
• Operation GW VALOR Operating Concept.

GW VALOR Team Role and responsibility #1: Academic Affairs:

GW partnered with the US Naval Academy to provide graduate education for promising junior officers who have been selected to serve a 3-year term as a Company Officer (CO) at USNA. GW created the program, Master of Arts in Leadership Education and Development (LEAD), which satisfied the education needs of the military students. The program was created and approved in a relatively short period of time (6 months), and commenced in June 2014. The first cohort graduated in May 2015, and the second cohort reported to GW in May with expected graduation in 2016.

-On May 17, 2015 at the Washington DC National Mall, the George Washington University held the commencement ceremony for the 2015 graduates.

-In a highly selective process, one person was selected to speak on behalf of all graduating undergraduate and graduate students. That person was Captain Richard Ruiz, US Marine Corps. Captain Ruiz was a student in the first cohort of GW’s US Naval Academy Leadership and Development (LEAD) Program.

-Steve Frenkil, the president of the George Washington Alumni Association, introduced Captain Ruiz and said, “How fitting is it this university inspired by nation’s first commander-in-chief, George Washington, and gathered together at the foot of the national monument built in his honor, should have as its student speaker a decorated member of our armed forces serving with courage and distinction”.

Experience Education Employment
Maximize VALOR Student Success via Excellence in Learning and Service
Military Life GW Next Phase

Experience of each Individual
- Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities
- Military Experience
- Military Training
- ACE Standards & GW fit
- Goals and Passion
- Leadership & Management

Education & GW Core Values
- Learning
- Quality & Innovative Programs
- Expand Access
- Hampton Roads, Online, & Military Facilities
- Improve Affordability
- Service
- Sense of community
- Wellness & Mentoring
- Tuition & benefits support
- Career Support
- Excellence
- Standard of Performance
- Double Valor Student body
  growth in 4 years (Enhance diversity of learning)
  - Support current/future needs of Military

Employment & Career Opportunities
- Address current/future needs of employers
- Individual obtains & maintains employment
- Individual advances in career
- Support entrepreneurship

> GW VALOR is a comprehensive, collaborative, and unified effort amongst key stakeholders whereby GW student Military members, their Families, and Veterans Accelerate Learning Opportunities & Rewards (VALOR).
> GW VALOR Mission: To maximize the success of VALOR students via excellence in learning and service, achieving the highest graduation rates nationally, and enhancing the careers of George Washington University student military members, veterans, and their families.
**Hampton Roads Expansion.** VALOR Director, Military and Veterans Affairs (Hampton Roads) position was established and filled to support access and affordability of GW education with the military and veteran community in Hampton Roads, VA.

**Online Programs.** VALOR Program Manager for Online Education position was established and filled to support access and affordability of Online undergraduate degree completion and graduate GW education amongst the military and veteran community. GW is also partnering with top Community Colleges for students who wish to complete a four year degree.

**Transition to Nursing.** The GW School of Nursing’s Program is exclusively for highly-qualified military members and veterans trained as Medics and Independent Duty Corpsman in the Washington DC area, and who are available to complete the BS in Nursing at the GW Virginia Science and Technology Campus in Ashburn, VA. This commenced in the spring semester 2014. With the support of GW VALOR, the School of Nursing earned a $1 million from U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Grant in support of this program.

**VALOR in Politics (VIP)** is a program which is supported by GW VALOR and the GW Graduate School of Political Management. The intended purpose of the VALOR in Politics program is to educate and prepare veteran students to continue their commitment to public service in the world of politics in the areas of political management and politics.

**GW has obtained access to start of academic programs (GW Law) on-base Fort Belvoir in 2015.**

**GW Navy ROTC performance has improved during the first year of VALOR.** GW has one of the Navy’s premier ROTC units, with approximately 130 undergraduate students. Cross town participating schools include Georgetown, Catholic University, University of Maryland, and Howard University. (GW has 15 students participating in the Air Force ROTC program at Howard; and GW has 32 students participating in Army ROTC program at Georgetown).

**VALOR Military Awareness Program** was initiated. This program includes “road trips” and “The Ribbon Project”. The Military Awareness Program is intended to provide GW faculty, staff, and students with the opportunity to learn more about the US military, with intention to enhance the participant’s understanding/support for VALOR student success.

- **Road trips.** 14 Faculty and Staff ‘road trip’ visits to date have included discussions with military personnel:
  >Navy guided missile destroyer and a nuclear powered submarine in Hampton Roads, VA.
  >VIP visit to Walter Reed Bethesda Medical Facility.
  >Navy large deck helicopter aircraft carrier (amphibious ship) and a nuclear powered submarine.
  >Army Training and Doctrine Command in Hampton Roads.
  >Navy landing, overnight, and launch visit on an aircraft carrier at sea.
  >Navy destroyer and the Arizona Memorial in Hawaii with the GW men’s basketball team and coaches.
  >Air Force Fighter squadron at Joint Base Andrews in the Washington DC area.

- **The Ribbon Project.** Over 100 faculty, staff, and students have participated in this military indoctrination.

- **GW VALOR Team Role and responsibility #2:** Service and Excellence.

  **Sense of Community.** Programs and events which help to sustain a sense of community are being implemented. VALOR students express empowerment and are more engaged in activities geared towards student success. The GW student body President and Vice President are engaged in many VALOR events which honor and recognize the military and veterans.

  **VALOR military and veteran student services and career services efforts have improved significantly.** GW Veterans Student Services Program Coordinator received the “Patriot Award” from the “Employee Support for the Guard and Reserves” (ESGR) in January 2015 for outstanding support to military guard and reserve student employees at GW; and GW University Counseling Center received an award in April 2015.
VALOR Teams are comprised of our 100 GW faculty, staff, students, and key stakeholders who collaboratively provide the academic and functional area support for VALOR students at GW three campuses and three centers.

VALOR Excellence Awards are bestowed annually to recognize individuals and teams who demonstrate excellence in learning and service, to the benefit of GW VALOR students.

- **GW VALOR Team Role and responsibility #3: Outreach & Development supporting VALOR Students.**

  - Operation GW VALOR helped GW to bring in over $$ in support of students.

  VALOR Learning Supplement (VLS). Effective April 2014, VALOR commenced providing some financial support to selected VALOR students (military, veteran, and their families who are GW students).