OPERATION GATEWAY
A Veteran Transition to Success. Not the typical New Student Veterans Orientation
Background

The presenters will share how a unique student Veterans orientation developed and continues to today.

Agenda:

• A brief history - evolution; not your standard orientation
• Micro Exercise of what students experience at Operation Gateway
• Evaluation/Lessons Learned
A brief history
Evolution; not your standard orientation

Video History - Todd Steffan

In 2007, the first Veterans Program Information Fair was initiated with good intentions to provide workshops and an information fair on and off campus services for Veterans.

Dilemma: the Veterans Info Fair lacked the input and voice of student Veterans themselves. A small group consisting of student Veterans, a dean, and a coordinator came together to plan a revised orientation program based on what the student Veterans actually wanted. This marked the beginning of Operation Gateway.

Evolution: Over the course of 15 years, Operation Gateway underwent several changes and improvements. Initially, it was a 4-day orientation, then reduced to 1 day, but eventually extended to 2 days again. Originally designed exclusively for student Veterans, the orientation expanded to include reservists/guard, active duty members, and dependents and spouses of Veterans as it evolved.
Micro Exercise

- Small Groups
- Identify “challenges/fears”
- Brainstorm resources on campus to support students
- Collaborate
- Present to group strategies for addressing the challenges and fears.
Evaluation/Feedback

3-2-1 Evaluation

3 things I learned & found interesting

2 things I did not know about

1 question for the presenter

*Return card for the raffle
Sample Evaluation

Feedback is returned to presenter with a “thank you gift” - builds connection and support on campus.

Departments have the opportunity to learn about veterans on campus.
Thank you!
Questions?

Ms. Evelyn Andrews
Navy Dependent
Veterans Program Supervisor
Las Positas College
California
eandrews@laspositascollege.edu
www.laspositascollege.edu/edu

Mr. Todd Steffan
Army Dependent
Faculty/Veterans Counselor
Diablo Valley College
California
tsteffan@dvc.edu