

Center for Community Partnerships

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CCP: Service & Outreach, Research, Education

- *Individualized Services* with students and community members with disabilities (TBI, PTSD, mental illness, intellectual disorders, blindness)
- *Outreach and partnerships* with businesses/employers, governmental agencies/programs, schools, universities
- *Research* on impact of universal design for learning and self-advocacy on outcomes for college students with and without disabilities
- *Education* and training for occupational therapy fieldwork students, as well as classroom instruction

New Start Program

Aim of program: To assist injured veterans in returning to their home communities after sustaining life-changing injuries during military service.

Altered Lives, New Dreams, NEW START



New Start Goal

To return individuals with significant injuries to the economic and social fabric of their own communities while also building community capacity to meet the ongoing needs of residents who are injured.

Serving Veterans with TBI

- Leading cause of TBI in U.S. Troops – blasts, IEDs
- Other causes – falls, bullets, fragments, assaults, motor vehicle crashes
- Over 320,000 U.S. soldiers have sustained TBI since Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began on October 7, 2001
- High numbers of these soldiers also diagnosed with PTSD, mental challenges

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (2009). *TBI and the Military*. Retrieved September 23, 2009 from www.dvbic.org.

TBI & PTSD Signs and Symptoms

Physical

Headaches
 Sleep disorders
 Nightmares
 Fatigue
 Dizziness
 Blurred vision
 Difficulty organizing daily activities
 Loss of sense of smell
 Loss of sense of taste
 Ringing in ears

Cognitive

Concentration
 Slowed thinking
 Loss of memory
 Decision making

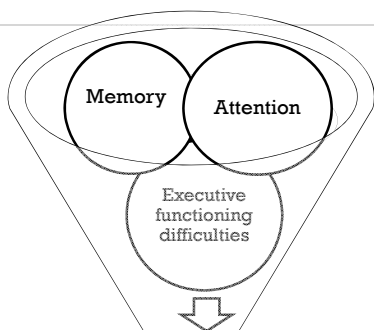
Behavioral

Outbursts
 Paranoia
 Loss if interest
 Withdrawal
 Depression
 Fear
 Irritability
 Guilt
 Easily confused
 Change in sexual interest
 Mood changes

DiRamio, D., & Spires, M. (2009). Partnering to assist disabled veterans in transition. *New Directions for Students Services*, 126, 81-88. Partnering to Assist Disabled Veterans in Transition

TBI and PTSD

Cognitive Issues:



Difficulty in planning, scheduling, keeping appointments, multi-step tasks

Reasons for referrals to CCP New Start Program

- Transition to college
- Identification of career interests
- Job development
- Independent living
- Compensatory skill development
- Mentoring
- Self advocacy skill development
- Connection with available resources
- Communication, relationship building

Support Services for Injured Veterans

- Adjustment to college life
 - *Organizational skills
 - *Time management
 - *Self-advocacy
 - *Identification of accommodations
 - *Desensitization
 - *Mentoring – for veteran, for tutors, for faculty (UDL)
 - *Compensatory skill development
 - *Communication skills (Professors, fellow students)
- Career planning
- Job development, mediator with employer
- Independent living evaluation, training
- Desensitization, adjustment to civilian life

Case Study

Mitch (TBI & PTSD, multiple exposure to IEDs, lost several close friends, entered military right out of HS, now CC student)

- Initial meeting
- Distractible, memory challenges, insomnia, bad dreams
- Not doing well in school, one class in particular
- Connection to same-age female staff
- Identification of needs, focus areas
- MIA - Why?
- New support person, better match, back on track again

Case Study

Mary (TBI & PTSD, car accident, sexual assault)

- Initial meeting – all is well – offended by reason for referral
- College student
- Compensatory strategies intact
- Flunking courses, struggling with relationships – Right major? Career focus?
- Established trusting relationship
- New advisor, new major, new focus
- Tutoring with CCP mentoring
- Lifeline, connection to resources, student supports
- Doing well

NEW START Outcomes

- Community access
- College admission
- Identification of appropriate major
- Interests, skills and career identification
- Connection to resources
- Graduation
- Employment
- Independent living
- Friendships, relationships
- Successful transition to civilian life

**Veterans on College Campuses:
Who are they?**

- Non-traditional students
- Students with disabilities, many times *invisible disabilities*
- Ethnically diverse students
- Warrior strong!
- Ready to begin new chapter in their lives
- May have enlisted right out of high school

Veteran Services Office at CSU
www.colostate.edu

- Adult Learning Office
- >500 veterans that we know of
- Support groups, study sessions, computer lab
- Family support
- Opportunities for gradual transition to college
- Connection to resources
- Peer mentoring
- Education of faculty
- Successful transition to civilian & college life

**Support for veterans:
DOING activities & fulfilling ROLES
that are valued and important**