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Veterans Upward Bound Newsletters

Spring 1-1-2021

2021 Spring - Veterans Upward Bound Newsletter

Veterans Upward Bound, East Tennessee State University

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Veterans Upward Bound

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New Year, New Office

We hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and safe. We know it has been a difficult year and many of us have found ourselves in rather difficult and unfamiliar situations, but we would like to send out a message of hope to all participants. We are still here to help each of you in whatever way we can.

We would also like to take this time to inform everyone that Veterans Upward Bound's main office has moved to a new location on the main campus of East Tennessee State University. Our offices are now located in the lowest level of Rogers-Stout Hall in suite 001. Our satellite locations will not be affected and as

always, we are happy to meet our participants at any convenient location. We also want everyone to know that our move to the main campus will not affect those who are attending or want to attend other schools.

To ensure a safe and easy transition, we ask that you call and make an appointment so we can plan your visit. We will have a temporary parking pass available so you can park near our offices. Of course, ETSU asks that you wear a mask and observe the other guidelines outlined in the university's COVID policy. If you have any questions, please call 423-439-2281.

VUB Spring Semester Information and Instructions

Page three of the newsletter contains the VUB 2021 Spring Semester schedule of classes. As part of the national response to the coronavirus outbreak, most ETSU employees are now working from home, but we're still ready to serve you. All of our pre-college classes are now taught online using Comfit©, Khan Academy©, or our YouTube© channel but they still contain all the pre-college class opportunities for most veterans to prepare for entrance into and suc-

cess in a postsecondary program.

We will continue to offer Math and English tutoring for those who need to brush up on their basic skills.

We also provide tutoring using Comfit© online tutoring system for those who need additional preparation before taking the college assessment and placement exam.

Computer Skills class and other pre-college classes meet online once a week for the ten-week semester.

We recommend participants register for at least two courses to receive the full benefit of instruction and be better prepared when you enter a postsecondary program.

Check out the schedule on page three and contact any VUB staff member if you have questions or to register for classes.

If you are already enrolled in college, keep us informed of your progress. Call if you need help, and let us know if you change your address or phone number.

Help us serve you! We are working harder to stay connected to our veterans. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for important updates.

Facebook: ETSU Veterans Upward Bound

Instagram: @vubetsu

Twitter: Veterans Upward Bound @ ETSU@UpwardVeterans

ETSU Veterans Upward Bound Completes 40th Year

On August 31, 2020, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Trio Project completed its 40th grant year milestone at ETSU. Veterans Upward Bound was created by an amendment to the original Economic Opportunity Act in 1972, to help returning Vietnam veterans in the transition from military life to postsecondary training in the school of their choice anywhere in the 50 states, DC and all territories.

In 1980, ETSU submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education and was successful in being awarded the opportunity to have a VUB on campus starting September 1st of 1980. By the end of our 40th year, the VUB staff had served 3051 veterans and placed 1077 into postsecondary in 46 states and DC. Of those placed, there have been 335 first-time graduates and a total of 598 total graduations with 80 students currently enrolled.

As the VUB staff looks toward the future, we will continue to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education with the passion and diligence that has made the last 40 years successful.

This was not without team effort. Special thanks to those staff members who have gone before and contributed to building the firm foundation of today's VUB:

Chris Leftner, Karen Dempsey, Diana Williams, Sheridan Stanley, Gail Burleson, Paula White, Charles Bogle, Bobby Westbrook, Len Morrison and Teresa Carver.

Also, we would like to thank all those who have supported us throughout the years in making this program one of the best of the 49 VUB's in the country.

VUB's Spring 2021 Postsecondary Enrollment

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>East Tennessee State University</u></p> <p>Tonya Hagamon Marine Corps Darrell Morgan Marine Corps</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Colorado Technical University</u></p> <p>Nicholas Burger Marine Corps</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Northeast State Community College</u></p> <p>Marcus Lewis Navy Jenny Smith Marine Corps Reserve</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gupton-Jones College</u></p> <p>Stephen Tarantole Navy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Herzing University</u></p> <p>Warren Hunter Army</p> <p>Congratulations to these fine veterans who have prepared well and have taken the wise step forward and upward by entering a postsecondary program. We thank you for your service and the sacrifices you have made and will continue to make.</p>
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VUB's Fall 2020 Postsecondary Graduates

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Northeast State Community College</u> <u>Associate Degree</u> Warren Hunter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seton Hill University</u> <u>Baccalaureate Degree</u> Tammy Jones</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tennessee College of Applied Technology</u> <u>Elizabethton</u> <u>Certificate in Information Technology System</u> <u>Support Services</u> Gerald Lewis</p>
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The staff of Veterans Upward Bound would like to congratulate all our veterans on the completion of their degrees. It has been a long haul, but we are sure you will agree that it is all worth it. As you face a new chapter in your life, we want you to know that our thoughts and best wishes go with you.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY VETERANS UPWARD BOUND
VUB 2021 SPRING SEMESTER : JANUARY 25 - APRIL 1
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES/TUTORING (ETSU Main Campus / VA Campus)

***Our Online ComFit Tutorial Software is available anytime, anywhere!**

ComFit provides online tutorials for students to refresh math, reading, and writing. The program focus is primarily on three core subjects that contribute to academic success: language fluency/writing, reading comprehension, and math.

Contact Seth Proffitt for access. proffittb@etsu.edu | 423-439-5004

<u>CLASSES</u>	<u>SCIENCE</u> <i>Includes physics, chemistry, earth science</i> Wednesday ~ 1:30-3:30
<u>COMPUTER SKILLS</u> <i>Consists of Windows 2010, MS Word, Internet & E-mail</i> Monday/Wednesday ~ 9:00-10:30 / 2:30-4:00	<u>TUTORING</u>
<u>INTRO TO THE ACTIVE PRACTICE OF STATISTICS</u> Tuesday ~ 1:30-3:30	<u>MATHEMATICS THRU PRECALCULUS</u>
<u>LITERATURE/STUDY SKILLS</u>	<u>ENGLISH</u>
<u>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</u> Thursday ~ 9:00-12:00	<u>COMPUTER SKILLS</u> Monday through Friday ~ Flexible Time <i>Call the VUB office to arrange date & time.</i>

OFF ETSU JOHNSON CITY / VA CAMPUS CLASSES *(Dates/times may be adjusted to meet student needs)*

<u>ETSU KINGSPORT-ALLANDALE</u>	<u>ETSU NAVE CENTER ELIZABETHTON</u>
COMPUTER SKILLS I Tuesday ~ 9:00 - 10:30	COMPUTER SKILLS
COMPUTER SKILLS II Tuesday ~ 10:30 - 12:00	ENGLISH
ENGLISH/MATH TUTORING Tuesday ~ TBD	MATH Monday/Wednesday ~ 5:30 - 9:30
<u>BRISTOL PUBLIC LIBRARY</u>	<u>JOHNSON COUNTY EXTENDED SERVICE CENTER</u>
COMPUTER SKILLS/ENGLISH/MATH Tuesday ~ TBD	COMPUTER SKILLS ENGLISH/MATH Wednesday ~ 4:30 - 7:30

Consult a VUB staff member at (423) 439-2281 to register for classes/tutoring or if you have any questions.

DATES TO REMEMBER

VUB Spring 2021 Semester ~ January 25 – April 1

Good Friday ~ April 2 (Offices Closed)

VUB Summer 2021 Semester ~ April 26 – June 25

Financial Literacy Information

The lack of financial literacy among veterans in America is one of many reasons for homelessness in the veterans population. The following article can be found at <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/financial-literacy/financial-education.pdf#>. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Fraud Avoidance for Veterans

Veterans and their benefits are the targets of many types of fraud, to include mail, telephone, and online fraud. VA is actively working to prevent these incidents, but you are the best line of defense against this criminal activity.

Here are some tips about being contacted regarding your Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits:

- 1.** If you receive correspondence from VA concerning a claim, and you don't remember filing a claim, contact VA directly at **1-800-827-1000** to confirm details. 
- 2.** VA will **never charge you for processing a claim** or request a processing fee prior to releasing benefit payments.
- 3.** VA will **never ask for your personal information via email**. This includes verification of your SSN, address, and/or bank information. VA only addresses personal information via mailed letters.
- 4.** VA may check in with you by phone, email, or text message. If you are unsure about any call, email, or text, confirm details with VA directly at **1-800-827-1000**.
- 5.** VA **does not threaten** claimants with jail or lawsuits. 
- 6.** **Be cautious of telephone numbers** on your caller ID. Scammers can change the telephone number (spoofing) to make a call appear to come from a different person or place. 
- 7.** **When in doubt, hang up** and call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000, or call your Power of Attorney representative (DAV, VFW, etc).
- 8.** If you receive an email or letter from VA notifying you that your direct deposit information was updated, or that your eBenefits account information was updated, and you don't remember doing so — immediately contact VA at 1-800-827-1000. **Do not ignore the email or letter.** It could be your first sign that your information has been compromised.



Veterans Upward Bound is a unique program designed to assist eligible veterans to prepare for entering and succeeding in a program of postsecondary education. VUB has operated successfully at ETSU since 1980 helping hundreds of veterans achieve their educational goals. Through academic counseling, advising, encouraging, motivating, providing basic skill and short-term remedial and refresher courses, assisting veterans in securing support services from other locally available resources such as the Veterans Administration, state veterans agencies, veteran associations, and other state and local agencies that serve veterans, VUB has been an important program in the lives of many veterans.

Take advantage of the many benefits VUB has to offer.

Check us out on the web! www.etsu.edu/vub

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VETERANS UPWARD BOUND