

New Mexico State University

Military and Veterans Programs

Director, Jacobo Varela



Who we are:

Military & Veterans Programs

- MVP on the Las Cruces campus reports to the Registrar's Office in the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management division
- 2 Certifying Officials: Monica Dunivan, Veteran Programs Coordinator and Charles Turpin, Student Program Coordinator.
- Military Programs Coordinator: Erika Zaragoza
- 6 students on VA Workstudy
- Internship: Ernesto Salas
- Support for tuition assistance provided by main campus for all campuses (centralized)
- Recruiting and outreach at the local bases, including a new, part-time office at Ft. Bliss.

Who we are: Military & Veterans Programs

- Programing and advocacy for the entire servicemember spectrum, including:
 - Computer lab and homework area
 - Free printing, scanning and faxes
 - CAC/Smart Card readers for active duty military
 - Veteran-specific Welcome and Orientation Session
 - Veterans Day Picnic (Mark your calendar! November 7, 11-1pm)
 - Commencement Cords in honor of military service and academic accomplishments
 - Veteran Priority Registration
 - Resolved a state legislation issue granting Reservists in-state tuition
 - Presentations to the MVAC of the NM State Legislature
 - Presentation to the MVAC of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
 - Creation of a new identifier in Banner to better track all military students
 - Colloboration with Student Success to create a Military Transition course

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Who we serve: System-Wide

Students receiving VA education benefits and Department of Defense TA

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– 2013 Certification & TA (All Chapters, Las Cruces)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring: 759• Summer: 342• Fall: 794 (to date) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– 2013 Certification & TA (All Chapters, all Campuses)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring: 1398• Summer: 689• Fall: 1407 (to date) |
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- 2013 Tuition and Fees paid (Las Cruces Campus)
 - Spring: \$1,503,363
 - Summer: \$408,784.50
 - Fall: \$1,540,281
 - Total: \$3,452,429.30**

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Student Veteran Quick Facts

NMSU:

- Average Age : 31
- Average GPA: 3.12
- Graduate Students: 130 (Cognos Reporting)

Nationally:

- 22 US Veterans die every day, not in combat but by suicide
- Campuses are seeing a steady rise in the student Veteran population
- Student veterans are not traditional students

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Collaborate with

- Faculty
- Staff
- External stakeholders
 - Regulatory
 - Elected officials

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Reporting Mechanisms

- VAOnce (Veterans and dependents)
- GoArmy Ed (Army/Reservists/National Guard)
- AI Portal (Air Force) & MyCAA (Navy/dependents)

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Our Commitment

- Assist our students along the entire servicemember spectrum in succeeding at NMSU
- Remove barriers to success
- System-wide member of SOC adhering to the SOC principles
- Prompt, consistent evaluation of JST transcripts, complying with ACE recommendations
- Principles of Excellence
- Participation in DoD MOU
- Utilization of the Vet Friendly Toolkit from ACE

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Community Outreach

- Member - Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee
- Board membership - Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico (sends WWII and Korean War Veterans to the memorials in Washington D.C. yearly)
- Continued outreach to WSMR, Holloman, and Ft. Bliss

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Continuous Improvement

- Recent attendance at the DoD Worldwide Symposium for Higher Education- informational sessions covering best practices for working with Veteran/military students
- Yearly attendance at the Western Association of Veteran Education Specialists (WAVES) Conference and the state conference, which includes a review of best practices and updates to VA education policies
- Numerous webinars from ACE, GoArmy, Innovative Educators
- Member of NAVPA

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Awards and Recognition

Designated a Military Friendly Institution by GI Jobs and Military Advanced Education



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Moving forward

- Continue to connect with Veterans that would benefit from our services
- Earlier connections with Servicemembers and their families during admissions process
- Salute Honor Society membership for our students
- Needs survey and assessment
- Mentorship programs to aid in the transition between military and academic life
- Tutoring program comprised of peers
- Increased career opportunities and resume building in collaboration with Career Services
- Kognito staff and faculty training
- Focused, individualized work with our Chapter 31 students, Vocational/Rehabilitation veterans (disabled, Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD)
- Tracking completion rates of our population
- Possible addition of a lounge area so students can socialize and decompress
- New MOU with Fort Bliss

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Moving forward

- Increase resource offerings (scholarships, counseling, VA benefits, etc.)
- Collaborating with Student Success and faculty from C EP and FCS for a TG Philanthropy Grant
- Exploring other grant possibilities
- Increased recruitment and marketing
- Building partnerships with community business
- Recruit and secure donors to assist in maintaining services
- Creation of a more comprehensive Veterans Resource Center

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Need for a Veterans Resource Center

- Provide services to a broader audience, serving the Veterans and Military of Southern NM.
- VetSuccess on Campus
- Increased career development opportunities with office part-time office space for Career Services advisor
- Office space for the Student Veteran Association
- Lounge for students to socialize, decompress, work on assignments, etc.
- Increased resources and programming

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Thank you!

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