

**UNM  
VETERANS  
RESOURCE  
CENTER**

**Developing a  
Veteran Focused  
Campus**

**Marilyn M. Dykman, MA**  
US Coast Guard (Retired)  
Director, Veterans Resource Center  
University of New Mexico

# Presentation Overview



- UNM Veterans Resource Center Overview
- VRC Today – Vision for FY 16
- UNM Veterans Resource Center Program Initiatives
- New Federal Mandates
- Veterans Resource Centers

# Enrollment Management Supports Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

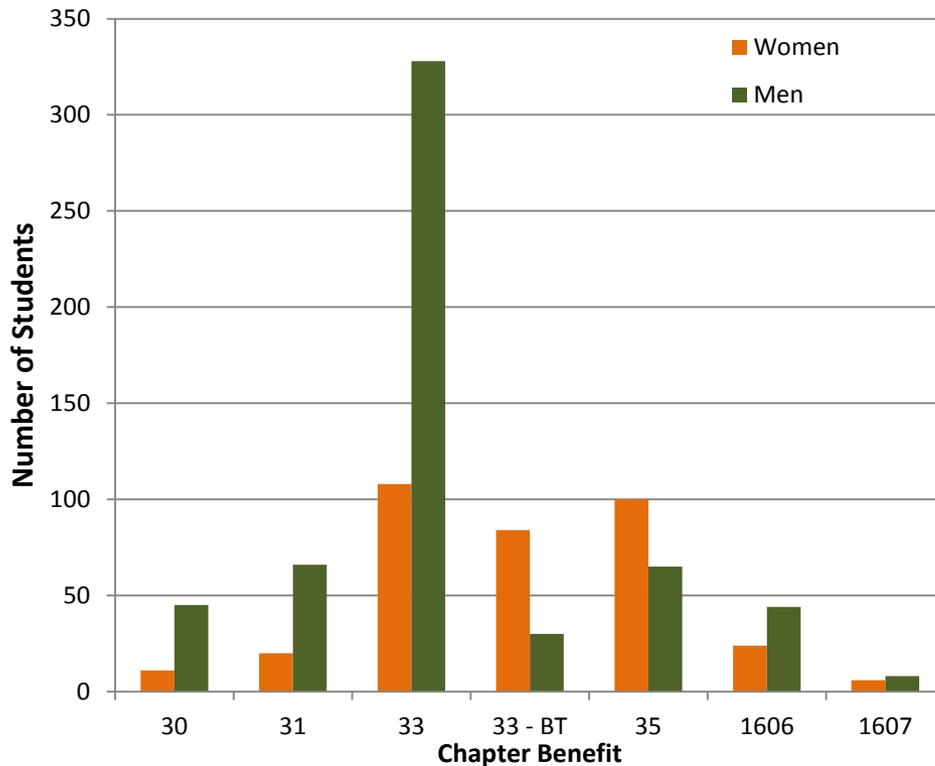


- 2008 – Idea from a UNM Student Veteran and School Certifying Official (SCO)
- UNM President - \$80,000 Funds Positions
- VRC Opens Doors April 14, 2009 – 520 Veterans Served
- As of Fall 2013, VRC serves 1186 student veterans, military service members and their dependents
  - GI Education Benefits - 939
  - Tuition Assistance (TA) – 236
  - Vietnam Veterans Scholarship – 11
- Total ROTC TA Fall 13’ – 63 Cadets



# Fall 2013 Demographics of Students Receiving GI Benefits

Breakdown of Benefits, Fall 2013

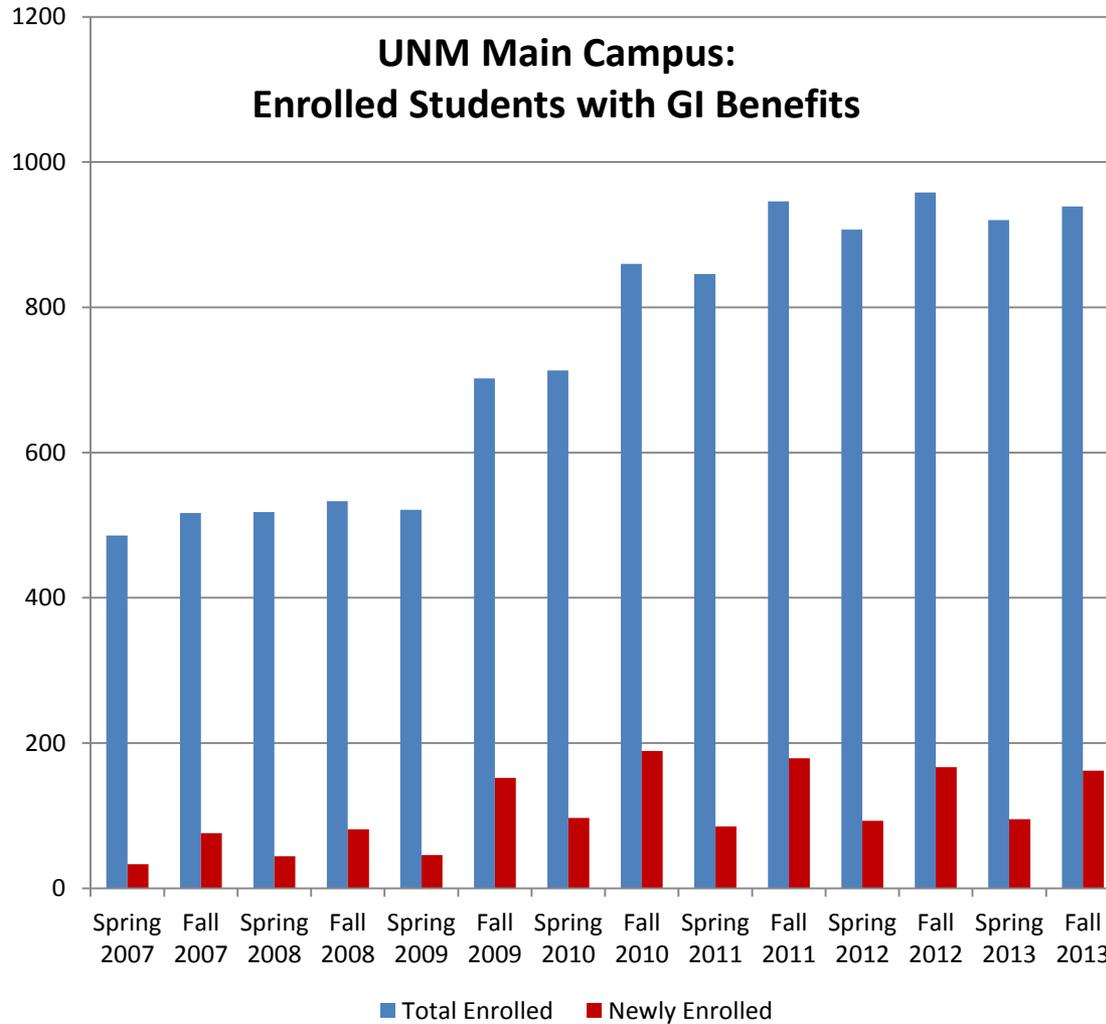


## Out of 939 students:

- **38%** were **female**, their average age was **26 years**, and **48%** were **veterans or active duty\***
- **62%** were **male**, their average age was **30 years**, and **84%** were **veterans or active duty \***

# Growth of Students Using GI Benefits

## 2007 - 2013



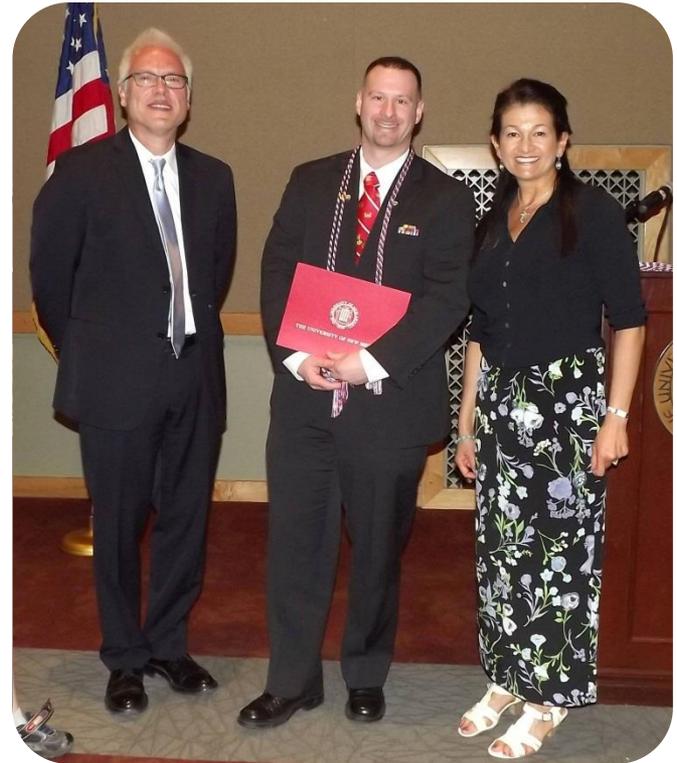
Growth since  
Spring 2007 =  
**93%**

# Graduation Data

## (Transfer Students Included)

\*6-Year Graduation - Of the 85 students in the Fall 2007 cohort, 60.0% have graduated, 31.8% dropped, and 8.2% are still attending.

✓ Retention Rate = 68.2%



# Veterans Resource Center Growth and Programs 2012 – 2014

## VRC 2009 - 2011

### REVENUE

Original Allocation (UNM President) \$80,000.00

I&G Allocation From EM \$25,000.00

VA Enrollment Fees – Federal \$10,000

### PROGRAMS

- VA Certifying – 1 Senior Records Specialist, 3 VA paid Work Studies
- VA Outreach – 1 Program Specialist, 1 Student Employee

## VRC 2012 - 2014

### REVENUE

Original Allocation (UNM President) \$80,000.00

I&G Allocation From EM \$25,000.00

VA Enrollment Fees – Federal \$10,000

Potential Funding FY16–\$150,000

### PROGRAMS

- VA Certifying – 2 Senior Records Specialist, 10 VA paid Work Studies
- Academic Success/ Scholarships/ Data / CAPS for Veterans/ Faculty & Staff Green Zone Training – 1 Program Coordinator
- Military and Family Transitions/ Veterans Transition 3 credit course – 1 Public Ally AmeriCorps (Jun 2015)
- VetSuccess on Campus Program/ Vet2Vet Peer Mentor Program and Employment – 1 Partner VA Employee, 4 VA paid Work Studies
- Veteran Alumni Chapter – Partnered with Veteran Alumni elected officials
- Veteran Outreach – Program Specialist



# Preliminary Outcomes

- **Operation College Promise** Pilot Study Participant 2012 – 2013
- **VA VetSuccess on Campus** counselor at VRC – 2012
- Signed **Got Your 6** Education Pillar Commitment – 2013
- Veteran Graduation and Recognition Event – 2012
- *GI Jobs Magazine* ranked as a Military Friendly School – 2011/ 2013/ 2014/ 2015
- *Military Advanced Education* Military Friendly University – 2013
- **Tool Kit for Military Friendly Institutions (National)** – 2013
- **Veterans Transition 3-credit course at UNM** – Fall 2013
- **Vet-2-Vet Peer Mentoring Program** – Spring 2014
- **Veteran Historical Data Upload** – 2014
- *Albuquerque Business First* named VRC Director, Marilyn Dykman, as a 2013 Women of Influence Honoree
- *UNM Veteran Alumni Chapter* – 2014



# New Federal Mandates

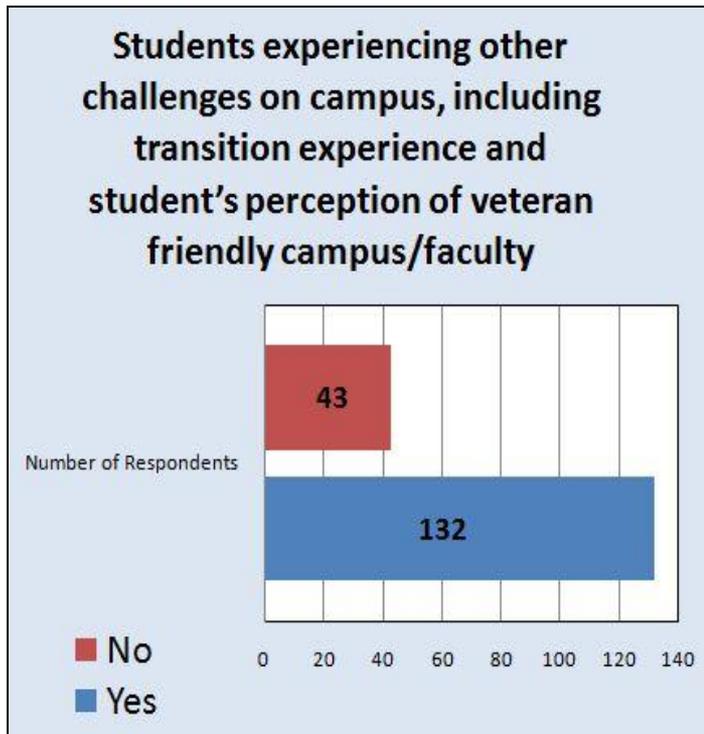
## 2009 - 2011

- Servicemember Opportunity Colleges (SOC) MOU
- Concurrent Admissions Program (ConAP)
- Department of Veterans Administration VA-Once MOU  
New Mandated Reports for Post 9/11 GI Bill

## 2012 - 2014

- Department of Defense (DoD) MOU – Executive Order for Principles of excellence included
- Servicemember Opportunity Colleges (SOC) MOU
- VA-Once MOU
- Concurrent Admissions Program (ConAP)
- Department of Veterans Administration VA-Once MOU  
New Mandated Reports for Post 9/11 GI Bill – **Increased** reporting mandates (grades, graduation, probation, suspension, academic persistence). VA Vocational Rehabilitation (VR&E)
- VA Debt Management – UNM Bursars
- VetSuccess on Campus MOU Program Reports
- 8 Keys to Veteran Success
- Postsecondary Education Outcome Measures: ED, DOD, and VA <http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/outcomemeasures/>
- Where we want to go...

# The Need for Sustainable Programs



*\*Student Voice Survey, Fall 2012*

75.0%



**\*2009-2013** - Percentage of enrolled students placed on **probation** each year **increases** from 5% to **7%**

*\*Enrollment Management Data January 2014*

# New Strategic Program Development to Support Veteran Recruitment, Retention and Graduation

*Vet-2-Vet*



Peer Mentoring Program



# Partnerships and Collaborations



**AMERICORPS**



**SAN JUAN COLLEGE**

**UNM – Los Alamos Campus**  
 Kathryn Vigil  
 VA Certifying Official  
 505-661-4692  
 kaguilar@unm.edu

**UNM – Taos Campus**  
 Niki Moyer, VA Certifying Official  
 (575) 737-6200  
 nmoyer@unm.edu

**UNM - Gallup Campus**  
 Suzette Wyaco,  
 VA Certifying Official  
 (505) 863-7623  
 swyaco@unm.edu



**UNM - Albuquerque Campus**  
 UNM Veterans' Resource Center  
 Lee St. Pierre, VA Certifying Official  
 (505) 277-3514  
 leepam@unm.edu

**UNM -Valencia Campus**  
 Frances Duran, VA Certifying Official  
 (505) 925-8585  
 fduran@unm.edu



# Military Downsizing 2015

## No Position to Recruit Veterans to UNM

“The Pentagon’s plan includes cutting 80K soldiers, 10K Marines and all A-10 ‘Warthogs’”

The American military is preparing to go under the knife, bracing for proposed cuts that would turn it into a force almost unrecognizable from its post-Cold War ancestor that endured roughly 13 years of protracted ground war in the Middle East.

- The number of Army soldiers would fall from 520,000 current active troops down beyond the original projection of 490,000 to as few as 440,000 -- a level unseen since the end of World War II. If sequestration persists through 2016, that number could fall to 420,000.
- The Marine Corps would lose a significant number of troops, dropping from its current level of 190,000 to 182,000, and focusing on its traditional role of crisis response and maritime-based missions. Under sequestration, that troop level could drop to 175,000.
- The Air Force would lose the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the Cold War era tank-buster affectionately known as the “Warthog” for its unconventional but rugged airframe.
- The Army National Guard may drop to as few as 335,000 guardsmen, or 315,000 under sequestration.



# Contact Information



**Marilyn (Mandy) Dykman**  
**VRC Program Specialist/ Director**

[mdykman@unm.edu](mailto:mdykman@unm.edu)

505-277-1181

**Veterans Resource Center**

Phone: 505-277-3181

Email: [vrc@unm.edu](mailto:vrc@unm.edu)

Website: [vrc.unm.edu](http://vrc.unm.edu)



UNM Veterans Resource Center

