



GWG Meeting  
April 23, 2015

- Bruce Capehart, MD, MHPE, NC STRIVE (Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education)
- Tony Hershberger, NC Housing Finance Agency
- Doug Taggart, Troops to Teachers
- Ann Marie Beall, UNC System
- Matt Thewes, All-American Veterans Center, Fayetteville Technical Community College
- Wilson Lester, Veterans Upward Bound, Central Carolina Community College

Mention student veteran infographic on registration table. As of August 2014, 21,851 student veterans were enrolled in NC schools. Of this number, 11,309 (51.76%) were enrolled in community colleges and 10,542 (or 48.24%) were enrolled in four-year public and private institutions of higher education.

**Bruce Capehart, MD**, is the Medical Director for the OEF/OIF Program at the VA Medical Center in Durham, NC, and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center. He is affiliated with the VA's National Center for PTSD as one of two PTSD mentors for the VA's mid-Atlantic region.

His clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of mental health conditions in the combat veteran. When not seeing outpatients at the Durham VA, Dr. Capehart can be found with the injury biomechanics laboratory at Duke's Pratt School of Engineering. This lab's work led to the invention of a novel device for continuous measurement and recording of head acceleration, and later use of this device in a US Navy epidemiologic study of sub-threshold head impacts among crew members on small boats. Dr. Capehart has spoken about PTSD, TBI, and the clinical care of the combat veteran to audiences at medical schools, community health education conferences, DoD-sponsored scientific meetings, and as a regularly scheduled speaker for the National Center for PTSD's monthly continuing education series. He is the co-leader for a graduate-level engineering course on the injury response to blast and ballistic trauma at Duke.

Dr. Capehart is a veteran of the United States Army Reserve and was called to active duty in 2003 for a deployment as the only military psychiatrist in Afghanistan.

**Troy Hershberger** moved to North Carolina in the fall of 2006. With a background in justice studies, conflict resolution, hospitality, and marketing, he has had the pleasure of working on various aspects of the Foreclosure Prevention Program at the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency since early in 2013. Last summer he was asked to continue and expand upon the reach the Foreclosure Prevention Program has towards North Carolina's Veterans. Given that his nephew had recently transitioned to civilian life from the Marines Troy welcomed the opportunity to expand our Veterans' knowledge of this valuable resource available to them here in North Carolina.

**Douglas Taggart** has been recruiting K-12 teachers from those that have completed their military service (or are serving in the National Guard or Reserve) as part of the Troops to Teachers program for the last

twelve years, successfully assisting 850 people get hired into the classroom. He also serves as the Department's military liaison, supporting and advocating for military-connected children in public schools. He brings a background of IT development and a mindset of process improvement to the role. He is a former ceremonial soldier with The Old Guard and performed in hundreds of military funeral honors at Arlington National Cemetery during his time in the US Army. His favorite moment of military service was jumping out of an airplane the first time (and not so much the tree he hit on his 3rd jump, the trees hit back).

**Ann Marie Beall** is the Director of Military Education, UNC General Administration. In this position, Ms. Beall is responsible for system-wide leadership, management, and coordination for academic programs and support services specifically targeted to military affiliated students. Ms. Beall supervises the UNC system-wide presence at Fort Bragg, JFKSWCS Headquarters and MCB Camp Lejeune. She also oversees implementation of the UNC SERVES (Systemwide Evaluation and Recommendation for Veterans Education and Services) recommendations.

Ms. Beall received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and a Master's Degree from UNC Wilmington. She previously served as the Associate Director of Transfer and Non-Traditional Admissions and Military Liaison at UNC Wilmington.

(The UNC system enrolls about 60.46% of student veterans enrolled in four-year institutions in the State.)

**Matt Thewes** is currently the Director of Veterans Services at Fayetteville Tech Community College. He is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who served for over 21 years. During his service, Matt deployed 7 times and had a 1-year trip to Korea. After retiring in August of 2012, Matt went to work full time with Excelsior College as an admissions counselor, career coach, and evaluator. He ended up moving from the Excelsior office to FTCC in January 2014. He was given the opportunity of creating a "veterans center" at FTCC. You may not know but FTCC has the largest veteran population of any school in NC according to the VA. Through several months of hard work, Matt was able to open every door, secure a grant with the Student Veterans of America through Home Depot, and create a 3,500 sq. ft. state-of-the-art All American Veterans Center.

(FTCC enrolls 18.98% of student veterans enrolled in the 58 community colleges.)

**Wilson Lester** is a higher education professional, residing in Greensboro, NC. He earned his bachelors in Business Administration from Greensboro College and Six Sigma certification from North Carolina A&T State University. For the past 2 years, he has served as the secretary for the North Carolina Council for Educational Opportunity Programs. His career is focused on advancing first-generation veterans with the attainment of post-secondary education as Outreach Coordinator for Veterans Upward Bound (a TRiO Program, US Department of Education). He oversees initiatives in five counties--Chatham, Lee, Harnett, Wake and Johnston counties. His primary aim is to find and develop relationships with community and corporate partners to support and fund educational goals for the veteran population in these communities. In addition, he is the lead on Green Zone Training at Central Carolina Community College and is assisting various institutions in North Carolina with developing and implementing their own Green Zone Training, striving to make campuses more veteran friendly.