



Student Veterans of America

Summer '23 Newsletter

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we transition into the summer months, we must congratulate all student veterans of the Class of 2023 on your remarkable achievements! Your hard work and dedication have shown through your academic journey. During your time in service and college, you gained a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experiences that will serve you well as future leaders. Congratulations on your graduation!

Summer also reminds us that our annual Student Veterans of America Regional Summits are just around the corner. Serving as the introduction to the SVA Leadership Continuum, Regional Summits occur around the start of the fall semester to give student veterans and their respective chapters the tools and tactics needed to run a well-organized SVA Chapter. This year our amazing SVA staff will facilitate Regional Summits during July and August in six cities: Philadelphia, Dallas, Miami, Nashville, Milwaukee, and Sacramento. Our summits provide an inviting atmosphere to welcome all student veterans, present and future, to share ideas, brainstorm, and network with their peers.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, we have our Leadership Institute (LI) which is our premier student leadership experience hosted in our nation's capital Washington, D.C. During LI, our Leadership Fellows will learn foundational and advanced leadership skills from our amazing SVA Mentors whose real-world leadership have produced results in their own personal and professional lives.

On behalf of the SVA team, we hope you have a great summer and we can't wait to see you at Regional Summits!

- Jared Lyon, National President & CEO

The quarterly newsletter is a place to learn about the behind-the-scenes work of SVA Headquarters, review SVA's most recent programming, shine a light on stellar people and chapters in the community, and remain closely informed on the months ahead. As always, SVA is here to see student veterans to, through, and beyond their higher education journey.

REGIONAL SUMMITS

Regional Summits provide the tools, techniques, and tactics needed for student veterans to manage a successful and sustainable student organization.



PHILLY
JULY 28 - 30, 2023



DALLAS
AUGUST 3 - 5, 2023



MILWAUKEE
AUGUST 5 - 7, 2023



MIAMI
August 10 - 12, 2023



NASHVILLE
August 12 - 14, 2023



SACRAMENTO
AUGUST 17 - 19, 2023

The definitive experience for planning and building a world class SVA Chapter.
Sign up today in MySVA for the Regional Summits conference at no cost!

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Student Veterans of America's Government Affairs team is pleased to report a productive last quarter including several promising policy developments and our participation in multiple congressional hearings.

Many of SVA's policy priorities for 2023 are moving through the federal legislative process. The push to make the VA VET-TEC program permanent passed out of the House and was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. SVA is working hard with congressional staff to create parity in VA education benefits for National Guard and Reserve members. SVA also continues to highlight the importance of the VA VITAL program and seamless access to VA healthcare services and on-campus clinical counseling through collaboration with local VA medical centers, Veterans Benefits Administration, campus faculty and staff members, and community resources.

SVA received invitations to participate in several congressional hearings this past quarter. In March, SVA submitted a hearing statement to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee in support of legislation to improve the VA Patient Advocacy Program. That same month, SVA testified on pending legislation before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs offering input on multiple bills, including one that would restore VA education benefit entitlement to additional veterans who are unable to complete their program and are victims of institutional fraud and another that would make the popular VA VET-TEC program permanent. In April, SVA testified before Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending legislation including a bill to fund a Department of Education grant program designed to coordinate resources and services for student veterans through on-campus veteran centers and another that would eliminate barriers to the payment of VA education benefits for those studying overseas. Lastly, Dr. Abby Kinch, SVA's Chief of Staff, testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee at a hearing focused on improving the Transition Assistance Program. SVA's testimony called for improving TAP through earlier intervention, better data collection, and placing more emphasis on higher education as a viable path to a successful transition.

Finally, SVA is gearing up for another round of Negotiated Rulemaking at the Department of Education. Negotiations, which are tentatively slated to begin this fall, may address higher education regulations impacting accreditation, distance education, and third-party servicers, among other topics. SVA submitted a public comment in support of the Department proceeding with negotiations on these issues, and we look forward to ensuring the student veteran voice is heard throughout the upcoming process.

Student Veteran Spotlight



CLINTON LYTLE

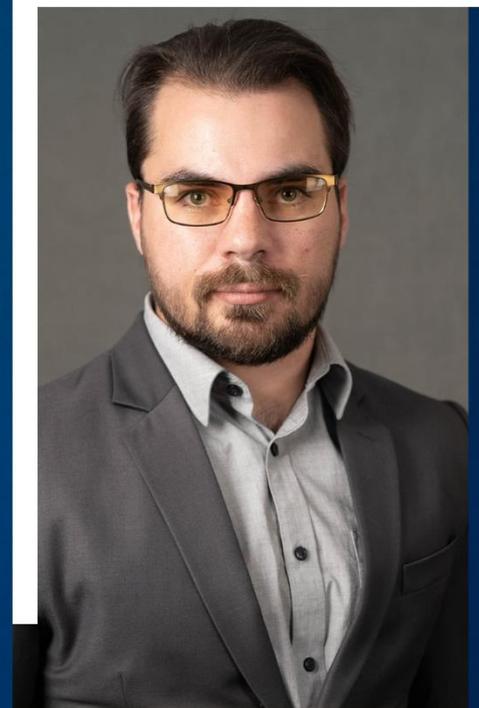
Oregon Institute of Technology

Clinton Lytle is a United States Navy veteran who served in the Nuclear Power field prior to pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Energy Engineering. He has brought a level of technical acumen to his studies that elevates the quality of education to all those who have the privilege to share a classroom with him, shown clearly by a 3.28 GPA as an engineering student.

As a leader, Clint has served as the Director of the Student Veterans Program (SVP) for the majority of the last three years. The challenge of keeping an organization alive during the COVID 19 pandemic cannot be overstated, but Clint ensured that the SVP was positioned to thrive when conditions improved. He diligently manages the delegation of duties among his peer leaders on the SVP Board and serves as the lead work study inside the Veteran Resource Center (VRC). Clear devotion to his program has led to a traffic increase within the VRC that is on the verge of exceeding the space capacity in the near future, averaging 18 students and accommodating up to 37 in a single day. Both military-connected students and their traditional student peers find a welcoming environment in the Center where everyone can find the support and resources to perform at the highest level at Oregon Tech.

Clint has set a high bar for his successors but is also committed to training those who will take the reins of their organization once he graduates. SVP events also set a high bar for his peers in terms of attendance while he maintains a commitment to collaborate with any student organization (including Phi Delta Theta, Campus Housing, K-TEC, and the Treehouse), as demonstrated by 90 attendees to the first SVP event of the 2022-23 academic school year. Clint was the driving leader that ensured that the Oregon Tech SVA Chapter has been consistently represented at SVA's NatCon, while seizing the opportunity to engage his peers during the 2022 Leadership Institute in Washington DC and the Portland Regional Summit in the summer of that year.

Now a senior, Clint will soon transition into his career field prepared to bring the tools of a Navy "Nuke" and Oregon Tech alumni to an employer who will capitalize on all the strengths that he has developed throughout his career. Clint has been an essential part of the reinvigoration of the veteran community at Oregon Tech. He exemplifies what it means to be a Student Veteran and an Oregon Tech Alumnus and for all of his efforts Oregon Tech awarded the inaugural Dr. Erin Foley Leadership Legacy Award and the Outstanding Student Veteran award, recognizing the institutional level of change that Clint has achieved while attending Oregon Institute of Technology.



Chapter Spotlight

The Veteran Students Organization at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) held its first VSO Awards Ceremony and Dinner Dance on April 20th, 2023 to celebrate the accomplishments of its members. Captain Robert Albanir delivered a powerful speech, bolstering the theme "A Brighter Future for Student Vets." Awards were presented for community service, academic excellence, and outstanding contributions. The event received recognition from the New Jersey Veterans Network, and the night ended with celebration, paving the way for more military-connected events.

NJIT's Veteran Students Organization recognized its members' achievements in a memorable awards ceremony. **Notable awards included Community Impact, Academic Excellence, and Most Outstanding Member of the Year.** The New Jersey Veterans Network presented a Hero Award, and the evening concluded with festivities, marking a milestone for the VSO and inspiring future military-related events.



Student Veterans of America B.R.A.V.O. MTSU Chapter

- 2023 Burger Burn – B.R.A.V.O. SVA chapter hosted a Burger Burn on campus the final day of the spring semester. They served over 600 hamburgers and hotdogs to students on campus.
- Chapter members participated in the SVA Memorial Day Service Project placing flags at the Nashville National Cemetery
- Chapter members helped with the healing field in Murfreesboro Tennessee
- The chapter manned a table at the Nashville Sounds Salute to Troops game. This was a Fundraiser for MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Military and Family Center.
- Chapter members manned the information table for the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Military and Family Center prior to the Grand Ole Opry Salute to Troops. LTG(R) Keith Huber, the director and chapter advisor, spoke and presented an award at the Grand Ole Opry Salute to Troops Event.
- Chapter participated in a Memorial Day hike through a local park



Partner Spotlight



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT®

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is a charity and veterans service organization that offers a variety of programs, services, and events for wounded veterans of the military actions following September 11, 2001. It operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Each month, Student Veterans of America HQ and Wounded Warrior Project hold a suicide prevention training for our SVA undergraduate and graduate members.

The Wounded Warrior Project LivingWorks Start course equips our SVA student members with tools to recognize when someone is in distress and connect them with support to keep them safe from suicide. The course begins with a virtual kickoff meeting that will include introductions, what to expect, and takes approximately 30-45 minutes. Next, you will go through an online, self-paced, interactive four-step module that takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. Concluding the course is a virtual debrief meeting that will last 45-60 minutes, depending on the discussions.

Upon completion, each participant gains access to suicide prevention agencies and other resources which are searchable by zip code. These virtual meetings take place twice per month and will cover any questions for this course.

To register or learn more, please email programs@studentveterans.org.

Board Spotlight



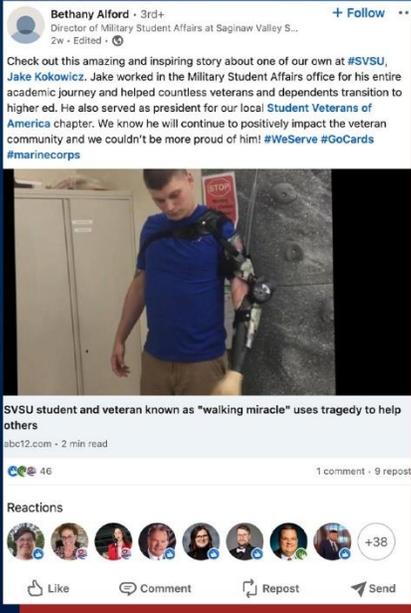
Alanah Odoms, JD **BOARD MEMBER**

Alanah is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark and a Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers College in New Jersey. Her selection as a scholar in Rutgers' Institute for Women's Leadership was a compass in her academic and leadership journey. Odoms also completed a prestigious certificate program at the Eagleton Institute of Politics as an undergraduate student.

In July 2018, Alanah graduated from the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholars Program, a partnership between the George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Lyndon Johnson, and George Bush presidential centers. She is among a distinct group of national up- and-coming leaders recognized for her commitment to solving one of our nation's most pressing problems.

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

Jake Kokowicz, SVSU student, veteran and former SVA chapter president uses tragedy to help others.



Former U.S. Navy Corpsman Tim Brown, right, is past president of the UVA Student Veterans of America chapter. Tomas De Oliveira, a former U.S. Marine sergeant, is the current chapter president. The two have helped coordinate the program honoring and assisting student veterans. Thanks to support from an anonymous donor, 10 home baseball games this spring now include a brief on-field ceremony to recognize a student veteran at UVA. As their photo flashes on the video screen, with name, rank, branch of service and UVA school affiliation, they receive a plaque, a gift certificate and a standing ovation. The recognitions will continue in future seasons.

SVA-49ers help clean up Cedar Grove Cemetery in west Charlotte, NC restoring dignity to the resting.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES SPY-6 SCHOLARSHIP



RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP



JOHN EDELMAN SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP



COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL-SVA SCHOLARSHIP



GOOGLE-SVA SCHOLARSHIP

