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MICHIGAN VETERANS EDUCATORS

Data Capture & Success Tracking for Military-Connected Students
Facilitated Discussion Questions
May 8, 2018

Following the featured virtual presentation from Dr. Dion Daly and Dr. Bonnie Fox Garrity of the Veteran and Military Affiliated Research Center at D'Youville College on their work featured in chapter three of the New Directions for Institutional Research August 2017 special issue on *Student Veteran Data in Higher Education*, campuses are encouraged to facilitate dialogue between institutional researchers, enrollment managers, and veterans services staff who all hold some role in campus processes around data tracking for this population of students. Although larger-scale progress is needed to make these processes more consistent at the state and national level, campuses are encouraged to focus this dialogue on making measurable gains at the local level. As such, several vested stakeholders helped develop the following discussion questions to help campuses assess current practices and plan for possible improvements around military-connected student data collection and success tracking.

1. *Defining* - How does the campus define military-connected students? How are these students defined for campuses in state and federal reporting requirements? How does the campus define the students for internal processes? How does the campus differentiate between segments of the military-connected population on our campus (i.e. enlisted, served, reserves, deployed, national guard, veteran, combat veteran, military dependent, VA benefit user, ROTC, and the list goes on)?

2. *Verifying* - How can campuses verify military-connected status? Do they take students' word for it, rely on VA data to affirm benefit use, etc.? What are the implications of only using VA data to capture and track military-connected students? What are the benefits for the student to self-disclosing military-affiliation?

3. *Roles & Responsibilities* - Which unit holds responsibility for the identification of military-connected students? How are these students currently being identified? Which unit holds responsibility for tracking success measures for military-connected students? Is this happening in any routine way and, if so, by whom? If not, should it be, and who should hold this responsibility? What data points should be tracked and on what schedule?

4. *Actionable Data* – What is the institution currently doing with any available data on military-connected students? Describe how each unit is currently using these data. How can institutions turn data tracking procedures into action steps that will benefit students?

5. *Data Sharing* - How and with whom will institutions share data on this population? Please consider that for smaller institutions with fewer numbers of military-connected students, it will be more difficult to maintain student privacy. Can rulemaking on aggregations for reporting these data protect student privacy?

6. *Action Toward Change* - What is working about the previously discussed processes? What isn't working? What changes can your institution make right now to move toward measurable local progress? Which unit is responsible? Are you interested in connecting with your peers throughout the state in a knowledge community on this topic to recommend more efficient and accurate processes for CMVE institutions?

Campuses requesting reimbursement for lunch expenses will be asked to upload correlated receipts for lunch expenses and share a short summary of the discussion and action steps identified by the campus workgroup.