



# Student Success and Completion Committee Meeting

Supporting Veteran and Military-Connected Students

August 15, 2023

# TASKFORCE FOCUS

- ▶ **Targeted initiative for 2023**, met monthly February - July; serves as blueprint for special population support focus
- ▶ **Objective:** Increase by 5,000 the number of veterans and military-affiliated individuals pursuing an undergraduate credential at an Indiana postsecondary institution by 2025-2026 AY
- ▶ **Strategies:**
  1. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): Increase utilization of academic CPL for military training
  2. Communication/Navigation: Improve communication and transition points among various stakeholders
  3. Student Supports: Enhance outreach, awareness, and supports (Purple Star Institution designation)

# TASKFORCE PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ ~25 active participants from education, government, community organizations

## Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

Alex Sievers - Vincennes University

Allegra Fowler - Purdue Global University (co-lead)

Amber Mertens - IN Department of Veterans Affairs

Amy Stone - Ivy Tech Community College

Dennis Wimer - IN Department of Veterans Affairs

Jayson Jarrett - Ball State University (co-lead)

Kay Ross - County Veterans Service Office - Wayne Township

Michael Kirchner - Purdue University Fort Wayne

## Communication/Navigation

Art Leak - IN Army Reserve (lead)

Blaine Zimmerman - INVets

Gabrielle Owens - IN Department of Veterans Affairs

Maryann Bonner - Marian University

Mark Mathes - IN Dept of Workforce Development

Ryan Ozbun - Indiana Tech

## Student Supports

Anthony Pilota - Purdue University Northwest

Cherie Leonhardt - University of Evansville

Gordon Smith - County Veterans Service Office - Indianapolis

J.P. Smith - IN National Guard

Joel Matherly - University of Southern Indiana

Lori Sprague - Ivy Tech Community College (co-lead)

Pam Warner - IN Dept of Workforce Development

Savanna Hebert-Annis - Indiana Univ

Stephan Goodan - IN National Guard (co-lead)

VETERANS' EDUCATION PATHWAYS TASKFORCE

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# CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)



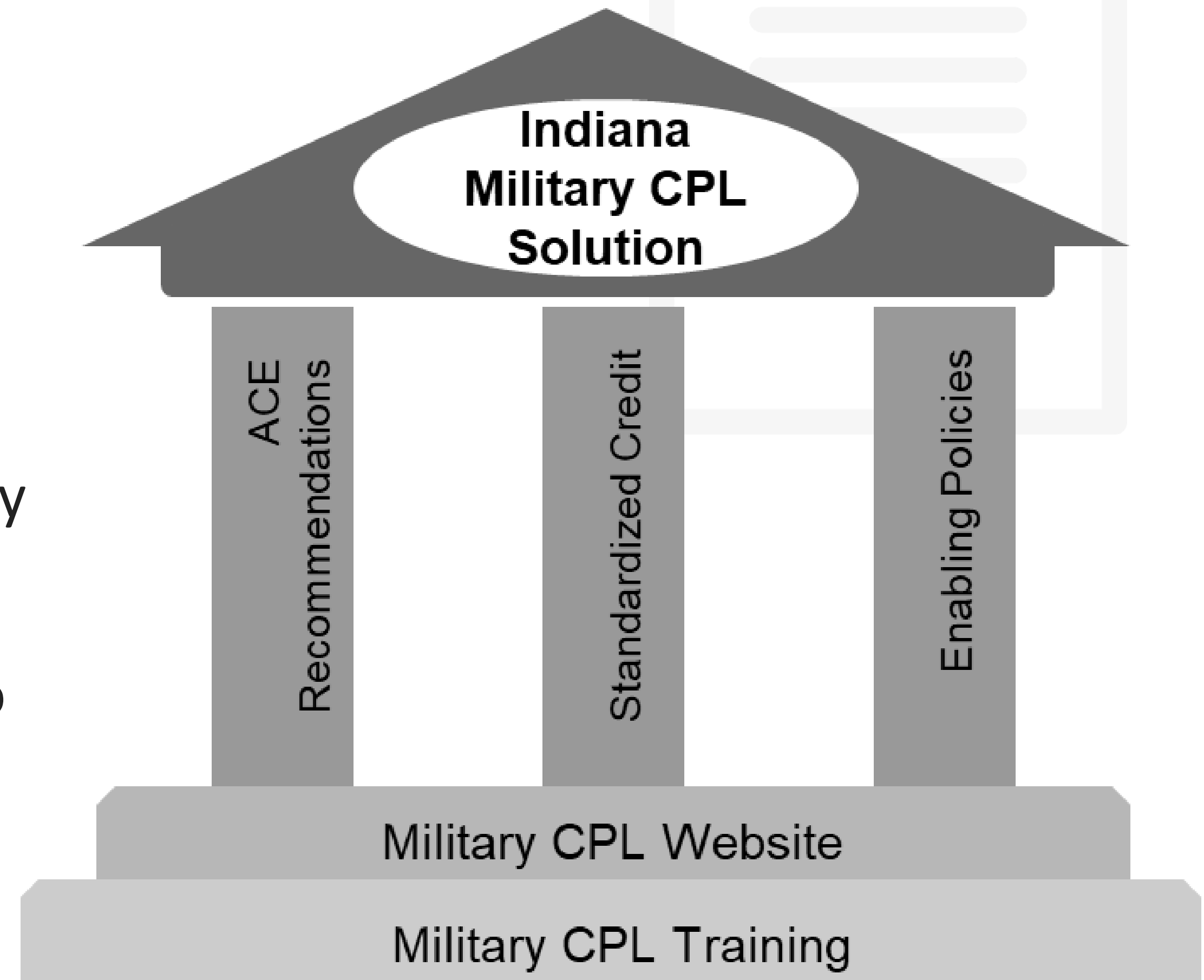
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# MILITARY CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)

Military CPL represents a significant **untapped opportunity for Indiana** veterans, employers, and institutions.

While other work groups are seeking improvements - for CPL we are seeking a new statewide system to support veterans in gaining college credit for what they have already learned.

Giving veterans **credit for what they know** is critical to their success academically and professionally.



# MILITARY CPL: INSTITUTION PILLARS



## Pillar 1: ACE Recommendations

- Accept American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations
- Faculty refine ACE recommendations for specific institution value



## Pillar 2: Standardized/Transparent Credit

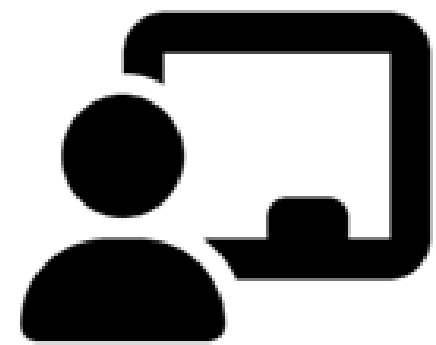
- Create standard reactive and proactive credit opportunities
- Store credit decisions for equity and efficiency



## Pillar 3: Enabling Policies

- Policies ensure eligibility, applicability, and **utility** of military CPL
- Military CPL incorporated into program design and development

# MILITARY CPL: STATEWIDE FOUNDATIONS



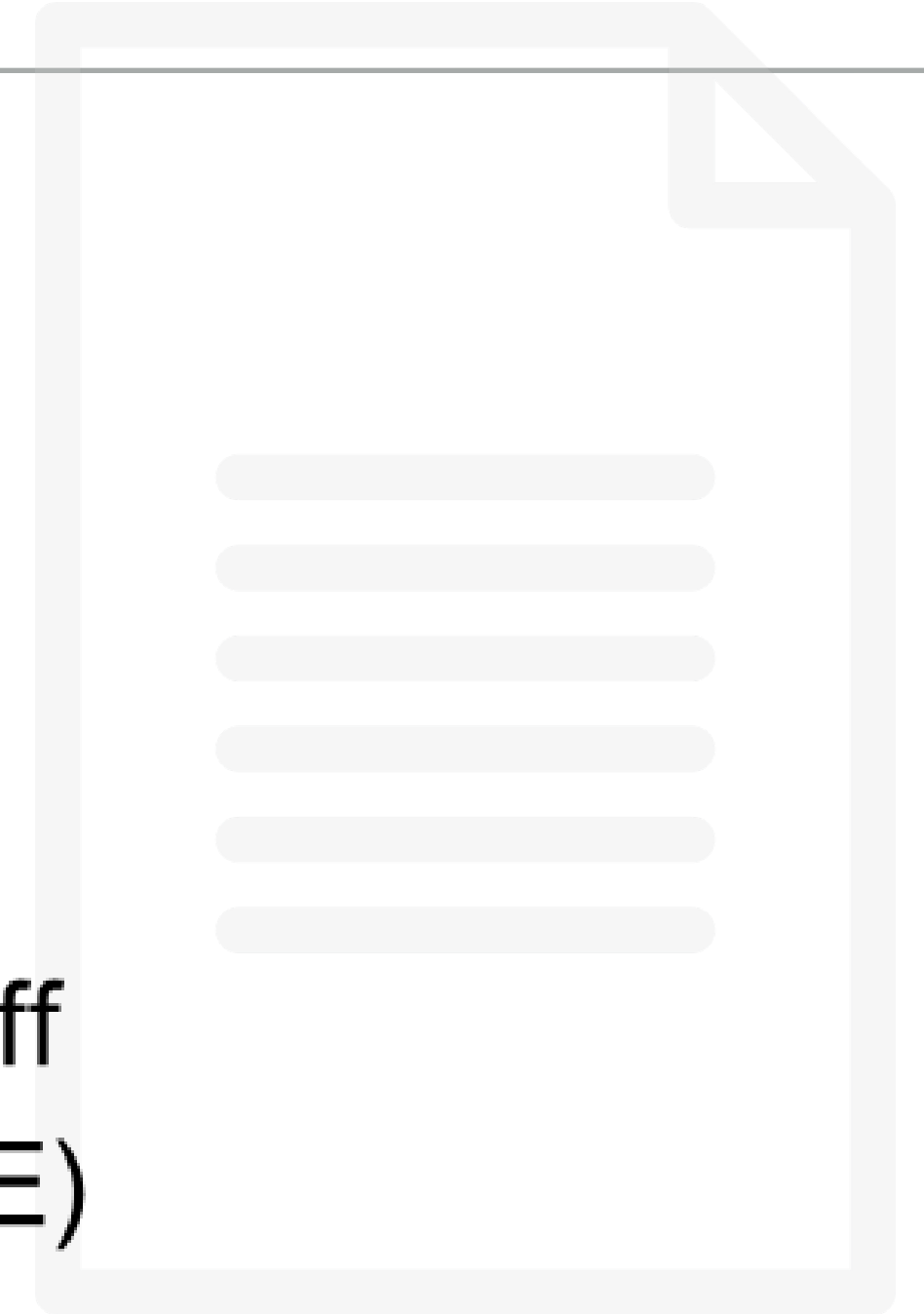
## Foundation 1: Military CPL Training

- Statewide initiative to build awareness and address needs
- Custom programming/training for: leaders, faculty, CPL staff
- Ready-made materials with strategic deployment (e.g., ACE)



## Foundation 2: Military CPL Website

- Institutions retain complete autonomy on credit decision-making
- Standard data conventions developed/managed by ICHE
- Centralized resource to support students and enable benchmarking
- Build in context of existing Indiana web solutions (CTL)



VETERANS' EDUCATION PATHWAYS TASKFORCE

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# COMMUNICATION AND NAVIGATION



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# COMMUNICATION AND NAVIGATION

**Identify opportunities to improve education-related communication processes and resources**

Develop a Communication toolkit for multi-agency use

- ▶ Resources/benefits that are already available (Minuteman Scholarship, etc.)
- ▶ Transitioning Guard and Reserve

Work with **INvets** to build interface with their existing web interface for all 92 counties

- ▶ Add Education Section to **INvet's** Resources page that's linked to **IDVA**

Add link to **Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG)** website

Develop **Toolkit/QR** code guide to link resources and benefits

# COMMUNICATION AND NAVIGATION

## Create a Purple Star designation for Indiana employers

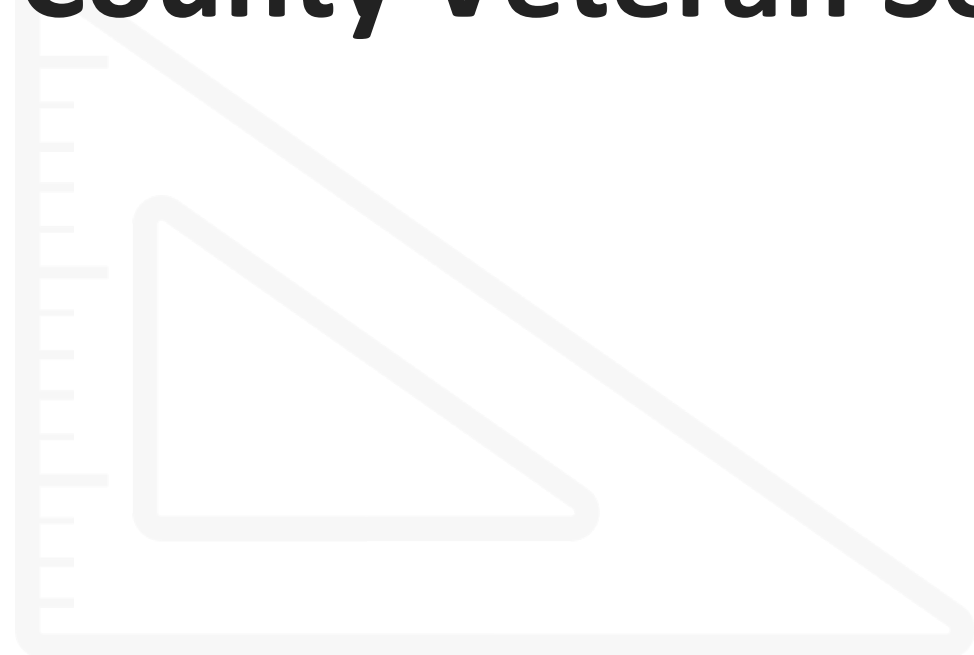
- ▶ Highlight those employers on the **INvets** website
- ▶ **JVSG** posts employer information on Indiana Career Connect

## Work with **INvets** to build interface with their existing web interface for all 92 counties

- ▶ Add Education Section to **INvet's** Resources page that's linked to **IDVA**

## **IDVA** AI Chatbot

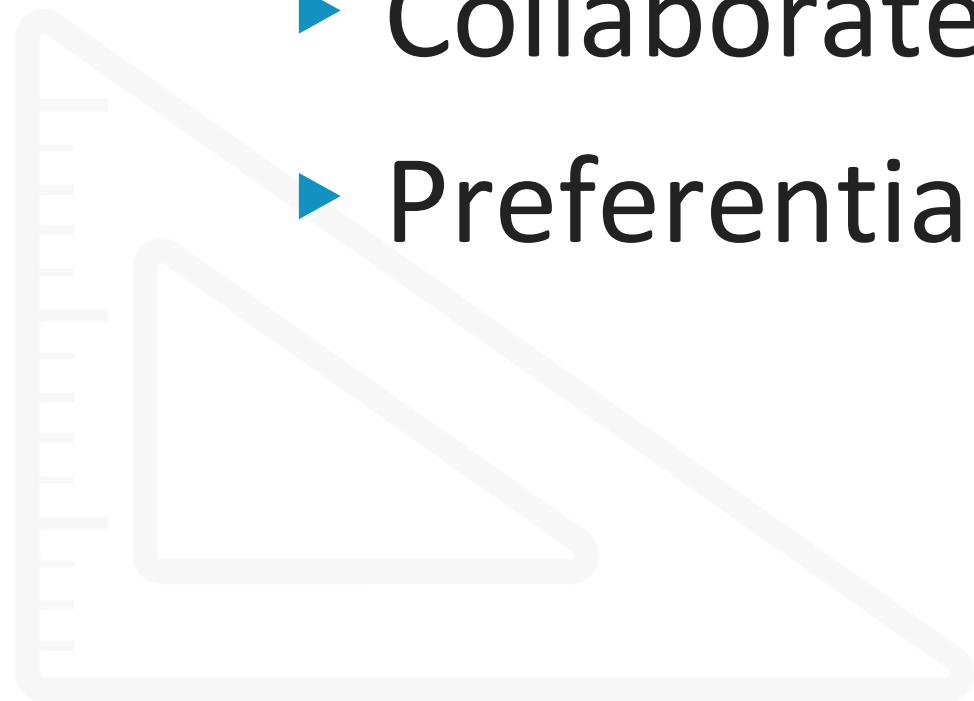
## **County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO)** guide veterans to above resource pages



# COMMUNICATION AND NAVIGATION

## Recognize Purple Star Indiana Employers

- ▶ Awards and certifications for company website and marketing materials
- ▶ Public announcements and press releases to highlight Purple Star employers
- ▶ Collaborative campaigns and partnerships among veteran service organizations, governmental agencies and community leaders
- ▶ Online platforms and directories
- ▶ Collaborate with industry-specific associations
- ▶ Preferential treatment for Purple Star companies



VETERANS' EDUCATION PATHWAYS TASKFORCE

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# STUDENT SUPPORTS



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# STUDENT SUPPORTS

## Identify opportunities to support and improve veteran services on campuses

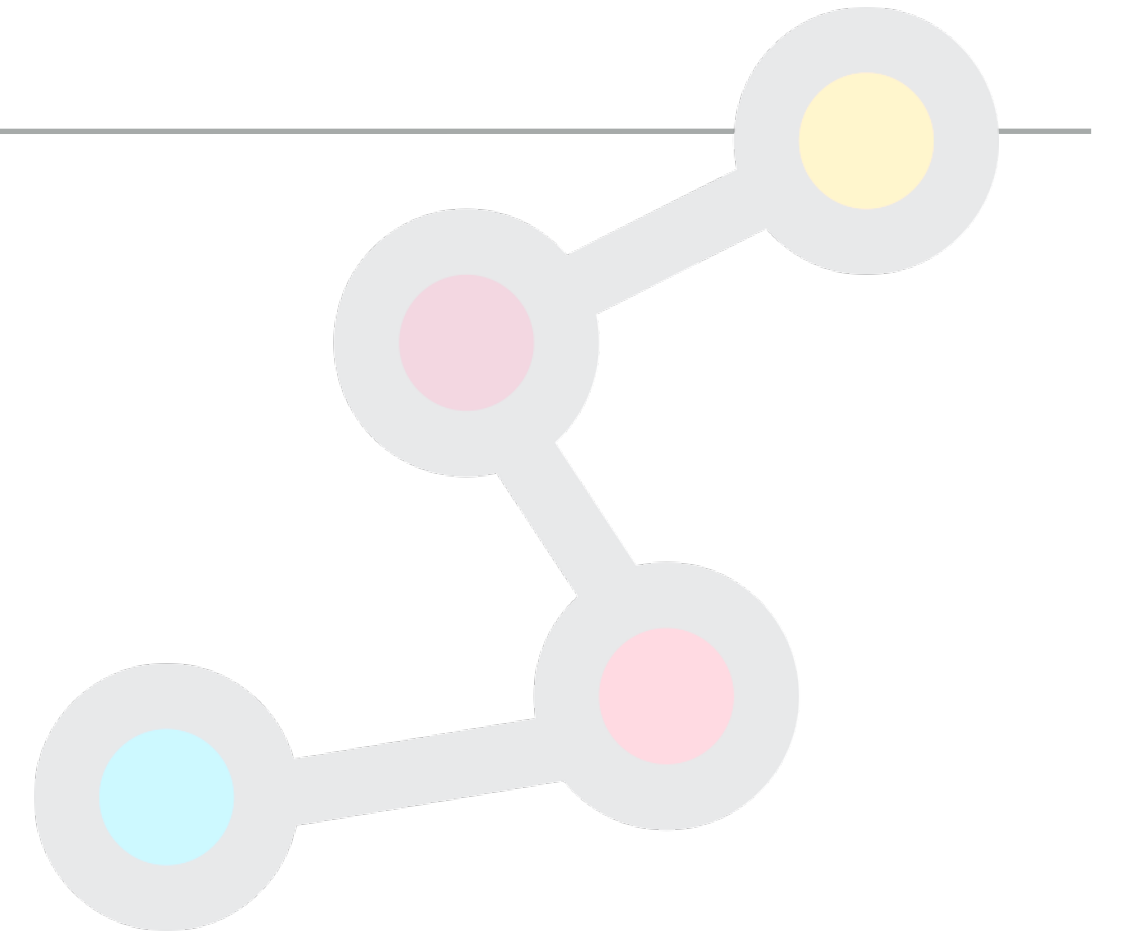
### Active-duty policy:

- Military absence longer than 15 days
- Ability to return without penalty
  - ▶ Reimbursement or remission of fees
  - ▶ Ability to complete a course after the end of term or withdraw without financial penalty

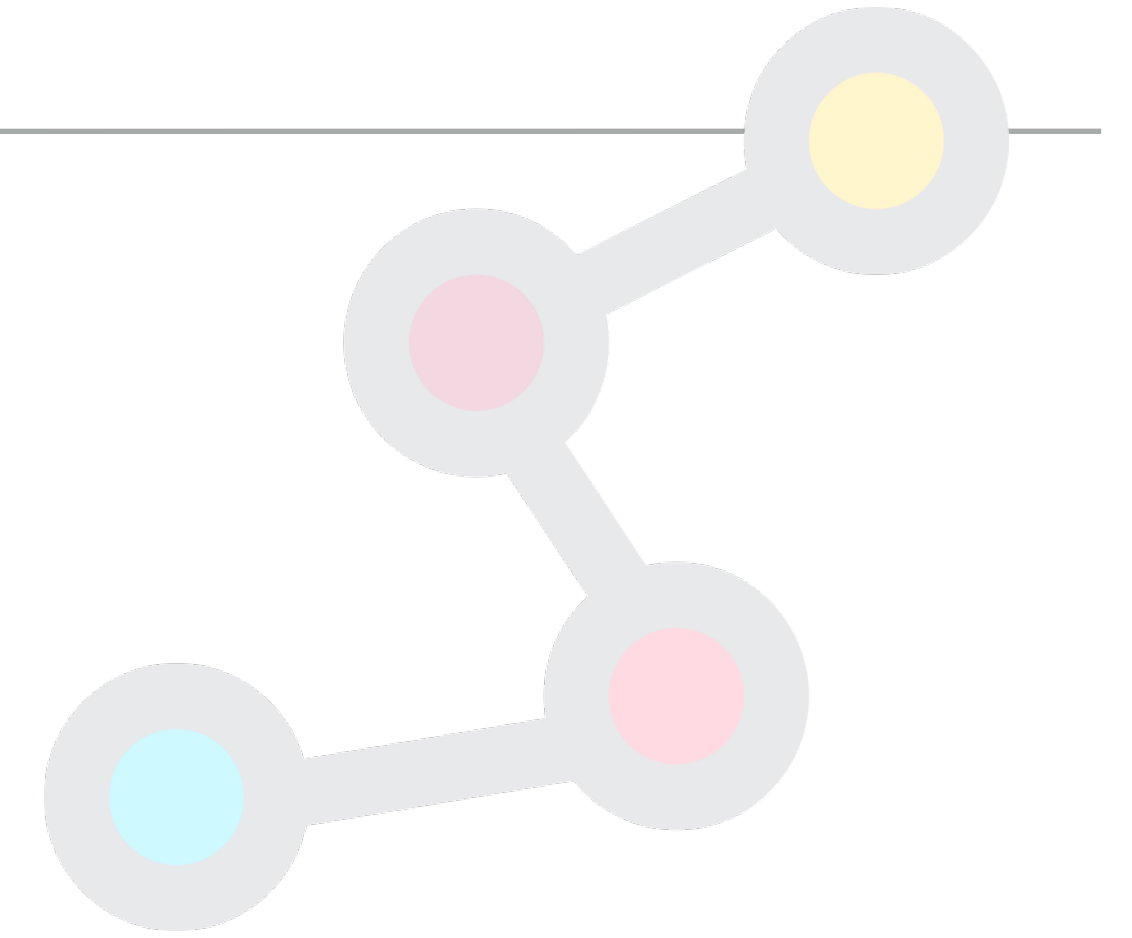
Funding: Student military-affiliated support/initiatives from the VA and donations

### Career:

- Specialized career guidance counseling or other programs such as Indiana Career Explorer (INCE)
- Industry-employer relationship programs to assist with post-graduate employment
- Career/Employment fair geared for the military community
- Military affiliated employment services organizations



# STUDENT SUPPORTS



## Admissions/Enrollment:

- Waive admission application fees
- In-state tuition without residency requirements for currently serving military not living or serving within IN and fall outside Choice Act of 2014

## Payment:

- University housing with military-affiliated specific payment plans
- Payment grace period

## Student Engagement:

- Introduction to on-campus clubs or associations available
- Military-affiliated student on the Student Government Association Board

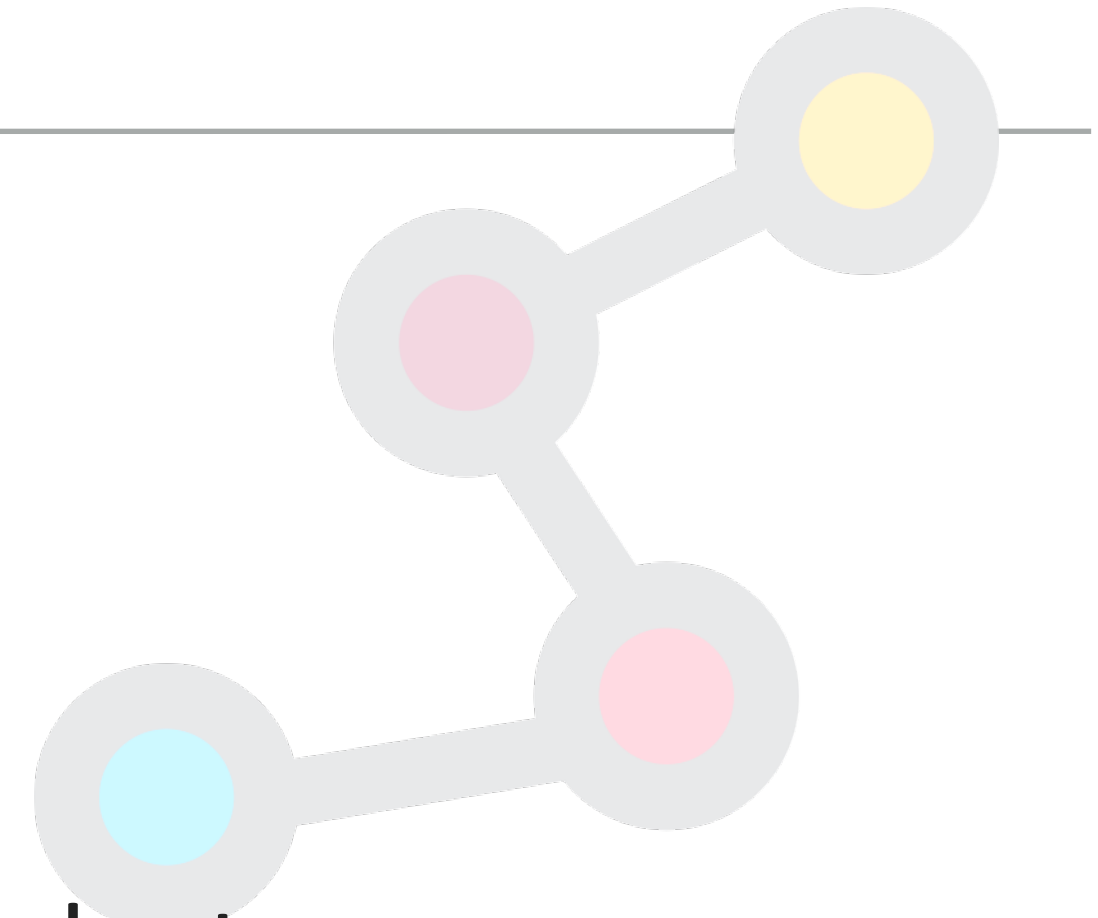
# STUDENT SUPPORTS

## Staff:

- Offer training for staff and/or faculty to support military-affiliated students
- Track military-affiliated staff/faculty members

## Student Services:

- Mental health counselor who is military-affiliated
- Veteran/Military Center in person and/or virtual
- Direct referral to Disability Support Services with military affiliation taken into consideration



# STUDENT SUPPORTS

## Develop Guidelines for the new Purple Star Institution designation

- ▶ Use the extended working list provided to devise a ranking system that recognizes what smaller institutions are doing as well as the larger ones
- ▶ Tiered System
  - ▶ Gold: 'Yes' response to  $\frac{3}{4}$  or more of the questions
  - ▶ Silver: 'Yes' response to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the questions
  - ▶ Bronze: 'Yes' response to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the questions

### OR:

- ▶ Tiered with student veteran population taken into account with how many 'yes' responses are recorded
  - ▶ Possible – small, medium, large







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