Comparison Tool :: Non-Veteran Interviews

Participant 1, Cheryl @ Florida State University. Apr. 8, 2010

**DO YOU THINK MOST INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR ROLE HAVE THE SAME “LET THE INDIVIDUAL MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION” MENTALITY?**

* **Hope so.**
* **Tell them not to trust anything that’s not VA.gov.**

**Key Takeaways**

* Graduation Rate… is grossly inaccurate. At FSU it says we have 0. That is absolutely false. We have very much success. Around 86%... Often start with community college then transfer in and that doesn’t get counted.
* Yellow Ribbon is tricky and there should definitely be an option to learn more about it and how it might apply.

**Critical Updates**

**FSU Data (contacts are out of date). Tuition appears to be out of date**

**OVERVIEW**

**Asst. Dir. Of Benefits. Has been in the position for 18 years. Was the only one for a long time then 9/11 happened.**

**Mostly the trouble-shooter. Helps with students coming in and refers a lot of students to the Comparison Tool.**

**FSU is constantly updating WEAMS. Goes through so many hands. Not sure how it’s kept accurate: state approving > ELR > somewhere in Atlanta > back to FSU. Then it’s full of errors. One person, one day a week to review and fix the errors. Errors: Misspellings. Add / Remove programs for no reason. Constant battle since “Deemed Approved” went away.**

**The Veteran Experience with the GIBCT**

1. Based on your experience, what aspects of the GIBCT work well for Veterans?  
     
   “That does.”

Graduation Rate… is grossly inaccurate. At FSU it says we have 0. That is absolutely false. We have very much success. Around 86%... Often start with community college then transfer in and that doesn’t get counted.

Belongs to an organization (annual meeting in February). Pick 3 strong reasons to sit down with legislators. And the graduation rate is effective. This is a big problem for community colleges, too.

It’s better to have nothing than false information. Throws comparisons off.

Housing rate is not matching what comes up on DoD site – and not matching what’s actually getting paid.

1. What questions do Veterans have as they use the GIBCT?

Questions about what Yellow Ribbon actually is and how it works and why it would .

How would Veterans actually find the Comparison tool?

Student Veteran Groups

1. What modifications would make the GIBCT more useful to Veterans?  
     
   Ensuring that the data that displays is accurate.
2. What additional features would enhance the value of the GIBCT?

Programs are always of interest.

Yellow Ribbon is a common question. There’s a lot of misunderstanding about that program. Not sure what they think it is (maybe a supplemental scholarship). It doesn’t come into play very often.

* Post 9/11 only.
* For FSU / public universities, Yellow Ribbon is for Out-of-State only.
* FSU is 20 minutes from Georgia so if there were students coming from GA, they’d be eligible.

1. Do you have any other recommendations on how the GIBCT can most effectively offer Veterans the information needed to make an informed decision?

**Your Experience with the GIBCT**

1. When you use the GI Bill Comparison Tool, what information are you seeking and what questions are you trying to answer?

Housing Rate.

Students are trying to figure out which benefit to use (Montgomery, post 9/11). Never want to so “you should do this”. They should make the decision on their own.

Often eligible for both.

August 2011 – once an individual makes a decision, that’s it.

We don’t have a purpose for using it ourselves.

1. What modifications to the GIBCT would make your job easier?

**POST INTERVIEW COMMENTS**