**Post-NatCon 2019 Survey Report**



**Analysis and Report Compiled by**

**Student Veterans of America Research Department**

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# Introduction

The Post-NatCon 2019 Survey was a follow-up survey to the 11th Annual Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference (NatCon) held in Orlando, Florida from January 3th to January 5th, 2019. The conference brought together student veterans, higher education staff and administrators, stakeholders, policymakers, and the general public. The purpose of the Post-Conference Survey was to elicit feedback from the conference attendees on key features of the conference (e.g. program, speakers, and special events) for future conference planning and improve the customer experience (CX) at future SVA events.

This report summarizes the Post-NatCon 2019 survey results. The main body of the report displays the response frequencies and percentages of the individual questions of the survey that asked respondents to rate the general sessions, breakout sessions, and other parts of the conference. Whenever possible, year to year comparisons of common questions between the Post-NatCon 2017, Post-NatCon 2018, and Post-NatCon 2019 Surveys are reported to examine growth or impact of changes to that part of NatCon. There are 10 appendixes to the report documenting open-ended text responses from the survey questions.

The Post-NatCon 2019 survey was sent to all confirmed conference attendees with a unique email address (1,725 emails). SVA staff, board members, and exhibitors were excluded from this list because other methods for post-conference feedback for these groups were being employed and would be redundant. Of the 1,725 emails, 527 attendees responded to the survey for a response rate of 30.6%, and 348 of the respondents completed the survey for a completion rate of 66.0% for an overall completion rate of 20.2%.

# Respondent Demographics

The majority (57.7%) of respondents were student veterans, followed by SVA Chapter Advisors and School Representatives (both at 20.2%), SVA Alumni (9.1%), VA Certifying Officials (6.3%), Exhibitor/Sponsors (5.7%), Federal/State Employees (5.7%), and VSO Representatives (5.1%). The other options were below 5.0% of the responses.

Nearly the entire sample (93.8%) indicated they were age 25 or older, with almost half (44.3%) of respondents being between 25 and 35 years of age. The majority (56.6%) of respondents were male and over two-fifths (46.2%) of respondents were female.

Nearly three-fourths (74.1%) of respondents indicated past military service, less than ten percent (8.6%) were dependents, and 17.4% responded that military service did not apply to them. The majority (85.9%) of those that indicated having past military service identified as veterans, followed by 5.7% representing the reserves, 4.6% being in the National Guard, and 2.7% being Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive Reserve (IRR). Nearly half (43.4%) of the respondents indicating past or present military service were Army, followed by the Marine Corps (21.7%), Navy (19.1%), Air Force (13.3%), and Coast Guard (2.7%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which of the following best describes your role in which you attended SVA's National Conference? (*select all that apply*)** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Student Veteran** | 203 | 57.7% |
| **SVA Chapter Advisor** | 71 | 20.2% |
| **School Representative (staff, professor, administrator)** | 71 | 20.2% |
| **SVA Alumni** | 32 | 9.1% |
| **Other** | 26 | 7.4% |
| **VA Certifying Official** | 22 | 6.3% |
| **Exhibitor/Sponsor** | 20 | 5.7% |
| **Federal / State Employee** | 20 | 5.7% |
| **VSO Representative** | 18 | 5.1% |
| **Student (Non-Veteran)** | 14 | 4.0% |
| **General Attendee** | 12 | 3.4% |
| **Total** | 352 | 100.00% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What is your current age?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **18-24** | 22 | 6.2% |
| **25-29** | 75 | 21.1% |
| **30-34** | 65 | 18.3% |
| **35-39** | 49 | 13.8% |
| **40-44** | 47 | 13.2% |
| **45-49** | 39 | 11.0% |
| **50-54** | 32 | 9.0% |
| **55-59** | 14 | 4.0% |
| **60-64** | 10 | 2.8% |
| **65-69** | 1 | 0.3% |
| **70 and Over** | 1 | 0.3% |
| **Total** | 355 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **What is your current age?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Under 25** | 22 | 6.2% |
| **25 or Older** | 333 | 93.8% |
| **Total** | 355 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which best describes your gender identity?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Male/Man** | 188 | 53.6% |
| **Female/Woman** | 162 | 46.2% |
| **Transgender Male/Man** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Transgender Female/Woman** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Non-binary/Third gender** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Prefer to self-describe** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Other, not listed** | 1 | 0.3% |
| **Total** | 351 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which of the following best described your military service?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Active duty (non-reservist)** | 221 | 63.0% |
| **Not applicable** | 61 | 17.4% |
| **Not applicable, Dependent (Spouse / Child) of Veteran** | 30 | 8.6% |
| **Reservist (mobilized or called to active duty)** | 14 | 4.0% |
| **Reservist (drilling)** | 13 | 3.7% |
| **National Guard** | 12 | 3.4% |
| **Total** | 351 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **What is your current military status?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Veteran** | 225 | 85.9% |
| **Reservist** | 15 | 5.7% |
| **National Guard** | 12 | 4.6% |
| **Individual ready reserve or inactive reserve (IRR)** | 7 | 2.7% |
| **Active Guard and Reserve** | 2 | 0.8% |
| **Active Duty** | 1 | 0.4% |
| **Total** | 262 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **In what branch of the military did/do you serve?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Army** | 114 | 43.4% |
| **Marine Corps** | 57 | 21.7% |
| **Navy** | 50 | 19.0% |
| **Air Force** | 35 | 13.3% |
| **Coast Guard** | 7 | 2.7% |
| **Total** | 263 | 100.00% |

# General Sessions

**Thursday January 3, 2019**

Over half (53.7%) of respondents indicated they attended the NatCon Opening General Session on Thursday Evening. This is nearly a 10% increase in attendance compared to NatCon 2018 for the opening session. The ratings for these sessions were strongly positive with the most frequent responses split between “Good” and “Excellent” for both the general session speakers and the Diversity and Inclusion of Veterans on Campus, in Careers, and through Corporate Social Responsibility program.

**Friday, January 4, 2019**

**Morning General Session:** Over half (53.3%) of Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents reported that they attended the Friday morning general session. This was also an increase (7.1%) from NatCon 2018. These sessions received high ratings with the most common responses being “Good” and “Excellent.” Jared Lyon and his State of SVA speech received the highest ratings with 66.4% of Post-Conference respondents indicating his performance was “Excellent.” This is a 9.8% decrease in “Excellent” responses compared to NatCon 2018 responses; however overall positive responses to the State of SVA speech increased 2.8%.

**Evening General Session:** Under half (42.5%) of Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents indicated that they attended a Friday evening general session. This represents a 7.5% increase in the number of survey respondents attending this general session compared to NatCon 2018. The speakers and the ESPN and Disney Leadership Panel received positive ratings, with a strong majority of respondents reporting that the speakers and panel were “Good” or “Excellent.”

|  |  |  |
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| **Did you attend the NatCon Opening General Sessions on Thursday evening?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 283 | 53.7% |
| **No** | 122 | 23.2% |
| **No Response** | 122 | 23.2% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Did you attend the Friday, January 4th, morning General Sessions?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 281 | 53.3% |
| **No** | 107 | 20.3% |
| **No Response** | 139 | 26.4% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Did you attend the Friday, January 4th, afternoon General Sessions?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 224 | 42.5% |
| **No** | 148 | 28.1% |
| **No Response** | 155 | 29.4% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.00% |

# Corporate Networking Session

Based on the Post-NatCon 2019 survey responses, the Corporate Networking Reception was well attended with only 15.9% responding that they did not attend the reception. This is a slight increase in attendance (4.8%) compared to last year’s survey. It also received high marks with 42.3% of respondents indicating it was “Very Good” or “Excellent,” this is a similar rating as last year. High attendance percentages and positive ratings for the Corporate Networking Session have been consistent over the past three SVA NatCons with a positive trend for those rating the Corporate Networking Reception as “Excellent.”

# Awards Banquet

A traditional piece of the SVA National Conference is the SVA Honors Awards Banquet marking the close to the SVA National Conference. Nearly half (47.8%) of the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents reported attending the Awards Banquet. This rate of attendance has remained stable over the past three years. However, NatCon 2019 Awards Banquet received lower ratings compared to recent previous NatCons. While “Excellent” was still the most frequent rating of the Awards Banquet, it fell 15.5% compared to the previous year’s Awards Banquet. Based on other survey questions and the open-ended comments (See Appendix 8), the length of the Awards Banquet, seating options, and the delay in starting the banquet contributed to the lower ratings for this year’s Award Banquet.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Did you attend the SVA Honors Award Banquet on Saturday evening?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 252 | 47.8% |
| **No** | 118 | 22.4% |
| **No Response** | 157 | 29.8% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.00% |

# Previous SVA NatCon Experience

Similar to the NatCon17 and NatCon18 Post-Conference Survey results, just over one-fifth (22.0%) of NatCon 2019 Post-Conference respondents reported having attended a previous SVA National Conference. Nearly half (46.3%) of respondents that reported attending a previous NatCon were present at NatCon18 in San Antonio, TX. A drop off occurs going further back in time with only 24.9% of respondents reporting they attended NatCon 2017 in Anaheim, CA, and 14.1% reported attending NatCon 2016 in Orlando, FL.

The majority (60.8%) of the respondents that had attended a previous Natcon reported that NatCon 2019 was better than previous conferences they attended. This is a 5.0% increase from last year’s post-NatCon survey. Approximately one in five (17.1%) of respondents indicated that there was no increase or decrease in the quality of the conference as compared to previous years and 22.3% of respondents indicated that NatCon 2019 decreased in quality as compared to previous years. This represents an 8.8% increase to the same question as last year’s survey.

|  |  |  |
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| **Have you attended a previous SVA National Conference?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 116 | 22.0% |
| **No** | 253 | 48.0% |
| **No Response** | 158 | 30.0% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.00% |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Please select the previous SVA NatCons you attended (check all that apply)?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **2008 (Chicago, IL)** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **2009 (San Francisco, CA)** | 1 | 0.5% |
| **2010 (Washington, DC)** | 0 | 0.0% |
| **2011 (Las Vegas, NV)** | 4 | 2.0% |
| **2013 (Orlando, FL)** | 9 | 4.4% |
| **2014 (Scottsdale, AZ)** | 6 | 2.9% |
| **2015 (San Antonio, TX)** | 9 | 4.4% |
| **2016 (Orlando, FL)** | 29 | 14.1% |
| **2017 (Anaheim, CA)** | 51 | 24.9% |
| **2018 (San Antonio, TX)** | 95 | 46.3% |
| **None of the above / 2019 (Orlando, FL) was my first NatCon** | 1 | 0.5% |
| **Total** | 205 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate this year's national conference to previous national conferences that you attended?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Extremely Worse** | 2 | 1.7% |
| **Somewhat Worse** | 3 | 2.6% |
| **Slightly Worse** | 21 | 18.0% |
| **Same, No Difference** | 20 | 17.1% |
| **Slightly Better** | 21 | 18.0% |
| **Somewhat Better** | 29 | 24.8% |
| **Extremely Better** | 21 | 18.0% |
| **Total** | 117 | 100.0% |

# SVA Campus

The SVA Campus continues to be an integral part of the NatCon experience. Less than 1.0% (0.6%) of the NatCon 2019 Post-Conference respondents reported not visiting the SVA Campus and over one-third of respondents indicated that they interacted with ten or more organizations, companies, and/or schools on the NatCon 2019 SVA Campus. This is a similar rate to last year’s Post-NatCon survey

Nearly nine out of ten (89.8%) agreed that the SVA Campus was a valuable part of the conference. This is a slight decrease (6.3%) compared to last year’s survey. Over half of respondents reported that they found at least one resource company (73.6%) or resource that would help further their professional and/or educational career (73.4%). Ratings of the SVA Campus between NatCon 2017, NatCon 2018, and NatCon 2019 remained similar.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The SVA Campus was a valuable part of the conference.** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Strongly Disagree** | 4 | 1.9% |  | 2 | 1.3% |  | 2 | 0.6% |
| **Disagree** | 4 | 1.9% |  | 0 | 0.0% |  | 5 | 1.4% |
| **Neither Agree nor disagree** | \* | \* |  | 4 | 2.6% |  | 29 | 8.2% |
| **Agree** | 82 | 38.5% |  | 36 | 23.7% |  | 60 | 17.1% |
| **Strongly Agree** | 123 | 57.8% |  | 110 | 72.4% |  | 256 | 72.7% |
| **Total** | 213 | 100.0% |  | 152 | 100.0% |  | 352 | 100.0% |
| *\*This rating was not available for these surveys* | | | | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I found at least one company in the SVA Campus that can help me further my professional career.** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Strongly Disagree** | 9 | 4.6% |  | 4 | 2.8% |  | 18 | 5.2% |
| **Disagree** | 35 | 17.3% |  | 6 | 4.2% |  | 7 | 2.0% |
| **Neither agree nor disagree** | \* | \* |  | 33 | 23.1% |  | 66 | 19.2% |
| **Agree** | 87 | 43.1% |  | 25 | 17.5% |  | 77 | 22.4% |
| **Strongly Agree** | 71 | 35.2% |  | 75 | 52.5% |  | 176 | 51.2% |
| **Total** | 202 | 100.0% |  | 143 | 100.0% |  | 344 | 100.0% |
| *\*This rating was not available for these surveys* | | | | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I found at least one resource in the SVA Campus that can help me further my educational career.** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Strongly Disagree** | 7 | 3.5% |  | 3 | 2.1% |  | 10 | 2.9% |
| **Disagree** | 27 | 13.3% |  | 3 | 2.1% |  | 11 | 3.2% |
| **Neither agree nor disagree** | \* | \* |  | 35 | 24.3% |  | 70 | 20.5% |
| **Agree** | 95 | 46.8% |  | 29 | 20.1% |  | 81 | 23.7% |
| **Strongly Agree** | 74 | 36.5% |  | 74 | 51.4% |  | 170 | 49.7% |
| **Total** | 203 | 100.0% |  | 144 | 100.0% |  | 342 | 100.0% |
| *\*This rating was not available for these surveys* | | | | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I would like to see more companies in the SVA Campus.** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Strongly Disagree** | 1 | 0.5% |  | 0 | 0.0% |  | 6 | 1.7% |
| **Disagree** | 5 | 2.4% |  | 3 | 2.1% |  | 11 | 3.2% |
| **Neither agree nor disagree** | \* | \* |  | 18 | 12.3% |  | 49 | 14.2% |
| **Agree** | 69 | 33.7% |  | 39 | 26.7% |  | 72 | 20.8% |
| **Strongly Agree** | 130 | 63.4% |  | 86 | 58.9% |  | 170 | 49.7% |
| **Total** | 205 | 100.0% |  | 146 | 100.0% |  | 342 | 100.0% |
| *\*This rating was not available for these surveys* | | | | | | | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **How many different organizations, companies, and/or schools did you interact with on the SVA Campus?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **One - Two** | 6 | 1.1% |
| **Three - Five** | 64 | 12.1% |
| **Six - Ten** | 81 | 15.4% |
| **More than ten** | 195 | 37.0% |
| **I did not visit the SVA Campus** | 2 | 0.4% |
| **No Response** | 179 | 34.0% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.0% |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **How many different organizations, companies, and/or schools did you interact with in the SVA Campus?** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **One - Two** | 8 | 2.7% |  | 2 | 0.9% |  | 6 | 1.1% |
| **Three - Five** | 46 | 15.3% |  | 28 | 12.0% |  | 64 | 12.1% |
| **Six - Ten** | 72 | 24.0% |  | 35 | 15.0% |  | 81 | 15.4% |
| **More than ten** | 91 | 30.3% |  | 84 | 35.9% |  | 195 | 37.0% |
| **I did not visit the SVA Campus** | 0 | 0.0% |  | 0 | 0.0% |  | 2 | 0.4% |
| **No Response** | 83 | 27.7% |  | 85 | 36.3% |  | 179 | 34.0% |
| **Total** | 300 | 100.00% |  | 234 | 100.00% |  | 527 | 100.0% |

# Mobile App

The following section displays results from the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey section on the mobile app. NatCon 2019 used a different mobile app service for this year’s conference. Over half (56.9%) of respondents reported that they downloaded and used the app. This is a 6.9% increase in mobile app usage from NatCon 2018 to NatCon 2019, and a positive three year growth trend of downloading and using the NatCon app.

The NatCon 2019 app received positive reviews for many of its functions, with nine out of ten respondents (91.7%) rating the apps ability as a scheduling tool as either “Good” or “Excellent.” A strong majority (87.7%) of respondents also gave “Good” or “Excellent” scores to the accuracy of information from the app. Respondents gave similar positive scores to the app for its ability to provide announcements or reminders (74.3%) and its ease of use (74.4%). The overall rating of the NatCon app remained relatively steady compared to the previous two years.

Many of the new features the new service provided was used by NatCon attendees as reported by the respondents of the Post-NatCon 2017 survey. Functional features of the app, such as the “Conference Schedule” and “My Agenda” were used most often by respondents (29.3% and 26.4%, respectively). “Attendees” (17.4%), “Exhibitors’ List” (14.5%), and “QR Code Scanner” (11.3%) were also features used by the respondents. Many of the features in the NatCon 2019 app were rated positively by the respondents, however two features, specifically the “Scanning” and “Discussion Area” reported high percentages of non-use by the respondents. Those respondents who reported that they downloaded and used the NatCon 2019 app tended to give positive ratings to the app and a majority would likely recommend the app others (85.3%) and/or use the app again for NatCon 2020 (83.1%).

A small fraction (3.0%) of the respondents reported that they downloaded the mobile app but did not use it. The most common reason cited for not using the app was “Difficult to use” (26.3%), followed by “Forgot I had it” and “Used too much of my cell phone battery” (21.1%).

Less than 10 percent (7.8%) of respondents indicated that they did not download the SVA NatCon 2019 mobile app. Similar to previous Post-NatCon surveys, the most common reason as to why the event app was not downloaded was because respondents did not want to download it (40.0%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Did you download and use the 2019 National Conference mobile app?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Downloaded and used** | 300 | 56.9% |
| **Downloaded, but did not use** | 16 | 3.0% |
| **Did not download** | 41 | 7.8% |
| **No Response** | 170 | 32.3% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.0% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What parts of the 2019 National Conference mobile app did you use? *(check all that apply)*** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Conference schedule** | 291 | 29.3% |
| **My agenda** | 262 | 26.4% |
| **Attendees** | 173 | 17.4% |
| **Exhibitors’ list** | 144 | 14.5% |
| **QR code scanner** | 112 | 11.3% |
| **Game** | 10 | 1.0% |
| **None of the above** | 0 | 0.0% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which of the following were reasons you did not use the SVA NatCon Event App?**  ***(check all that apply)*** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Difficult to use** | 5 | 26.3% |
| **Forgot I had it** | 4 | 21.1% |
| **Used too much of my cell phone battery** | 4 | 21.1% |
| **Too complicated** | 3 | 15.8% |
| **Other** | 3 | 15.8% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Which of the following were reasons you did not use the SVA NatCon Event App?**  ***(check all that apply)*** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Did not want to download it** | 18 | 40.0% |
| **Too many apps on my phone currently** | 7 | 15.6% |
| **No point, only useful for when I attended the conference** | 6 | 13.3% |
| **Did not know about it** | 4 | 8.9% |
| **Do not own a smart phone** | 2 | 4.4% |
| **Could not download it from the Apple or Google store** | 1 | 2.2% |
| **Did not know how to download the app** | 1 | 2.2% |
| **Worried it would use too much battery** | 1 | 2.2% |
| **Other** | 5 | 11.1% |

# General Questions

All areas of the conference received positive scores, with a majority of the respondents rating most of the individual NatCon 2019 areas as “Excellent.” The “Check-in/Badge Pick Up” process received the highest ratings with 68.8% of respondents giving it an “Excellent” score. “Opportunities to Network” was a close second with 67.3% of respondents giving it an “Excellent” score. The other areas that received a majority of “Excellent” scores from the respondents were “Online Registration” (53.3%), “Conference Organization” (52.5%), and “Hotel Accommodations” (51.1%). However, the two areas that failed to get majority “Excellent” scores from the respondents were “Communications (On-Site)” (48.0%) and “Communications (Pre-Conference)” (43.8%).

The majority of respondents also indicated that their customer service experience with conference volunteers (70.2%), hotel staff (64.2%), and SVA staff (73.5%) was “Excellent”. These responses were similar to the Post-NatCon 2018 survey responses for the same questions. Additionally, 87.0% of respondents indicated they were very likely to attend future SVA events and 89.5% of respondents said they were likely to recommend to others to attend future SVA events.

The registration price for NatCon 2019 significantly increased in comparison to previous years. The Post-NatCon 2019 survey asked about the value of the conference for the price they paid. Two different version of the question were created to test potential marketing tactics for registration prices. The first version asked respondents to state their level of agreement with the following statement: “NatCon 2019's registration fee was a good price for what was offered.” without any introductory text. The second version had introductory text that had a brief description of the new features developed for NatCon 2019 (e.g. increase in exhibitors and breakout sections, more speakers, etc.) before the respondents were asked their agreement to the statement. Overall, a majority (78.2%) of respondents agreed with the statement that the registration fee was a good price for what was offered at NatCon 2019. Further, those that were shown the introductory text before the question had a slightly higher agreement rate (40.6%) compared to those who did not see any introductory text (37.6%). This result suggest that pre-conference and NatCon registration marketing on what NatCon offers the attendee may reduce their resistance to paying the registration fee.

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| **How would you rate the following areas of the conference? Online Registration** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Poor** | 0 | 0.0% |  | 2 | 1.3% |  | 1 | 0.3% |
| **Fair** | 2 | 0.9% |  | 3 | 1.9% |  | 4 | 1.1% |
| **Average** | 15 | 6.7% |  | 10 | 6.5% |  | 25 | 6.8% |
| **Good** | 63 | 28.3% |  | 46 | 29.7% |  | 118 | 32.2% |
| **Excellent** | 126 | 56.5% |  | 84 | 54.2% |  | 195 | 53.3% |
| **Not Applicable** | 17 | 7.6% |  | 10 | 6.5% |  | 23 | 6.3% |
| **Total** | 223 | 100.0% |  | 155 | 100.00% |  | 366 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate the following areas of the conference? Check-in/Badge pick-up at conference** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Poor** | 26 | 11.7% |  | 1 | 0.7% |  | 2 | 0.6% |
| **Fair** | 29 | 13.1% |  | 4 | 2.6% |  | 3 | 0.8% |
| **Average** | 37 | 16.7% |  | 3 | 1.9% |  | 13 | 3.6% |
| **Good** | 56 | 25.2% |  | 43 | 27.7% |  | 93 | 25.5% |
| **Excellent** | 74 | 33.3% |  | 100 | 64.5% |  | 251 | 68.8% |
| **Not Applicable** | 0 | 0.0% |  | 4 | 2.6% |  | 3 | 0.8% |
| **Total** | 222 | 100.0% |  | 155 | 100.0% |  | 365 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate the following areas of the conference? Opportunities to network** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Poor** | 2 | 0.9% |  | 1 | 0.6% |  | 4 | 1.1% |
| **Fair** | 9 | 4.0% |  | 2 | 1.3% |  | 9 | 2.5% |
| **Average** | 25 | 11.2% |  | 6 | 3.9% |  | 28 | 7.7% |
| **Good** | 55 | 24.7% |  | 35 | 22.4% |  | 73 | 20.1% |
| **Excellent** | 130 | 58.3% |  | 110 | 70.5% |  | 245 | 67.3% |
| **Not Applicable** | 2 | 0.9% |  | 2 | 1.3% |  | 5 | 1.4% |
| **Total** | 223 | 100.00% |  | 156 | 100.00% |  | 364 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate the following areas of the conference? Conference Organization** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Poor** | 8 | 3.60% |  | 0 | 0.00% |  | 5 | 1.4% |
| **Fair** | 10 | 4.50% |  | 5 | 3.21% |  | 8 | 2.2% |
| **Average** | 18 | 8.11% |  | 13 | 8.33% |  | 31 | 8.5% |
| **Good** | 89 | 40.09% |  | 50 | 32.05% |  | 129 | 35.4% |
| **Excellent** | 97 | 43.69% |  | 88 | 56.41% |  | 191 | 52.5% |
| **Not Applicable** | 0 | 0.00% |  | 0 | 0.00% |  | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Total** | 222 | 100.00% |  | 156 | 100.00% |  | 364 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate this year’s national conference to previous national conferences that you attended? Hotel Accommodations** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **2017** | |  | **2018** | |  | **2019** | |
|  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |  | **Freq.** | **Perc.** |
| **Poor** | 4 | 1.8% |  | 1 | 0.6% |  | 4 | 1.1% |
| **Fair** | 12 | 5.4% |  | 4 | 2.6% |  | 17 | 4.7% |
| **Average** | 20 | 9.0% |  | 9 | 5.8% |  | 37 | 10.2% |
| **Good** | 56 | 25.1% |  | 21 | 13.5% |  | 82 | 22.5% |
| **Excellent** | 113 | 50.7% |  | 106 | 68.0% |  | 186 | 51.1% |
| **Not Applicable** | 18 | 8.1% |  | 15 | 9.6% |  | 38 | 10.4% |
| **Total** | 223 | 100.00% |  | 156 | 100.00% |  | 364 | 100.0% |

# Breakout Sessions

A couple of changes were implemented to the breakout sessions for NatCon 2019. This year instead of fewer breakouts per sessions in larger rooms, there were more breakout sessions per sessions in smaller rooms. The idea being more breakout variety per session would result in NatCon attendees finding either a first- or second-choice topic for them to attend. This, in turn, would lead to better overall attendance in the breakouts and higher positive scores for the breakout sessions.

Based on respondents to the Post-NatCon 2019 survey attendance for breakouts increased for all sessions compared to NatCon 2018. The minimum increase in attendance was seen in Breakout Session 2 (Thursday, 2:15pm – 3:15pm) 8.5% with a max increase of 15.4% for the Friday afternoon breakout session.

**Thursday, January 4, 2019**

The early afternoon (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm) breakout sessions had a strong rate of attendance with 69.8% of the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents reporting that they attended this session. This is a 9.2% increase in attendance compared to NatCon 2018’s attendance of the first session.

The late afternoon (2:15 pm – 3:15 pm) breakout session saw a slight decrease in attendance compared with the early afternoon session with 58.1% of the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents reporting that they attended the late afternoon session. This was an 8.6% increase compared with the second breakout session from NatCon 2018.

**Friday, January 4, 2019**

Nearly two-thirds (64.7%) of the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents indicated that they attended the late morning breakout session (10:45 am – 11:45 am). This is a 5.8% increase compared to the previous year.

Attendance for the mid-afternoon session (1:15 pm – 2:45 pm) decreased slightly with just less than half (63.4%) of survey respondents indicating they attended this session. This represents a 13.0% increase compared to NatCon 2018’s mid-afternoon session.

The late afternoon session (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm) also saw a slight decrease in attendance compared to the late morning and mid-afternoon sessions with 63.2% of respondents indicating they attended this session. This was a 15.4% increase in the Friday late afternoon session compared to NatCon 2018.

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**

Saturday morning (10:30 pm – 11:30 pm) breakout session attendance had a greater decrease in attendance compared to the mid and late afternoon sessions with 46.3%. There was no Saturday morning breakout session for NatCon 2018, so no direct comparison can be made.

According to the Post-NatCon 2019 Survey the Saturday mid-afternoon (1:15 pm – 2:15 pm) breakout sessions had an attendance rate of 49.9% of respondents indicating that they attended a mid-afternoon session. This is a 9.3% increase compared to NatCon 2018.

The Saturday late afternoon (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm) breakout sessions slightly decreased in attendance with 49.7% of Post-NatCon 2019 Survey respondents indicating that they attended a late afternoon session. This was a 13.0% increase compared to NatCon 2018.

The last three NatCons employed a breakout session track classification designed to help attendees select breakouts that pertained to them. A strong majority of respondents rated the tracks either “Good” or “Excellent” for the tracks’ descriptions (77.6%), useful in helping them choose a session (76.2%), and appropriateness for NatCon (83.9%).

New to this year’s NatCon was breakout session series, groups of breakouts that shared a common theme but crossed over tracks. Seven series were developed and was a part of the breakout sessions. A majority of the respondents reported liking all of the seven series topics.

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| **Did you attend any of the breakout sessions on Thursday, January 3?** | | | | |
|  | **Frequency** | | **Percentage** | |
| **Yes** | 415 | | 78.7% | |
| **No** | 100 | | 19.0% | |
| **No Response** | 12 | | 2.3% | |
| **Total** | 527 | | 100.0% | |
| **Did you attend any of the breakout sessions on Friday, January 4?** | | | | |
|  | | **Frequency** | | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | | 344 | | 65.3% |
| **No** | | 43 | | 8.2% |
| **No Response** | | 140 | | 26.6% |
| **Total** | | 527 | | 100.0% |

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| **Did you attend any of the breakout sessions on Saturday, January 5?** | | |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **Yes** | 284 | 53.9% |
| **No** | 89 | 16.9% |
| **No Response** | 154 | 29.2% |
| **Total** | 527 | 100.0% |

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| **How would you rate the tracks in their…** | | | | | | |
|  | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Average** | **Good** | **Excellent** | **Did not really use or notice** |
| **Description** | 0.3% | 2.4% | 8.5% | 44.1% | 33.5% | 11.2% |
| **Usefulness in choosing a session1** | 1.2% | 3.0% | 8.9% | 43.3% | 32.9% | 10.7% |
| **Appropriateness for NatCon1** | 0.3% | 1.5% | 6.3% | 35.4% | 48.5% | 8.0% |

# Appendix 1: Briefly describe differences between this year's national conference as compared to previous national conferences that you've attended. (Open Ended Responses)

* All in all this conference was a success and very beneficial to those who attended.
* As a sponsor of NATCON and of one of the key sessions, no sponsor acknowledgment was given. The career fair had no set hours and hence students were only funnelled through during lunch, and networking events. A more detailed email will be sent to SVA in regards to sponsor feedback and suggested changes for 2020.
* Attending 2019 I was a graduate student. My priorities as a graduate student were different compared to when I went as an undergraduate student. I feel I got more school related information that was useful as an undergraduate. As a graduate student, my priority was networking with the companies, and not so much on the lectures. Although it was a good experience.
* Better breakouts and more variety
* Better food at lunch! Really good speakers but the breakouts were extremely good this year
* Better organized
* Better presenters and companies at previous Natcon
* Better session topics, enthusiasm, and variety of companies.
* Better than last year. Having been to several now, it all seems very repetitive. Jared gives the same opening and closing remarks and many of the same speakers as previous years.
* Both conferences were excellent and any kind of improvement would be hard-pressed considering how well put together the conferences already are. Looking forward to next year's conference.
* Breakouts are a hit and miss with attendance and because of how easy it is to just join one at the last minute — often the standing room only thing happens. There should be options for the disabled among us in these situations.
* Compared to 2013, this is AMAZING
* Conference lacks diversity and inclusion topics.
* Coronado springs is just too big to get from rooms to conference center and that adds a level of stress. Also, the drinking has become an issue at night. Several vets were intoxicated at 6 am and haven't been to bed yet
* Dr. Cate, you all did amazing. There were so many attendees that I couldn't meet all the people I was supposed to find! And kudos to the breakout sessions: I heard nothing but positive comments about the content. Some of your MSO and VSO partners complained about not being selected but you know that. They still showed up right? The SVA Campus was lights out information overload and that's a good thing. All the vendors I talked to, especially VA VR&E, said they were impressed by the foot traffic. Only one, College Board, said they wish there was more foot traffic but that's probably b/c they attend larger conferences. The Disney Tailgate was a blast and you should try and replicate that experience in LA. I did hear some complaints about lack of diversity onstage at the General Sessions but I know what goes on behind-the-scenes to make those happen. Sometimes it can't be helped. Great work Dr. Cate and the team at SVA!
* Everything was still just as wonderful as the year before. This year, certain things about the conference center were better. (transportation)
* Felt almost exactly the same as last year except the food was much better! Please make them fix the folder with the times in it. The general sessions have been missing from there 2 years in a row!
* Felt more engaged with employers
* Food - really average food. Was forced to eat out more often than had planned to.
* For me I started feeling inspired Friday evening and Sat, just wished I could have been inspired straight from the jump like had at previous conferences that I've attended.
* For this year's conference I attended all three days of the conference where as I had just attended the final day of last year's conference. This year I was able to spend more time in the Campus and I was very impressed with the number of exhibitors in attendance.
* Honestly, it was a great time and compared to last year the only thing that bugged me and many others was the political standpoint that was taken.
* Hotel - good: really nice rooms and comfortable, lots of options of restaurants and entertainment. bad: everyone was really separated from each other and hard to get together after networking.
* Huge numbers from 2009! It was very encouraging to see the growth!
* I am thoroughly impressed with the level of detail and the array of topics covered. This is one of best conferences I have ever attended and I have been working in higher education for over 14 years
* I appreciated the diversity of the breakout sessions and the multitude of topics. Having the phone app was a big help with getting updated information in a timely manner.
* I cannot say I remember many of the breakout sessions from 2018, but the few I attended this year left me wanting to do more for my community.
* I enjoyed the breakout sessions I attended a bit more. I really enjoyed the resort, and think having the event at Disney really added some magic.
* I like the focus on diversity and inclusion, its a start and a move in the right direction. However, I think SVA needs to be more inclusive I think when SVA talks diversity they mean women and LGBTQ and not men of color or women of color. The panelist were mostly white women and officers. I would like to see more enlisted men of color represented in the panel.
* I liked the diversity in topics and the inclusionary aspects of the conference. The difference this time was that the attendees had more places to go after the day ended to bound. At San Antonio, they were trapped basically at the hotel, and many used their rooms to party all night.
* I liked the networking time in between sessions and the app with all its features.
* I liked the tailgate party, I don't think we had that last year. That was one of my favorite parts.
* I only marked "Same" because there are staple events that remain consistent, they need to be consistent, such as the SVA Campus, the panels, and the general sessions. This gives us grounding and a chance to meet more people and then when we break down into smaller groups we can meet others who share the same specific interests and goals.
* I really liked both, but I feel like the breakout sessions haven't helped me improve our group since the last NATCON in Anaheim. They often just gave suggestions or information without answering the name of the breakout sessions. A hypothetical example would be a breakout named "Motivating your SVA chapter members" and then the overall message was still to just partner with other organizations, work with your SGA, or plan a fundraiser. One issue is that people who aren't SVA leaders don't often want to do those things, they just want to be a student and belong to a group. It would have been more productive to find out what actually works by the numbers. As in, fundraising for sports tickets brought in 20 more students and raised 50% more money than doing a bake sale or hosting an event with the local police department.
* I really liked the diversity in the panel for the Boots to Boardroom on the 1st night
* I say it was better because there were more schools atending as well as more administrators.
* I think that more people attended the San Antonio, Texas and maybe due to the centralized location. This had better access to vendors and SVA leadership staff.
* I think the thing that's most frustrating about this year's NatCon is words are not being followed up with actions. The opening Diversity and Inclusion general session was almost entirely a joke; there's a difference between including veterans as a whole on campus (which is what that session ultimately was) and advocating for and celebrating the diversity of all veterans and their inclusion under the term veteran. Kiersten Downs seems to be the only person who got the memo about what D&I means. Jared talks a great talk about D&I but the almost complete wall of white men in the general sessions is absolutely unacceptable. In the first general session, the only woman of color wasn't a veteran... why can't you invite entrepreneurs like Mary Spio? If you claim you can't find veterans of color and women veterans (especially of color) you're not looking hard enough and it shows. There absolutely has to be more diversity on stage.
* I thought the workoput session were much than the others. My group love the Disney tailgate and the staff were very helpful. Disney is the place they have it every year... They do take acre of the Vets.
* I used the app this year and it made everything so much easier! The food was better this year, with vegetarian/fish options.
* I was not able to attend the entire conference due to the booking issue at the hotel. Due to traveling, I was only able to attend one day. The awards banquet wasn't as impactful this year. The speakers weren't very captivating and seemed to lack catching and keeping the audience's attention. The banquet was far too long
* I would have like to see The Honorable Robert Wilke come in person. I know the shutdown was the reason. I wonder if he could have paid his own way and got reimbursed later after it open up. We were vicitm of the shutdown
* In 2018, there is no excuse for this crap. The people who paid registration, paid for travel, paid for lodging, and took time to attend expect and deserve more than whatever this year was. I hope SVA is able to take this and other feedback not as angry attendee feedback, but as a needed gut check to better support the SVA chapters you all (outside of NatCon) serve.
* In addition, I feel this years conference was just a huge recruitment effort by companies pretending to be veteran friendly. However, I do understand that nothing is free and we must oblige our sponsors to a certain extent. I just would like to see a little more value added to the breakout sessions rather than it just being a panel of recruiters spitting out elevator pitches.
* In previous experiences, I was immediately inspired from the first general session. This year, I felt that this conference was beneficial for most, however it seemed flat (uninspiring) as if the presenter were just going through the motions. Every time I hear Kevin Preston speak, I feel inspired.
* In years past there was time for networking with other chapters in your state. That did not happen this year.
* Information was newer to me at previous conferences, not your fault. More educational tract information for professionals working with student veterans on campus at previous conferences.
* It felt as though the increased quantity of breakout session lowered the quality of the breakout sessions. Most session barely scratched the surface of the topic, whereas at previous NatCon's the topic expanded on depth on understanding rather than an introduction to topics. As an administrator, the content was kept very light and made it difficult for administrators seeking to better improve their veteran culture on campus to continuing going to NatCon's. The best NatCon I have been to yet was in Anaheim.
* Last years seemed to be more intimate and had easlier access to the events. The location was more adult orientated. The guest speakers didn't try to use it to advance themselves and their political adgenda
* Less division of the sexes.
* Liked it when student veterans were offered opportunity to volunteer for conference fee. Rathon emoyees can afford the conference fee, some student veterans cant.
* Location, Location, Location. This year;s conference gave you access to the local community and attractions.
* Lodging was limited should have enough rooms for even last minute attendee.
* Loved the ability to be able to catch free transportation from the resort.
* Loved the idea of the workshops however two key workshops were cancelled due to government shutdown. That was a bummer.
* loved the location, programming was great. Rooms were too crowded for some sessions
* More involvement for employers.
* More sessions to choose from. Better organized
* no opportunities for regional connection
* No topics on advising
* Nominee schedules - let nominees know ahead of time what the schedule will look like. To much "on the fly" scheduling which took time away from attending sessions and the SVA Campus exhibitors.
* Once you've attended one NatCon or SVA event or heard the majority of SVA's messaging, they're all pretty similar- the greatest benefit of these events is networking.
* One reason I felt this conference was better, was just my own familiarity. Last year was my first time, so I really didn't know what to expect. This year, I had an idea of how things would go. I think the breakout sessions were better, for the most part. I especially liked the tracks, because last year I ended up in sessions that sounded good as a chapter leader, but were really more for the VSO office staff. The only negative I have this year is the food. The breakfast offered was just ok at best. Lunch was a little better than ok. The resort itself was nice, and unlike in San Antonio, it was closer to things to do, so easier to do stuff offsite. The negative for this resort was the food options were terribly limited and quite overpriced.
* Part of it had to do with prices and content. I also wish there were more break out sessions like last year. The medal of honor Female Pilot from Amazon, and Jared Lyons were great speakers! As stated previously, it felt crammed time wise and some of the break out sessions there was no seating.
* Pros: The refreshments and meals were of a higher quality and tastier. The venue was very nice and had excellent, working technical equipment that was ready for each breakout session. I thought it was awesome that this venue allowed service dogs even though I don't have one. Although I had to skip an event to go visit part the park, Disneyworld is one of my bucket-list locations, so thank you for that opportunity. Cons: The location was a little confusing to navigate (especially for those not staying at the venue) and the rooms were very far from the convention center for those who have trouble walking in dress shoes. More seating in the hallways and around the exhibit hall would alleviate this minor issue, along with possibly letting us have the option for wearing walking shoes instead of full business attire. The bars closed too early for the night of the banquet. Was there a setting to turn off email reminders for the events from the app? The general emails were helpful, but the rest reminding us to go to sessions we already chose to attend were too much.
* Seems to be becoming more personal goal based and company specific instead of helping to develop chapters or catering to a broad range of majors.
* Sessions - a lot more options and better choices
* Sessions had more variety to engage a larger student veteran community, as well as the campus.
* Slightly better since our Citadel, SVA team was able to attend to include a total of 8 individuals from our, mighty Citadel. Just wish the government wasn't shut-down so the vendors would have been there to discuss career opportunities.
* some of the break out session I had to choose from because they were only offered once.
* SVA does an awesome job. This year it felt like SVA had fewer employer partners on the SVA Campus, not sure if that was due to the size of the space. But every year it seams there are great and engaging opportunities. The conference app was awesome!
* That was very unprofessional and not welcomed.
* The app this year was A+, wish i played around with it a little more and leaned more about the different things on it before attending natcon.
* The app was also better this year.
* The biggest difference I felt was in how many things were up for sale. The number of logos in the program is a great example. Being a presenter, I had no idea that my presentations were up for sponsorship and yet, in the program, there are logos next to two of these presentations. The dinner is another example as well as all of the general sessions. I recognize the need for making money but damn, this was a bit much.
* The booths in the SVA Campus were not diverse, there was an abundant of financial institutions/consultants and not enough higher education or diverse employment opportunities.
* The breakout sessions were more organized and had more information. It also felt like there was more breaks in between and the week did not feel as busy. Very nice!
* The changes that I have seen are impressive in the number of topics offered. SVA has grown by leaps in bounds to offer more diverse and tailored panels. I love that the general sessions now have more panels to give student veterans an opportunity to see beyond what we are shown beyond the stereotypical jobs. It's important that we hear all these companies say they want to hire us. Having experts who are willing to share their trials and testimonies is invaluable. Is important to have panelists that we can identify and know we can achieve our goals too. In short, there is something at NATCON for everyone.
* The companies were more willing to set up interviews this conference.
* The food was better last year in San Antonio.
* The general sessions were the best yet. Most people, tailgate party was awesome, more vendors/employers, etc. Was still expensive at Disney so glad to see moving off their property. App was better this year, used the ir code to scan contacts. As always, SVA staff was amazing. So thankful for all the hard work that goes into these things. Overall, amazing job and best one yet!
* The last conference they had a session where they broke up sva chapters up to north east, south east etc. It was a good social event.
* The location for this year location made it easier to be able to visit other places and take a break from all the breakouts and be able to enjoy some sites. The breakout sessions seems to cover more subjects that would help us in the further after school, but also for some of them help us remember why we are that veteran. It just seemed that the presenters where more approachable this year than last year. Great time.
* The location was better (not so much the Disney factor as much as the availability of restaurant/food options on-site and the hotel transportation to/from the airport).
* The location was better and some food at the resort was cheaper than last year. I did have trouble finding what breakout sessions I wanted to attend based on their descriptions.
* The main difference is the overall vibe. Last year there was so much energy and excitement students would just hangout and talk for hours about their clubs and campuses, their dreams and aspirations. This year though, I did not see that kind of cohesion among the students. I believe this is due to the fact that last year, we were all isolated at the Marriott and forced to engage with one another much like when we were in the military. This fostered a sense of comraderie among the student veterans, a feeling that was simply lacking at this years conference.
* The professional development track was a positive additions for students.
* The resort wasn’t up to par with last year
* The Resource campus was organized better and had companies who were actually interviewing and hiring on the spot.
* The space is wonderful. I was able to network in town after the conference. Transportation provided by Disney is a bonus. I'm sure that once the building is complete on the resort, it will make the conference even better. The only draw-back is that the sessions aren't recorded. I would love to be able to view recordings of sessions that I miss while attending other sessions.
* The students were better organized and ready to meet with sponsor firms. Panel discussions were amazing. Always a better energy at the Disney properties.
* The topic Diversity and Inclusion was not discussed in the general sessions except for Kiersten Down's remarks. Wilkie should never have been allowed on screen or invited and the general sessions were just commercials for the sponsors
* the wealth and depth of the sessions. The increasing level and quality of the support shown from corporate partners is amazing.
* The workshops and the students were great. The sessions were surprising. The lack of diversity coupled with a diversity panel that didn’t discuss diversity was just shocking. The additional discussions from certain members in SVA leadership have me extremely concerned about the direction SVA is headed.
* There seemed to be more breakout sessions with heavy hitter panelists and guest speakers. Having an app is very important with all the schedules. I would say the event could be more organized with the employer exhibition.
* There should be dedicated times the exhibit is open so the employers aren't constantly having to man a booth. This is especially important for lunches/breaks for employers with only 1 representative.
* This NATCON I noticed there was a lot more space this year. Which was a good thing because there were so many people. I really like that there were more breakouts for SCOs this year. Most of the time SCOs are the ones who are advising the student organizations and lately I have noticed that more and more student leaders are becoming SCOs once they graduate.
* This resort was very spread out.
* This year SVA tried to champion something they are not, as an organization: Diversity and Inclusion. For anyone who works within the D&I space, this conference should be a textbook example of what NOT to do in diversity and inclusion. SVA lacks diversity and inclusion among its board, within key leadership positions in the HQ organization and it showed hard at NatCon. I was embarrassed for you and angry on behalf of those who paid registration to this dumpster fire of a conference. SVA needs to take any feedback related to this topic very seriously. It's apparent that SVA has no clue what D&I truly is and there were many missed opportunities to bring more diverse panelists AND ask existing panelists better questions related to D&I as a whole vs just how student vets fit into D&I. The conference was so half-assed and poorly planned. My university is debating coming back next year as is my chapter because of the way our university staff and chapter was treated by James. Much of this year's chaos was preventable. More planning time, managing realistic expectations, diversity within leadership, and keeping things short and sweet would have gone a long way in preventing many of the issues experienced.
* This year’s banquet was a bit too long compared to the past.
* This year's NatCon had some unforeseen circumstances with connections to presenters slides and the internet. Some presenters were not prepared to circumvent possible technology failures.
* Twice as many problems with the hotel and room payment. Billed for more people in rooms then we actually had. Need a completely defined dress code for everyone. Not one dress code for attendees and another for exhibitors. The SVA staff at the conference was more approachable and would actually talk with you, unlike last year where they would see you coming and dive into a room to avoid questions.
* We understand politics are how things happen for legislation to be posed to help student veteran, but it was obvious they was a political agenda pushed at the banquet and that was upsetting.
* while I enjoy Disney, I felt like due to the time of year Disney Orlando was pricey. Trying to book flights to orlando on the 2nd was difficult and paying 450 pp is hard on the bank acct. I am all for selecting places where flights and hotels are reasonable and easy to get to.
* While my breakout sessions were overall good I was disappointed that the Gateway to Federal Employment session on Thursday was canceled. I was also disappointed by the lack of professional courtesy from attendees to not hijack sessions (stand up and instead of asking a question talk for 5 or more minutes about themselves).
* While the resort was nicely appointed, the prices were far above reasonable and the construction was annoying. The convention center was well laid out, but it seemed like there were significantly less employer partners than the previous two years.

# Appendix 2: Which of the following were reasons you did not use the SVA NatCon Event App? (check all that apply) - "Other" (Open Ended Responses)

* It would crash repeatedly and not let me log in
* I was not able to log in.
* I could not use it because my travel person used her email adrress and not mine for the registration so I could not activate my account.

# Appendix 3: Which of the following were reasons you did not download the SVA NatCon Event App? (check all that apply) - "Other" (Open Ended Responses)

* Hotel WiFi was unreliable
* old school phone. do not have smart phone
* forgot

# Appendix 4: Please provide any comments, recommendations, or suggestions about the SVA NatCon Event App below: (Open Ended Responses)

* Abdoul was an effective Game Master and did a great job selecting an improved app for NatCon2019. I loved the "My Agenda" feature and push notifications. The only complaint, and this is minor, is that the app auto generated an email for every push notification. My inbox got full real fast. Maybe disable that in the future and have people select into receiving notices by email? I was fine receiving them by phone.
* Add a moderated photo album?
* After you choose event it makes you rescroll through all events. I would like to have it so I can choose between a top three and narrow my search so I do not need to scroll through whole page to pick one event. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to be part of this event- it changed my life!
* Again, SVA Leadership needs to take a good look at themselves and if the message is D&I, then lead by example, not preach one thing and do another
* All files from sessions upload to website to view and download docs
* All presentations should upload their powerpoints.
* amazing
* App needs to be upgraded to be easier to use. Overall great concept to help individuals navigate their days.
* As an Advisor and SCO on the west coast. I would like to see more companies who would be hiring on the west coast. I could go along with the model SVA has been following with East, West, Middle. The companies can be from the region that NATCON is being hosted. Also would like to see more resources for smaller schools like community colleges. My students would have not been able to attend this year if it wasn't for the Chapter Grant they received last year. I would also like to see if that program can come back as it was a great opportunity for students to learn how to write a business plan. A skill that is handy to have in their futures.
* As an employer who has attended many conferences of all types I was disappointed in the little traffic we had at our booths. We should have all had a table in the hall so students didn't have to go out of their way between sessions, in 3 days we may have had 100 people. The last day should have been a mini job fair for 3 hours in the exhibit hall, during break outs if we were at tables throughout the halls we would have had a lot more interaction. I am not the only employer who said this during the event, we brought quite a few folks from the firm and it was a missed opportunity to interact based on us being hidden and out of site between sessions.
* As much as I enjoyed the conference, it was exhausting. I would have liked to have been able to use the heated pool at the resort, but by the time everything was over and I was able to it was closed. I think next time try to utilize the pool for the event, which can be fun and relaxing for everyone.
* become better organized. I heard from multiple speakers that the conference was not well run, the topics changed last minute and timing/execution was not good. WE have to understand these are veterans, used to extreme timeliness and in fact take pride in timeliness. If the speakers are thrown off, it'll dilute the content and experience
* Best conference app I have used so far
* Better food for breakfast.
* can we get the slide show presentation from the break out session on the app. If so how do we do it and if not that would be my suggestion.
* Communication was overkill in some parts and lacking in others. For example, we received notification of a mandatory dinner/meeting only 3 hours before the event. There needs to be better communication for events of this magnitude.
* Couldn't get signed up
* Different way to set up login and login recovery is needed
* Excellent app! Don't change it!
* Explain the discussion to all the participants.
* Extremely helpful, constantly in use and the information it provided was awesome.
* Food was very poor.
* For the question at the end of the survey about military status, I would have Veteran as an option.
* Great idea and the chapter president loved it.
* Great NATCON but the emails we a little too much. I understand that not everyone downloaded the app but if you could add a NATCON only unsubscribe option for the email since every update was posted on the app. This years app was better than last year. Keep up the great work team!
* Have a broader range of topics for stem and how to maximize skills sets that you have and how to obtain the ones you need to get the jobs we want.
* Having a bar nearby was of great benefit as, even though it seems cliché, I made many useful connections and networks with other groups and employers over relaxed drinks at the bar as well as at the formal events.
* Highly recommend having the SVA campus open longer, all three days, while sessions are going on, and advertise! I wish I could have had more time there. A number of the SVA campus companies were not even at their booths, so there was no one to talk to.
* Holy cow the e-mails and app push updates were way too much! There was so much communication in such a short timespan that I actually stopped reading the e-mails or text banners. It was legitimately annoying.
* I attended as a Sponsor and was impressed w/the event. SLB will definitely return. I was able to meet and network with amazing Student Veterans to develop a strong pipeline of talent. I would recommend adding an Industry Session overview to help educate Veterans on the type of industries available to them. A lot of them still don't know what is out there and this could be an opportunity to help them develop their career roadmap.
* I believe this will be my final NATCON. I am graduating in May and unless my employer funds another, I will not be attending. Great memories!
* I could not even open the app. I had to go to the web based.
* I did not know what my user or code was to sign in after downloading the app. However, I found that the booklets that were given sufficed in terms of when and what the breakout sessions were. I did not find out when the general sessions were though.
* I dont think it fully works with android. There were a lot of things I couldnt see on the app like the games or notifications.
* I feel that badges should have whether a person is a student, vendor, school administrator or SVA representative. There were many times that you could not tell who you were talking to.
* I felt overwhelmed most of the time. Since it was my first event, it would have been nice to have an area/or gathering for 1st time attendees to get together, mingle and get to know one another.
* I felt that the veteran students that I attended with got a lot out of the conference. However, as a staff member that is required to attend with students, there was not much that was geared towards me. I felt that the registration is not set up for colleges to register their students since I was not able to put the student email address in as invoices needed to come to me. I only ever received emails for one student and not the other two that were registered and did receive some myself. You would have the registration set up that you can register the advisor with the students and that each student email can be provided but the registration invoice will go to the college employee. The hotel should be set up to be able to reserve multiple rooms at once (it didn't let me do this and it was a mess at check in). There should be sessions that are geared towards college employees since I am sure there is a lot that colleges could do to improve services.
* I graduate this term and will not likely participate next year.
* I grew frustrated with the fact that I signed up for sessions only to get there and find them to be standing room only. I basically wasted my time signing up for sessions and crafting my schedule. In order to make it into sessions I wanted I had to show up way early. I also missed two sessions due to overcrowding. Maybe poll which sessions did best on turnout, offer more seating!
* I had hoped for time during the event to sit down between break out sessions to try to share information. In the future if you could add some sort of break out session that is designed to help SVO. to host better meetings or to go over chapters constitutions and by laws if they wish.
* I know that the student who attended from my college had a good time and got a lot of good information. The career preparedness session held by the employers are a great for the students to attend to have their resumes reviewed and mock interviews. I was disappointed by how few colleges were in attendance given the large number of veterans that attend community colleges and will be looking to transfer. The employers were good about giving information for internships which is important to students at the community colleges since often they are not yet looking for employment since they have a couple more years of college.
* I loved all the new additions to the SVA NatCon Event app, but especially the agenda addition and the speakers' information as well. It allowed me to better plan my agenda and reminded me of where I needed to be and when. Kudos to the SVA team that made this happen, it rocked!
* I loved everything about natcon this year but I feel to illness on the second day so it keep me in bed. I was so bummed out
* I noticed that SVA did not really support education in the arts or social sciences very well if at all. Also vocational schooling wasn't represented, i.e. construction job education, plumbers, masons, electrians, HVAC. I'd also like to see more architecture type opportunities (architecture, graphic designers, drafting) in the SVA Campus, if indeed there are more architecture students in SVA. I may be off base, but just something I noticed. Just because you don't go a college or university post military service to learn a new trade, does not make you any less a Student Veteran.
* i noticed there were folks that were sitting to the side due to feeling overwhelmed or anxiety because of the large groups etc. Maybe consider having a service dog/animal around for folks to pet just to help reset them. this would also be a good topic for breakout session
* I spent my time as a resource provider in the exhibit room and didn't get to attend any breakout or general sessions but the event was well organized and I look forward to 2020
* I suggest for the name tags you put peoples branch on them. It would be a fun conversation piece or at least the branch emblem. Start classes earlier so that veterans can intermingle after instead of going straight to bed
* I think an additional day should be added for networking, or possibly making more time at the end of the day to network.
* I think that back up breakout session speakers should be in place in case something happens to create unavailability for each breakout group. One of my sessions was cancelled.
* I think this was great. I would recommend sending out an email to subscribers about doing presentations and panels. I would also recommend having notes or recordings of the sessions since we can't go to all of them.
* I think we would have all been better prepared if we had gotten breakfast at the conference or had am certain that a better breakfast would help boost attendance, keep moods up, and delay the onset of major intoxication.
* I though the conference was one of the best that I have ever attended. The opportunity for networking was amazing. As a representative of the Commonwealth of Virginia and a resource provider, it was so valuable. I intend to to talk to my leadership to get involved with the 2020 Natcon.
* I thought the conference overall was quite good. I was surprised at the fair accommodations at the Pop Century. I didn't feel safe returning there at night since it consists of many separate, unattached buildings. I walked to my building through poorly lit areas with seemingly no security to speak of. As a female traveling alone I just didn't feel safe at night. In addition I though the quality of lunch was far less than I expected for a Disney resort. The snack served during session breaks could have been much better and with a higher volume since there wasn't enough for everyone to grab something to eat before the next session started.
* I understand that SVA needs sponsorship but I dont like that im a walking advertisement for Amazon when I want to put on my SVA NATCON shirt. If SVA can avoid putting companies on the NATCON shirts that would be great. People are asking me whats with the Amazon shirt? and its not and amazon shirt its and SVA shirt. Lets not sell our soul for money lets keep the shirts add free.
* I was hoping to have all of the slides from the panel uploaded. Is there a way to make this a thing next year?
* I will be ending my active duty contract 2021 and I might be looking to commission. If there is any way you could have officer recruiters from the branches there with information that would be awesome. It is hard to narrow down which program is right for you and having them there and not being in my uniform would help a lot. Also, having a better healthcare session. I could name about twenty doctors that would be thrilled to come and talk and discuss their careers and how they got there (doctors love to talk about their work and themselves) not even just doctors though, therapists, and other specialities would be awesome
* I wish there had been a meeting or meet in great regionally for people so that schools in the same area or even state had a chance to meet up.
* I wish there were notifications when people commented on discussion threads you have commented on. Even if it’s Facebook-like with just a circle and a number on the edge of the app - something to let me know I should take a look. I’d also like notifications if/when presenters upload their materials and/or some indicator that presentation materials are included.
* I would have liked to know which sessions were middle ground between students and school administrators. I understand that sessions are set up for students - and school administrators were not in mind when setting this conference up; however, if you are going to encourage school administrators (like me) to attend then you should have a breakout for each session time for administrators. And code them as such. In addition, there should have been a school administrator area so that we could communicate with one another.
* I would have loved to have seen any companies for healthcare jobs. There was not a single company that could help me with resources for any type of medical job. Also, the tailgate party was supposed to be a networking event but I could not stay to network because they music was way too loud.
* I would like to see more women forums. I would also like to see more people from the medical field to entertain more diversity to the veteran community.
* I'd like to be able to link my schedule with selected friends so we know what each other is taking. When traveling with a group, it'd be easier to locate my friends.
* I'd like to see a session or two catered to big schools. Some of the topics or discussions were about services that have been offered to all students at my school for years but some other schools are still struggling with.
* If you plan to include military supporting families then be more inclusive about them, whether it's through networking or the breakout sessions.
* Include all events in the app. There were breakouts that were not in the app, and it led to light attendance.
* It didn't work the first night when scanning. Then, I felt it needed updating during the conference. I was never able to change the notification settings to get discussions.
* It is a veterans event, please tell the bars and restaurants to stock up on more drinks. They ran out of beverages every day.
* It is impossible to attend all the break out sessions you want so recording them and making them available for future viewing would be very helpful. NatCon is getting so big I almost see a need for separate west coast/east coast events. If more rooms could be reserved at the main hotel that would be great. Staying at the Pop Century Resort was a hellish nightmare.
* It seemed to have a few bugs and was a little clunky at times, but helpful nonetheless.
* It was a little clunky, and not all of the presenters were listed in the panel descriptions.
* It was different and more inclusive timeline wise (and informatively) than the hard copy schedule booklet.
* It was difficult to read the session descriptions at times as the app would jump to the attendees who had selected the session. Could not find any Power Point presentations for the breakout sessions.
* It would have been nice if the app auto-populated all of the relevant registration information and the LinkedIn link for our profile. I had to put in a lot of the same information as was asked for on the registration page. I did like the other areas where we could beef it up and add our own comments.
* It’s hard to tell if it was an app issue or a network issue, but there were problems loading content
* It's better than previous years and with time and feedback, I think it will continue to improve. It's just not always useful for me.
* Keep up the good work!
* Less emails during event
* Less functions The scanner, game, and discussion didn't seem necessary or widely utilized. Ability to connect LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Bumble, Maps and contacts.
* Limit PUSH notification to critical ones, like reboot required. Not to attend sessions.
* Loved it....not broke!
* Loved the app!
* Make sure everyone is aware of the app early on. At registration for the event for example, the people who give you your name tag should also inform you of the app. Unfortunately it is a fact that most people junk emails early on without reading them. Because of that, core resources like that app should be on the short list of things vets should be told in person about upon checking in for the conference. The app was great, the only reason I knew about it was because I ran into someone else who was using it.
* Map of the campus and employers.
* Maybe consider a central SVA NatCon app, rather than a new one for each year. Also, I tried to use the notes feature and the space was too limited and I had to switch to my phone's own app for taking notes. I hadn't really written that much when it stopped accepting input.
* More information (presentations) by Federal VA, State VA's, and County Representatives. There is much support out there. Please help in getting the word out on presentations and networking.
* My guys enjoyed it so much- and hope to come back next year. Thanks for puting this on for us..
* My main suggestion for the SVA NatCon Event App is in the My Agenda feature, have it open automatically to the current day. Originally the My Agenda feature did this, but at some point during the weekend, it opened to the first day and the user was made to click through the dates to arrive at the current day. This was hindersome while trying to get from one breakout session to the next in the allotted time frame.
* N/A
* n/a
* na
* New app so there is a learning curve. Maybe have a 20 minute general session on how to use and require all to use it for communications. There was group texts, LinkedIn messaging, Facebook groups/messaging, and the app. It got overwhelming. If it is stated to direct communication on one platform it helps everyone learn it faster and standardizes comms. Or just use LinkedIn Groups and create a NATCON 2020 group and add all.
* none
* None at this time.
* notifications did not pop up
* Only complaint pertains to the chair spacing in the general and breakout sessions. Walkways had ample space, but the space between chairs was minimal. Felt like a bunch of canned sardines.
* Perhaps we build an SVA App for a more robust experience and emphasis of events use, and then build on other resources from there. Maybe even reach out to schools to help outsource IT projects.
* Pick a place to host the conference that either provides a market/convenience store or is within walking distance.
* Please do not have swirling lights on the ceiling. I had to leave most of the general sessions because I could not handle it any more after a while. I ended up speaking with a group of about 15 veterans that went outside and tried to calm down from being in that room. I really tried to stay the whole time for the first general sessions and I left shaking before it was over.
* Please provide more diversity in the speakers & panelists you invite. Its hard to believe the talk of diversity when the majority of speakers/panelists were male and white.
* Please reconsider how many emails you send out. Half of them were unnecessary.
* push notifications were always late, hotel staff keeping big halls shut until beginning of events was unnecessary and annoying, Breakouts were great, general sessions were bad. More Diversity and Inclusion. Walk the walk, not just feed us BS!
* Push notifications were out of control. I know I could have opted out of it, but then I could have missed something important. The number of notifications was just annoying.
* Really solid program. Well done!
* Recently I received hearing aids and found that it was hard for me to follow some information because people were talking to fast or there was no closed captioning available with videos being shown. I have an associates degree in sign language and would like to have had American Sign Language interpreters and closed caption as a part of the conference and available in the breakout sessions. I understand that not all veterans know ASL but I believe for me visually this would have been a huge help, especially with the panelists. I met two veterans who either knew ASL or are studying to become an interpreter who offered to interpret for me. I did utilize one of them at one of the Saturday sessions. I just believe if this was available I would not have struggled as much with some of the presentations.
* Recommend having literature, business cards, or for presenters to be available for attendees to access.
* reconsider not having too many breakout sessions at the same time might
* Refining of the app a bit more to prevent some stalling. Inclusion of pico towers or micro towers to enhance cell reception with regards to the App.
* Scan box had wrong information. Wasn't informed of what it was and how it worked until Saturday afternoon.
* Sorry, I liked last year's more and still had many contacts from then.
* Stop freaking sending emails AND notifications. We do not need both. We really don't need either - but one is sufficient.
* Stop with push notifications, I don't need 13 emails in one day just from an app (yes I did count).
* Thank you
* Thank you so much.
* Thanks for doing this. I appreciate your hard work and I look forward to seeing you next year!
* The agenda portion of the app was easy to use/see on a tablet but not on the phone.
* The app feels like a mobile website rather than an actual app. I'd recommend streamlining the app in the future to make it feel less clunky.
* The App had a few malfunctions and some trouble loading, especially when it was time to attend a new break out session. It appeared the system was not able to keep up with the amount of people trying to use it. The app was still very useful to choose which session to attend and to read more information on that session. So even when it was not cooperating well it was still useful.
* The App kept making my phone crash. I wish it gave me the option to get push notifications or emails. I didn't mind the push notifications, but there were way too many emails sent out.
* The app was not always accurate with the speakers or moderators for the sessions. There were times when I wanted to go to a breakout session because of the particular speaker and not necessarily the topic. However, it was misleading in some cases because that information was either not provided or it was incorrect.
* The app was very useful for me to schedule the events and breakout session I wanted to attend. The app provide times and the locations of each event. I would have been lost without it.
* The App was very useful in pre-planning for NatCon. I selected the breakout sessions I would attend even before arriving in Orlando.
* The biggest issue I found with the app is when a push notification was sent, if you tried selecting it it would just send you to the front page of the app and not in the correct location of the information.
* The daily schedule should reflect real time (scroll to the current time block- though this is purely a convenient feature)
* The data loading bugs were annoying, it's interface is a little clunky, the game was strange and hard to figure out how to play, but overall I appreciate the information it did provide. I just think it needs to be refined and work better overall.
* The discussion part of he app only let me see the last thing posted and not the entire thread. Updates were typically useful expect when a session was canceled.
* The FAQ could have been loaded better and more questions and answers. Many were under the impression that we would be attached to the main Disney resorts and be able to go with the ticket price and no information could be found regarding that. If the conference is at a destination that has activities, having those built into the time at the conference would be wonderful!
* The game did not work for me and no one could explain how to make it work. The scanner never worked for me either.
* The map on the app was a scanned pdf file. Hard to read even when zooming in. Having the map available sooner would also help.
* The number of attendees was extensive, which is good, but I could possibly have benefited from additional criteria for sorting individuals in order to make connections. Having to click and read the bio of each person, if I could not gain enough information from their title/organization, was very time consuming. I know there were tagging features given when registering, but I did not find on the app how they could be applied (I may have missed the feature, if present). I am not sure what the titles could be - but I could imagine having informal breakout sessions among groups of attendees who self identified as wanting to link up with others interested in 'blank'.
* The push notifications were a bit overwhelming, If you're following the schedule, you don't need a reminder that lunch is ending immediately followed by a notification that the breakouts are beginning.
* The QR code did not work. Sent to many notifications via email and on app. Difficult to figure out how to unsubscribe.
* The QR code scanner made me download a separate app and it just became a hassle
* The scan feature wasn’t working on the first day - it’s one of the main reasons I use the app. That was harrowing. I suggest updating the app version a whole new download. People that attend the previous years can not activate interaction or access certain info until they have registered. This way — we can keep our connections over the years and do a bit of comparison etc
* The smaller sessions were terrific. The larger group session on Thursday was terrible. It sounded like corporations were using vets to become more diverse. It was repetitive and annoying, and many people left. The networking event was good however.
* There needs to be an option for how notifications were given. I received push, and several email notifications with the same content. Also, the app would get a notification badge that was impossible to clear.
* There needs to be more resources for community college students. This is a large portion of the student veteran population and they are drastically underrepresented. The SVA also needs to bring back the chapter grants. Our school would not have been able to attend this year without it. This is a vital resource.
* There should be a tutorial how to use the app and it's functions. If there was, this wasn't broadcasted well. There is a very important network feature to schedule meetings with students, I had no idea about this until Saturday. Also, had no idea there was a scavenger hunt.
* there was an issue with the discussion board and the QR scanner... the scanner was fixed while at natcon but the discussion board wasn't fixed till after
* There wasn't a lot of programs for the health care industry. I went around and grabbed a lot of information for other veterans at my school. Maybe have a "representative" bag that has a pamphlet from each booth so no one gets missed and their information makes it back to schools.
* There’s a lot of missed opportunities with the app. It’s way better than previous years and much more useful but navigation is a chore. The developers should check out what apps are looking like these days and adapt. This is like first gen iPhone apps.
* Think about opportunities veterans like me who are 0% disability connected.
* This was my first exposure to SVA. I was injured and discharged in 1986. If SVA was around then I would have completed my degree and been more active before now. This is an incredible vso and deserves recognition for all the hard work that it puts into their programming and services.
* This was my first SVA NatCon. Unfortunately, I could not stay for the entire event because I had a previous commitment on Saturday and had to leave Friday to drive to another state. Although I would have like to have stayed for the entire event, the time I was able to participate was worth the time, effort, and cost. Kudos to all of the SVA staff and volunteers who made it a great event!
* Through this experience, I was able to confirm that my school has a wonderful resource in our Veteran community in furthering education. Though the original breakout sessions I intended to attend did not fit my need, I was able to reach out to other breakouts and learn more than I realized. I am grateful for this opportunity
* too many emails sent during the conference
* Too many push notifications. They were so ubiquitous that I stopped paying attention to them after the first day.
* Understanding as participants we could use the QR scan feature would have been another excellent way to network.
* Was there a way to message the people in the contacts list? Other than actually take their information, like to reach out within the realm of just the app?
* Was very impressed with the attendees and enjoyed meeting some excellent participants
* Way too many notifications especially when I was also receiving emails with the exact same information.
* We didn't attend the awards banquet because there was not enough seating. I know the room was at capacity so maybe next year have more seating. If there are 2,000 registered attendees then make sure the banquet hall can accommodate all of them for the awards dinner.
* work on its presentation a little bit, its perfect but it looks a little ugly.

# Appendix 5: Which best describes your gender identity? – Other (Open Ended Responses)

* Attack-Helicopter

# Appendix 6: What other breakout tracks or series would you like to see at future NatCons? (Open Ended Responses)

* 1)There are many veterans with fantastic leadership ability, and many find paths naturally in providing leadership or mentorship; however, I could see the value in providing breakout sessions which teach appropriate mentorship behavior and encourage all (where appropriate) to serve in some kind of mentorship capacity. 2) STEM. Greater focus from organizations like Warrior Scholar, Growth Sector (STEM Core) and others - veterans are interested in STEM fields but may be struggling academically or feel intimidated and could benefit by being made aware of assistance and/or alternative learning options which are available. STEM fields need more veterans, but areas like business administration and criminal justice often make up the largest proportion of degrees awarded.
* A breakout session that is just for sharing ideas about recruitment and fundraising ideas with other campuses. These are the most common problems most campuses have. Let's have a session directly shareing what works and what didn't .
* A panel discussing on helping veterans who had trouble transitioning out of the military. This could be treatment courts, finding your why, mental health issues.
* A track for Advisors would be great!
* A track for dependents / civilians. I am a member of my school's SVO and support the community but felt that even though I am an SVO member I might be in a space that isn't truly inclusive of me (which I COMPLETELY understand, it's not MY space) but I wasn't the only one, if that makes sense. Maybe a track to help those of us on the outside learn how to be supportive in the best way possible.
* A track for people going into healthcare jobs
* A track for school certifying officials, and VA Once.
* Additional tracks for transfers with information on preparing for highly selective schools. Information on graduate school preparation from graduate school professionals. Additional partner panels that could focus on a particular employment track e.g. accounting or engineer as to what the partners are really looking for in resume, education...
* Advising, Certification, Mental Health
* Advising, Identity of veterans, more inclusion not just of topics but of those presenting especially in the larger sessions.
* American legion, VFW, DAV and what programs that they offer and how to implement them.
* And another series option could be: The Parenting Student Veteran!!!
* Another diversity/inclusion one with more diversity in those speaking.
* Any of the topics that Four Block teaches as a part of their career readiness treks. More career readiness opportunities (if they're taught by corporate professionals). We received feedback that someone attended a session taught by student advocates that included poor advice about career readiness (interview skills).
* Anything to do with Gunsmithing!!!!
* Assisting the Community Colleges that are starting out with their SVA Chapters and how to improve on any programs within current chapters that have been around for a while but are stuck, that have no or little support from their college community.
* basic operations of the veteran service center - the essentials
* Before presentations start people should save there questions and experiences until the end so everything can be covered. the presentation was great but too much input from the audience took us on tangents we didn't need to take
* Benefits (in addition to voc rehab), and more inclusion of minority veterans and women in breakout panels NOT related to diversity.
* Best Practices when Dressing for Success. Such as how things should fit and what is appropriate at events. Many veterans enjoy wearing patriotic attire, so can we continue that in the business world?
* Breakout for first time attendees
* Breakouts focused on: Junior Colleges, More specific on what type of health care, Relationships between SVA Chapters from Junior Colleges to Undergraduates.
* Career Preparation, Development, and Success
* civilian tracks for the few civys! =)
* Clarity in the research processes and methodologies that lead to active conversations with doctoral student veterans.
* Club representation. You are the image of your club on or off campus . If you act poorly you are the image people relate to you and your club or school.
* Collaborative discussions.
* Commodore among student organizations, both at own campus but possibly with other schools.
* COMMUNITY COLLEGE tracks or series!!!
* Community College, Getting freshmen and sophomores ready for University
* Community resources
* Disability Topics
* Diversity and Inclusion, LGBTQ Focus, Minority Veteran Focus, More nonprofits, less military industrial complex sponsors
* Dress for success, interview skills, more woman veteran forums, how to start a successful SVA chapter, How to maintain a successful SVA chapter, explaining veteran culture to civilians, Entrepreneurial tools and programs.
* Education Benefits / Policy
* emotional intelligence // civilian military transition: focus on how to understand the psychology of two conflicting cultures (military civilian) - the difference between authoritative leadership v. group based collaboration. maybe invite V.I.T.A.L. (VA program) people to speak on some stuff.
* Employment and Career Planning
* equal pay for women
* Essentially, I think there would be great value in having a session dedicated to reigniting the fire that once so passionately burned in the hearts of many of us veterans, that has since been quenched by the waves of transition we have all experienced.
* Exapnd on medical careers and veterans who are in those fields
* Focus on Veterans at the Community College level
* For SVO advisors
* Help for new leaders, mental health and its impact on student veterans, career counseling, etc.
* Help navigating the world of government jobs with a presenter that doesn't cancel.
* Honestly, not all the breakout sessions were for me but the ones I did attend, I'm so grateful for.
* How to engage disconnected veterans and how to grow chapter interest in cases of adverse university political or social drama contexts.
* How to manage an email list for 300+ (en-mass) recipients, the best mail apps to use, and mass mail best practices.
* How to negotiate a salary.
* How to obtain Non-Profit status as a chapter with a focus on possibly tax forms to look for and other general tips and tricks to getting it, pros and cons for becoming a non-profit organization on campus, etc.
* I felt like a lot of the convention was geared toward business and marketing. As someone who is not pursuing a career in any of these fields, I felt like I could have benefited more if there were more diversity or if there were a way to see if it would be worth my time to go. However, I think it was beneficial and worthwhile for those who were interested in pursuing those fields and who did not know how to better improve their chapters.
* I honestly don't think I would attend another one..........I am not a Veteran or a student, so there wasn't really enough opportunities to meet with other professionals in Higher Education.
* I really can not think of any at this time. I am a pre 9/11 era veteran and being older I would like to see our era covered with the benefits and what bills are now in the works for example the forever chapter 31 bill. Also for the pre 911 getting back our benefits that were lost due to the closer of some schools for example ITT.
* I suggest that breakout panels ALWAYS leave attendees with a new and useful skill. For example, I am interested in learning how to do things, how to access resources, how to develop myself professionally. Many of the breakout sessions were all talk and little takeaway value.
* I think it would be really great to have at least one breakout session or track that focused on how to make changes at the university to make it more inclusive of veterans.
* I think the content was great for both people looking to further their chapter and also themselves.
* I think there should be something to do with Administration. In many of the sessions, it seems like there is a breakdown between college administrators and student veterans. It would be helpful to do something that helps college administrators learn how to better serve/communicate with student veterans, as well as help student veterans navigate their school's administration and speak in their language.
* I thought you cover about everything- you have enough session
* I was a guest with the Paralyzed Veterans of America, paving access for veterans employment program.
* I was indifferent to these themes and have nothing to compare them to.
* I would appreciate more information for community colleges.
* I would like to a workshop that is geared to club adisers. I would also like to see a workshop on on S.T.E.M Careers, in particular Cyber Security. With more than 200,00 jobs vacancies nationwide and 35,000 in California alone we should be addressing theses opportunities with our student veterans. I would like to be a part of putting a workshop like this together and also the advisor workshop.
* I would like to have less selection. It was hard to make a choice.
* I would like to see a breakout track on student veterans of color and there journey into higher education and the barriers they face specially at predominantly white institutions.
* I would like to see breakout sessions focused on leadership and developing leadership skills.
* I would like to see more sessions focused on personal development, best practices of the individual, and advice to be a successful go getter.
* I would like to see something focusing on Community College as they are very different your big 4 year schools.
* I would love to hear a motivational speech by a fired up Marine Corps Gunny that inspires me to except nothing less than living life to my full potential.
* I'd like information that helps align MOS codes to course prerequisites or waivers, and how different campuses are addressing streamlining placement of veterans into courses coming out of service and also transferring from 2-year to 4-year institutions. (Research and Higher ed track) Maybe a background on what's out there, what is able to be used, and how instiututions are using the information to make good placements into courses and internships.
* I'd like to see further insights of similar topics. (beyond introductory level)
* I'd like to see more on marketing tracks, and also on service project opportunities for our local chapters.
* In the future, I would hope for more breakout session time slots with fewer options each session. During each breakout, there were several sessions I would have liked to attend and feel I missed important information from those that I could not attend due to overlap.
* Interview prep would be a great topic.
* Interviewing skills, appropriate work dress, more diversity topics
* It is really a shame that there aren’t more break out sessions dedicated to women veterans in higher education and how their needs are different, panels that allow successful women veterans to come in and talk about advocacy and support. Women veterans represent 27% of the veterans in higher education and that number will only grow.
* It was hard to pick one break out session on one day and other days would be easy and also sponsors would have sessions and would not be on the app or calendar so maybe add that
* Longer or more opportunity for discussion with presenter and availability of literature on the topic.
* Maintain Chapter Management track. Important for ideas to spread and take back to campus. I would also host Regional networking time for us to organize by geography and maybe collaborate more. Too hard to find eachother among 2,000 people.
* Many of the sessions seemed more like high-pressure sales pitches. This type of ethos should cease immediately. Also, some of the speakers seemed more like "Look at how great I am", instead of "How can I help you, the veteran."
* Mental health
* Military dependents, I'm a Gold Star wife and know that I'm in the majority but think that including Gold Star families in SVA makes sense.
* Military Education Benefits
* More breakout session options the first day— so i can go to more sessions and not have to only go to a few. Didn’t have enough ppl from a school to cover everything
* More breakouts on networking on campus outside of veteran groups. Leveraging university alumni networks
* More career sessions and on-hands scholarship for student veterans
* more chapter management.
* more diverse majors such as healthcare and STEM programs. Would also like to see something that helps with transferring skills from military experience to current job markets and majors.
* More diversity & inclusion! Or more diversity & inclusion in the other series. Such as under Advocacy-improving access & healthcare options for women veterans, etc.
* more financial readiness and letting us know of our benefits and opportunities
* More focused on the student veterans and understanding their benefits so we can go back and help others
* More networking opportunities on a greater scale (wider variety)
* More on interviewing and negotiating salary
* more on social media and how to use it.
* More sessions about how to strengthen SVAs and maximize their power.
* More sessions for those working with student veterans in higher education. Know this is slightly contrary to focus of conference, but could pay huge dividends on campuses.
* More sessions on entrepreneurship, both beginner and advanced level.
* More STEM programs/partners.
* More student to student interaction and activities to be able to see who different chapters do things in order to get new ideas for our chapter
* More time for chapter improvements. Try to theme certain hours towards certain sessions. There were 3 cases of wanting to attend a personal professional development session, but also wanted to be in a best practices session
* More time reserved for affinity communities to meet, e.g. reserving a room for women veterans or LGBTQ veterans to meet and mingle. Look at what the Grace Hopper Conference has done with lunches/meeting times for very specific affinity groups.
* My only complaint is that I wish I had more opportunity to attend multiple sessions at the same time. Is there any way we can get a list of the panelists and/or the information (slides) shared at NATCON? I know many student veterans have been asking about how they can get the information.
* NatCons seem to be focused only on Active duty. There needs to be more of Gaurd, Reserve and Dependent information. How about something on stopping the stigma "I served on active duty for three years but I was never in combat so I not a veteran."
* Need a track for advisors
* Need more companies/businesses geared more for political science majors. It is mostly only financial and tech companies.
* Networking is easy when you already know everyone. I recommend more thought into networking for those of us who didn't know everyone already.
* No other suggestions at this time
* Non-traditional education such as construction, mechanics, trucking companies (drivers; there is a shortage, dispatchers) these are also very inportant jobs that do not require 4 year degrees. I noticed that a lot of the companies that attended were financial, investment, and consulting. While there is nothing wrong with these types of companies, there were also a lot missed. There were no medical fields (human and animal) represented, I know the government shut down casued some empty booths, T-Mobile should have spoken as a representative of the telecomminications companies to show what else they have to offer other than just selling phones and customer services calls.
* Not all that attend NAT CON are military veterans, some of the attendees are also veteran spouses and dependents. It would be beneficial to acknowledge this in break out session topics that are offered, in addition to the ones that are veteran specific.
* On the diversity side it feel that there sould be more for students at the community college level. over the years I have seen a greater attendence of community colleges yet most thing are driven towards the University level.
* Other sciences than just engineering/computer sciences.
* Perhaps I missed this one but a focus on fundraising and working within your school system beyond the alumni panels to a more expert level would be useful.
* Photography and video 101: how to take better footage of the organization and activities and some apps/cameras/tips/tricks to make it easier for the social networking aspect.
* Professional Development and Networking
* Projects that schools have done out reach in.
* Reaching out to Active duty TA students for mentoring
* Research and Development panels as well as panels on creating a plan for graduate school or not attending graduate school.
* Resume and interview prep. Dressing for success. Networking advice
* Resume review or some interview practice
* ROTC programs and BAH issues
* SBA and what they do for veterans.
* Seeking employment in academia, marketing your chapter, and crisis communication
* Self identifying and acclimatizing freshman year.
* Sessions for family members of veterans
* Something else that would be helpful is learning how to set up some of these great programs at our own Universities and who may be willing to help and advocate for them since as students and teachers we are all very busy.
* Starting a Chapter or Reviving a low performing chapter
* Suicide Preventative leadership and training (Interactive)
* Talk about the Community Veteran Engagement Boards across the Nation that the VA-VEO office is partnered with.
* The transfer students really would have helped me getting into my college right now because being active duty I feel like I get lost in the sauce when it comes to advisement. LOVED having grad students and alumni, helped me realize my potential if they did it before me
* There are so many subject matters that could be of benefit, it is difficult to narrow down; however, I would suggest SVA Leadership take a good look at what Breakout Sessions are being offered before they design their General Sessions so not to be so offensive and dismissive to those they are there to serve
* There is a huge lack of representation to a large portion of student veterans at this conference. If you are not going into business, finance, or engineering, most of the sessions really weren't useful to you. Seeing more diversity in the sessions to include students in other fields such as medical/health/veterinary science, politics/law, language/communications, chemistry/biology/environmental sciences, etc. would make the whole conference so much more appealing to a larger group of veteran students.
* There should be something oriented towards business appropriate attire. I saw so many people dresses in clothing not for any type of work. Maybe show concrete examples of what looks appropriate for business formal and business casual giving a high end and low end budget
* There was not much that centered on people working at colleges that advise the veterans. While I realize it is a conference for student veterans, many college require a staff member to travel with the students if they are traveling on college money. There should be more sessions for them to learn how to assist veterans. Maybe had panels of veteran students or alumni saying what they wish colleges would do to assist them.
* There were too many this year, but very diverse. It is hard to strike a balance. More on how to get schools to listen to students and the power they have as students (ability to go to President, legislature, leadership on campus, etc.) This was touched on some this time.
* Town Hall for us veterans to bring up issues that we are confronted with that the SVA can help promote along with the affiliate organizations
* Tracks with larger rooms for topics that get filled by online registration and consider those that didn't sign up.
* transitioning from military to student life. How to balance school/family/military, and succeed.
* Unique program offerings on campus that supports the success of the student.
* USA jobs
* Useful information for growing a chapter and not just career assistance.
* value of a veteran.
* Veteran Physicians!!! Their transition from Military-to-Med School! And Medical Schools!
* veterans in higher office. GOP Veterans
* VSO/Community Resource track
* Workshops: Like applying for voc rehab
* Would be nice to select the track with one click to see which sessions were applicable.
* would like to see a more active presence by VA.

# Appendix 7: What was the most beneficial thing for you about the conference? What was the least beneficial thing for you about the conference? What topics or speakers would you recommend for next year’s national conference? (Open Ended Responses)

* A few things here and there that I learned along with guidance and advice from guest speakers. I would like to hear about things that you don't normally hear as far as benefits go for veterans and what loops holes there might be. Otherwise, it was educational and motivational to see all these veterans have have been there and done that.
* A first-time attendee mixer the night of or before general assembly. I met so many first-time attendees and feel that it would have been beneficial if we were able to meet in one centralized location before everything kicked off. After speaking with some of the other SVA attendees my idea was popular.
* A lot of useful information, feeling of inclusion. Least beneficial was networking. Since I'm looking to do dental school in the future, as soon as people heard that, they didnt see a reason to invest networking with me. It would be nice to have more graduate programs including things such as nursing, med, dental, vet, etc rather than just graduate schools. After the first few people, I realized there was no point to try and network with the companies there.
* Alfred K. Flowers, Betty Moseley Brown, Mitchelene BigMan, Founder and President of the Native American women Warriors.
* All four of our students got internships or job offers on the spot. Amazing.
* All good with sessions and networking with other Veterans. I did not like that the resort went dark at an early hour, we had some amazing networking going on.
* All the breakout sessions I attending were extremely useful and insightful. The Travis Manion Foundation had the best presentation. Everything was super beneficial to me.
* All the information about how to make our local chapter so much more successful.
* All topics and speakers were good. Everyone did what they were expected to do. I thought it was nice how the hotel set up the food carts. It was never a long line to get your meal. But they were removing the carts before it was scheduled. Breakfast did not have any meat, just eggs and pastries. Which was okay with me, but!
* Alway Ryan Pitts. Maybe Mathis.
* As a chapter advisor and campus advocate it was helpful to see the multitude of resources available that we can implement on our campus. The most impactful session for me was presented by PyscArmor. With the information learned in that session I am confident that we can produce a robust training session for our campus partners so they can better understand our military and veteran students
* As a first time attendee, it was great to network with other companies who're actively engaged in military/veteran hiring.
* As an employee who does not advise the chapter, the conference did not have much for me. I did attend a few sessions but they were often overcrowded. The students who I accompanied did enjoy the conference and felt they got a lot out of it but they also complained about the overcrowding in the rooms. I think that more workshops for college employees need to be added for those who have to accompany students. I think a student panel that lets college employees know what veterans need would be helpful since often colleges decided what is needed without consulting the students they are serving and it is not was is actually needed.
* As stated before, would recommend more robust track with additional options for those working with student veterans on campuses.
* As the only attendee from my company, I was challenged in being able to participate in multiple breakout sessions in which I was interested. That just goes to show that the topics were compelling.
* Attending interesting breakout sessions was most beneficial.
* Beneficial: I enjoyed connecting with people that, like me, have a growing interest in improving their student veteran interaction and evolution. Least Beneficial: Standing room only in breakout sessions Last minute cancellation of breakout sessions The absence of financial assistance for attendees Future recommended topics: How to use SVA as a resource Training for new advisors
* Beneficial: Networking and seeing examples of how active SVA chapters operate. Least: There weren't any breakout sessions about struggling chapters or reviving struggling chapters.
* Beneficial: networking Do a breakout session for fundraising and recruitment since that is what most campuses have issues with.
* break out sessions and SVA campus
* Breakout sessions were the most beneficial. Least beneficial was the fact that there were limited seating areas.
* Bringing first time students to the conference. Lack of topics/speakers of inclusion Women Veteran organizational leaders such as the president of Women Marines Association, Veterans of Color organizational leaders, such as National Naval Officers Association Colin Powell,
* Building network with different students across the country was the most beneficial for me during this conference. The least beneficial for me, but I know not for other students, was the actual job fair. I'm a nursing major and would like to see representation from hospitals for those interested in healthcare.
* Bunker Labs and Navy Mutual were the best two break out sessions
* Campus was the most beneficial. Not enough tables. Get more sponsorship and table interactions (networking at tables). There were times I would go by a table and nobody was there. More discussions from Federal and State benefit officers.
* Cannot say what was least beneficial
* Career development and financial literacy are the most important to me
* Career session using linkedIn and resume ideas
* Chris Gage
* Diversity and Inclusion but from the veterans stand point on how to understand and address it within a work or school enviorment
* Even more networking (teaching how to) and panels.
* Every aspect of this conference was helpful. I brought back several concepts that can change the exposure of SVA on my campus. Talk to college officials and they liked what I had to say and It maybe implemented. It will help me leave the college a better place for student veterans in the future.
* Every session I attended was useful. Snacks and refreshments were very helpful in reducing out of pocket costs and providing breaks. I learned a lot from the sessions and found alot of resources to further my education and career with it. The only thing I was disapointed about was that I did not get to interact with all the vendors I wanted to learn about. There was not enough time with the break out sessions. I found myself trying to decide between sessions and vendor information. The SWAG was great. The people from PAVE,Washington Center, Emery University, Google, and Syracuse have been the main ones sticking in my mind as far as opportunities and enthusiasm.
* Everyone got what they came there for. I received guidance on upgrading my discharge. I was able to lead a session. Least beneficial was being not getting enough sleep. I would recommend more inviting breakout sessions. The long panels were long.
* Finding the LinkIn app was very helpful. Some of breakout sessions got off topic and was very distracting. The Amazon Air representative was very relate-able and inspiring.
* Finding your tribe. I don't remember the speaker's name at the moment but I'd highly recommend him again!
* For next year I would recommend a focus on veteran success stories, on family members, and on becoming truly inclusive - rather than throwing the word around like it means something. I was sitting in on a panel and heard someone behind me complain about 'dependas' so I can tell you from personal experience that y'all did not reach your inclusivity goals. I am so appreciative of the push to do better and accommodate the changing identities of our military, but perhaps asking those people what they need, and giving them agency to contribute would have made the event more successful.
* Getting information on useful subjects such as scholarships and helping struggling students out was extremely beneficial in not only helping myself better navigate through my education/career field, but to also have new tools/resources to help other veteran students. The sessions geared towards community colleges and helping clubs out were also very beneficial. The least beneficial thing for me about the conference was the overall lack of applicable sessions to attend. Since I am not a business, finance, technology/engineering major, most sessions were not beneficial to me in any way. Even on sessions I thought would be beneficial, they somehow focused more on those students and their success. At the next NatCon, it would be wonderful to see more diversity in the sessions for differing majors (i.e. health sciences/veterinary science), more vendors geared towards different types of careers, and more organization to how the actual session tracks are set up.
* Good: Amazon pilot two medal of honor recipients
* Guidance on chapter programming was most beneficial.
* Have celebrities/politicians/business leaders that are actually veterans, not related to veterans become speakers - there are tons of them. This will establish a greater amount of credibility to the conference.
* Having the opportunity to talk directly with companies that I may have the chance to work with in the future was the most beneficial for me, along with a few specific breakout sessions that I was able to gain knowledge from.
* How to navigate parenthood while obtaining your education maximizing your resources and veteran network.
* I accidentally answered this is another question. But what I took away from this is that even thought I’m active duty and I’m struggling to make it to class, make it to PT, go to work and then make enough to do homework, I am still a young professional and that people value what I have to say. Not being the typical college student I sometimes downgrade what I have to offer but this experience showed me that there are extremely successful veterans out there and being 25 I am not behind the curve
* I appreciated the advocacy and networking. I gained a lot of insight and encouragement from the breakout sessions.
* I appreciated the whole thing.
* I asked about resources for veterans who see a future in an artistic space, and stumped everyone on the panel. I was so pleasantly surprised to see the NYTimes there, but I know tons of veterans who want to do writing, film, theater, directing, art, etc - and those are really difficult professional contacts to make. I know fortune 500 financial powerhouses are popular with many vets, but I wonder if there's any interest in trying to foster a more substantial space for veterans who are on a different - more artistic - path?
* I cannot express how much I loved seeing Jared Lyons, Jamie Grace Hyder, and the Google team: Charlene Clee and James Durago. However, I would recommend having different career fields attend the conference, because as I said before, I did not feel like there was anything offered in the health care field besides insurance.
* I can't say anything wasn't beneficial, but I wasn't interested in the other colleges represented.
* I did a lot of networking for my students and myself. Was able to bring back a great deal of information for my SVA club for those who couldn't come. I think the advisers need to be free (or at least reduced) our registration fee takes away from my students registration funding.
* I feel that the most beneficial thing about the conference is the networking with other institutions. This helps all the chapters get a view of what other chapters are doing to better the educational experience for their population.
* I found the General Sessions to be the most engaging as well as the most broadly applicable to what I do in my current role. Additionally, I found great value in the networking opportunities available at this conference. I was very impressed with the involvement of the exhibitors/partner's participation beyond just the exhibit hall.
* I found the most beneficial information to be the personal leadership development sessions and the networking with other SVOs. For me personally, the least beneficial part was the Research Track Breakout session I attended. However, I think for those at NatCon in other roles, this session would be very beneficial. I would love to see Kyle White and Ryan Pitts return and speak.
* I found the most beneficial thing about this conference was the amount of networking availability with different companies and schools. I loved the ease with which I could network and save their contact information through the app. I am excited about next year's conference in LA.
* I like least that I took a photo but never received it. I would like it see some of the sessions offered more than one at various times.
* I like the sense of community and unity that the SVA provided for students. I saw a lot of students taking advantage of all the opportunities that could further their careers.
* I love the way in which this conference gets my students excited about effecting change and understanding the benefits of networking, long term thinking and the importance of mentorship.
* I loved this conference. If I had to choose something to change, it would be that sometimes I was conflicted about which session to attend. And, I really needed a little more time with the many employers, educators, and veterans groups in the Hall.
* I mentioned in another question that it would be helpful to provide an Industry overview session. You could have Company Sponsor do a 15 min overview of their industry such as Energy, Financial Services, etc.
* I met actual hiring managers from major companies that exposed me to career fields within my major that I never considered exploring before I attended the conference. I would recommend having more representatives on hand from the Veterans Administration who can explain the various programs available to student veterans.
* I networked with companies, and helped me secure an out of state internship.
* I personally benefited from the opportunity to network more than anything. The information provided for the Chapter Track has also helped my chapter a great deal.
* I really appreciated the networking, especially Raytheon's "outing" at Animal Kingdom. I did not appreciate how it was so impersonal though. I don't believe the vendors were looking for specific hires, they just wanted to fill numbers. The guy at the Disney booth even told me that on the first night. He also said I needed more of a specialization (imagine telling a veteran this at a veteran's event, who has two master's degrees). That was a hard realization. After the conference that recruiters were paid to be at, they would go home and get their paychecks. I was ready to be hired; signed up on company websites prior to conference, applied for specific jobs online prior to and during the conference, brought printed resumes, handed out business cards and spoke to all of the companies yet I left unemployed. Perhaps I was oozing desperation. I heard SO many no's.
* I really enjoyed meeting other minority veteran advocates and people whose post-service work aligns with mine. As a social science researcher, meeting people whose work I have cited was incredible. The least beneficial thing was being reminded that the veteran community is still a male-dominated, male-centric, white, christian community. As an MST survivor, I have difficulty interacting with so many men who claim to advocate for me but fail to make me feel seen or heard. I am also very uncomfortable with the constant use of "combat vet" to prioritize service. We need to look out for the whole community and not create divides and barriers that have no bearing on our continued service as students and leaders in our communities.
* I really enjoyed the 5K fun/run and meeting all kinds of people from all across America!
* I really think this conference helps me talk to people and build my confidence in just having conversations about my future. I think that for me, hearing so much from corporate representatives in unhelpful because that's not necessarily my area of interest, but I understand their support for SVA is indispensable. I would like to hear more about the veteran identity and maybe how others may struggle with balancing who they've been and what they've done with who they'd like to become and do, without being seen by themselves or others as only one thing.
* I think it was great how you brought so many people together. I truly took so much from this conference. The one thing I noticed in the conference was there wasn't enough information for student veterans on how to deal with college administrators. College administrators and student veterans are speaking different languages which can impede their work together. If more content on how to bridge this divide is provided in the sessions, I think it would greatly benefit the student veterans. I ended up speaking for an hour to a group of student veterans after a session giving them suggestions on how to better communicate with their administrators to get what they need. It would be great to see that happen on a wider range.
* I think meeting with the minority veterans of America was very beneficial. I think providing us with a space to network with student veterans from around the country is the best part of NATCON. I would like to see more speakers that focus on student veterans of color and diversity and inclusion efforts to make more equitable for this population of students.
* I thought the SVA Campus was the most beneficial thing about the conference. The least beneficial thing might have been a few of the break-out sessions not providing enough information for the topic advertised. I did provide a few topics earlier in this survey.
* I thought this conference was the best on I have attended. You had a lot more workout session. Keep like this one.
* I understand that there is a dress code, I did my best to dress in an acceptable way. I am 100% disabled veteran and because of my disability t can cause issues with the clothes I can wear comfortably. I was told, at one point, by SVA staff that I needed to go back to my hotel and dress in something more acceptable and come back. I have a external bag that Inhave wear because of my Crohn’s Disease. I felt singled out, embarrassed, and mistreated by this. I would suggest that you take into consideration at future events that: some folks can’t wear certain types of clothing because not all disabilities are obvious. I would suggest that you refresh SVA staff with this knowledge. Also, understand that not all people were staying in the conference hotel, so taking a ten dollar Uber back to your room to change and take a ten follower Uber back isn’t going to work finanacially corn soem folks. Thank you.
* I was able to engage with other school representatives, learn about resources, and gain information from the breakout sessions. Majority of the information was repetitive and geared towards students. Have more variety in topics for school representatives ex: leadership roles in higher ed, mental health awareness, student affairs engagement, veteran student participation, and maybe more Q&A sessions about general topics with a general panel
* I was able to get a lot of useful ideas to help our small SVO on our campus. I was also able to connect with other schools who have had similar issues. I think the least beneficial thing for me personal was the social media breakout session. It was nicely presented, but it was not something I think I needed to attend.
* I was able to see the opportunities and programs we as veterans have available. The least for me may have been the tech stuff but there are others who are on that track.
* I was very impressed with the conference overall.
* I would have a Leadership Institute Alumni panel so more student vets apply the following summer. I would also highlight more business planning and constitution-strengthening for chapter continuity.
* I would have wanted to have some organized sessions for professionals only. I understand that this is the STUDENT Veterans of America, but there are professionals who attend and it would have been great to have time set aside for professionals.
* I would like to know more about the social worker, ptsd and also again older veterans in school now and employment opportunity.
* I would like to understand more about the intent and goal of SVA, where they want to be in the future, and how we can partner with them on that journey. If part of the goal is transition for veterans into a civilian job after college I'd love to see more corporation involvement in panel discussions or workshops to help them do that.
* Informational interviews with hiring managers in my career field. Meeting VA representatives that assisted with tasks I had been trying to complete for 6+ months via phone/email (name & address change) - tasks were completed in less than 30 mins at NATCON. These were huge successes for me professionally & personally.
* Interaction with employers and panelists was great! The app and email notifications were accurate and frequent. I did not want to opt-out of either to avoid critical information.
* It was all very beneficial. Learning from other chapters and all the vendors.
* It was an amazing and humbling experience. The most beneficial thing was the exposure to all of the other attendees. I would love a few sessions devoted to the civilian SVO experience. I would even love to present one!
* It would be good to see, and hear from some former "top-brass" for motivational speaking and leadership. It would serve all well if the aforementioned were men of color. Overall, my experience at NATCON 2019 was both positive and beneficial.
* Just the fact that organizations like SVA exist is a good thing; I find that they have done so much great work for Military returning to Civilian life; they just need to be aware of the demographic of those they server and be flexible enough to adapt to the ever-changing population ... do not repeat history, it never works
* Keynote speakers should consider to talk about veterans students issues and career.
* Least beneficial would be not enough for the many veterans attending community college.
* Least beneficial: Lack of water. We are group prone to dehydration with all the drinking and exercising, and whatnot.
* Least Beneficial: the workshop "Creating Impactful Partnerships: How to Accomplish More than a Logo Swap" ... This presentation only lasted 15 min and provided zero applicability, am not sure that it was beneficial to anybody to have this workshop...
* Least helpful was some of the breakouts were not correctly explained in the pamphlet.
* Least useful was the lack of employer partners compared to past conferences.
* Least: nothing. It was better than most professional conferences that I've attended.
* Less politicians and more Medal of Honor speakers at the banquet! Or at least give the politicians a time limit!
* Listening to the panels and speakers is my favorite part. Least beneficial was companies because I am in social work/psychology. Speakers next year? tammy duckworth or other females!
* Listening to the Psycharmor presentation about raising awareness through the use of their program was the quickest most actionable item for me this whole conference. For me personally the general sessions were least important because I prefer dealing with specific topics and being able to have a Q&A.
* Meeting other SVA leaders who are motivated to work. It was equally my least favorite. The motivating side is great and makes me want to go back to school and start working towards building the organization. On the other hand, motivating students--especially veterans--is hard and not everyone is there to be a "do-gooder" (as has been explained to me by our members). Some people just want to hang out and have a game/movie/drink/social night. They are hardworking students and don't want to or don't have time to be doing a fundraiser or service project, so participation is sparse if not difficult to work with.
* Meeting others. Signage was helpful in finding the appropriate session.
* Meeting the employers. Meeting new people. NASA and their speakers
* More breakout sessions for advisor best practices
* More in the way to help chapters grow and thrive in an ever changing environment.
* More topics that involve collaboration between students and administrators.
* Most beneficial thing: talking to student veterans and learning about issues. Least beneficial thing: partner panels. Would recommend more economic opportunity-based breakouts
* Most beneficial - meeting up with people from around the country with whom I usually only communicate online. Least beneficial - the heteronormative cis white male environment where in order to be on the general stage you have to be a white man unless you're there as the token. Topics and speakers - have an open and honest discussion in a general session about how to include LGBTQ, women, and veterans of color in SVA spaces. Find speakers who are veterans and underrepresented... if you need help finding them, ask on social media.
* Most beneficial - speaking to other chapter leaders/members,leadership institute alumni and college/company recruiters. Least beneficial - The app game. Topics - More of the same!
* Most beneficial for me was the networking
* Most beneficial is the connections from networking. Least beneficial, I can't think of anything.
* Most beneficial part of the conference was connecting with job opportunities, increasing cohesion with fellow cohorts/programs/schools, bringing knowledge to Veterans across the country. Least beneficial part was the breakout sessions this time around (as alumni), due to heavy recruiting efforts. I recommend topics in collaboration with current programs with schools. Also, possibly showcasing regional efforts with schools that have mentioned their abilities. Tools to jumpstart programs.
* Most beneficial thing was Networking opportunities.
* Most beneficial was attending the general sessions and the breakout sessions. The least beneficial thing was the close to 5 hours of nothingness from the time I picked up my badge and bag until the time the first breakout session started. All the speakers at the various breakout sessions I attended were very good presenters. The fact that I wish to return next year speaks volumes for me.
* Most beneficial was being able to speak with other about the stuff we do at UNLV with the school of social work.
* Most beneficial was the networking and gaining ideas to improve our school's SVO. There wasn't a least. I'd recommend more companies for the campus.
* Most beneficial was the networking and sessions attended. Least beneficial? I can't think of anything. I would like to see more leadership topics covered, and I would like to see Toastmasters represented.
* Most Beneficial: The ability to network Least Beneficial: Nothing Topics: More dealing with transition. Finding jobs, preparing for job searching, resume., interview prep, etc.
* Most beneficial: Breakout sessions and SVA Campus Least beneficial: General sessions
* Most Beneficial: Information about activities other universities and student chapters are doing successfully (I heard this throughout some of the workshops which was wonderful!)
* Most beneficial: Meeting student-veteran leaders!
* Most beneficial: Networking and exposure to employers Least beneficial:
* Most beneficial: Networking opportunities with other schools. Recommendations: Scheduled opportunities for chapter advisors to get together, whether a social and/or a roundtable breakout that has similar schools together sharing ideas (e.g. a table or two of community colleges, small 4-year schools, large 4-yr, private, etc.)
* Most beneficial: Networking with student veterans and organizations. Least Beneficial: Break out sessions only being offered once.
* most beneficial: the networking opportunity. least beneficial: honestly nothing...as far as future speakers i would like to see more federal leadership speakers.
* Most Beneficial-networking, best practices Least beneficial-magnitude of speakers Recommend-more free time for attendees and shorter banquet.
* Most Benefit: The opportunities to network, collaborate, and inspire others. Least Benefit: Hearing breakout sessions that fall short of expectations.
* Most helpful was building a chapter in a small school. Least beneficial were the “networking” event which were too loud to actually get any networking done in.
* Most- resources and data presented in some of the sessions. Second most- resources on the Campus Least- events I skipped- mostly social Friday and Saturday night. Dr. Richard Carmona, Former US Surgeon General under Bush administration, Navy Admiral. Started as enlisted and went to community college after and went to medical school and continued on. Very good for students to see in terms of persistence and pathway. Very relatable. good speaker. He spoke for our campus in 2016.
* Most useful to me was learning what other chapters did to help increase their membership as a community college. The least useful to me was the town hall because I thought it was going to be a lot more focus on the grassroots organizations, but there was mostly conversations about the forever GI Bill and topics that had already previously been discussed in other forums.
* Most useful was the way the campus was setup and organized.
* Most valuable would have to be the people I met (expanding my network) and was able to help (with various issues), and vice versa. Least beneficial would be down time. Honestly, I don't think I had a non-benificial moment while attending this conference well done. As for topics I would like to see more local advocation discussions, in order to help at the grown level.
* Most: getting to meet face to face with my recruiter from T-Mobile. Least: panels that lack diversity; panelists that are self serving and only there to promote themselves or their brand Topics or speakers: Gary Vaynerchuk, famous female CEOs More topics on business - Landing a 6 figure salary after your MBA, Salary negotiating, Women board members panel,
* Most: heard from my peers and student veterans what they have done to generate interest, advocate for themselves and be successful. App lists speakers and contract information for follow up. Least: Left a number of sessions frustrated because there was no time for questions / answers. Tried hanging around to engage speakers, but they were was often a line to speak with them and would have missed another session I wanted to attend.
* Most: learned about hiring practices and how the corporate world works. Least: some of those panelists were not experts...
* Most: The ability to network with other schools and learn about their programs. Least: Nothing.
* Most: The experience of being a top 10 nominee and meeting 2 Medal of Honor recipients and having intimate one on one conversations with them, as well as some of the other guests of honor and SVA partners. Least: The ESPN commentators didn't add much to the topic at hand, since not much military connections. Need more interactions with former SVA chapter leaders and winners. Secretary Bob McDonald is one of the most beneficial veteran advocates and mentors I have ever met. I highly suggest keeping him and getting into his network of veterans to attend/speak.
* Most: Witnessing and participating in such a collegial group of people from diverse backgrounds.
* My ability to meet with companies all present with a common goal - hiring veterans -was very helpful. It is my understanding that a desired outcome of the conference is to increase the communication and collaboration between academic and employer partners, I would be interested to know if this was achieved in a measurable or visible way or this requires more deliberate convening of these groups.
* N/A
* NATCON needs some presentations from the agriculture community and law enforcement. I represent many individuals that are keen on getting into these careers and they were missing out on a large portion of NATCON because they were not represented.
* Network ing
* Networking
* Networking - reconnecting with previous acquaintances, and meeting new ones
* Networking and the panels were very beneficial. It was good to be able to ask questions.
* Networking and the SVA campus were the highlights but some of the general session speakers were a close second, such as the medal of Honor recipients
* Networking is the most important. The evenings got awkward with business professionals wanting to network but so many student vets getting too drunk
* Networking opportunities were awesome, as were some of the professional development sessions. Least beneficial for me was dealing with people who felt that just because they had paid a registration fee, they could dominate the speakers' (and the captive audience's) time in breakout sessions with lame questions that were non-value added. I would like to see more focus on veteran activism/advocacy in the future.
* Networking was most beneficial.
* Networking was most beneficialI also like hearing about new research and data. More presentations on women and people of color in the military. Also more on disabled veterans
* Networking was the most beneficial. Most of the breakouts were targeted towards students (as they should be), so they weren't useful to me. But don't stop them, obviously. They serve a useful purpose.
* Networking with companies and schools.
* Networking with fellow VSO members and higher ed people was the most beneficial. General sessions were the least(glorified commercials). I want to see more POC, womxn, LGBTQ+, different eras and experiences.
* Networking with other chapters – best Disney tailgate - least
* Networking with other students and school faculty members was an important part of the conference. Speakers I recommend for next years NatCon 2020 are: Ryan Gallucci, garet Riley, Michael Rodriguez, Kristofer Goldsmith, Lauren Augustine, Kristina Keenan Mar
* Networking. Resources. Mental health
* Networking. The C-Suite and Hill town hall were both great
* none
* Please add resources for medical jobs
* Please provide any comments, recommendations, and/or suggestions for NatCon below:
* Psycharmor was amazing, as was Interstate Passport. I would recommend both again next year for those who missed it.
* Reach speaker would be Adam Driver.
* Really enjoyed the Employer session and one that I would love to mimic in our city and invite Industry leaders to attend to help educate and spread the message.
* Reconnecting with friends was great. Making new connections with companies and other organizations was very valuable. Tom Allin was great at the Leadership Institute but he told me no one has contacted him from SVA since the event. Let's bring him back.
* Some of the breakouts were bad and some were great. There were none that ruined the event.
* The advocacy session
* The amount of knowledge and networking
* The best thing for me was the opportunity to have three student veterans accompany me to the conference.
* The breakout session in regards to veterans pursuing law degrees. The panel of veterans who had gone through it and were able to relay their stories in order to guide other veterans was extremely helpful in my personal education goals.
* The breakout sessions about being a Disabilities Service Liaison, collaboration between the VA DSL and Student Success, the resume workshop, if the speakers for the VocRehab were able to come next year since they had to cancel that session
* The camaraderie!! I love all the love we have for each other.. The breakout sessions were amazing and truly inspirational. The information brought back and shared by each of my team members has been endless. To name specific speakers that I thoroughly enjoyed: Eric Gage, Sarah Skelton, Chris Rolph, Margaret Riley, Mark McKenna, and, of course, Jared Lyon. Thank you again for a wonderful event!
* The chance to highlight student veterans across the country was the most beneficial. To see what chapters are doing and how our chapter compares. To network and get out of our silos.
* The connections that I made during the conference was the most beneficial. The least beneficial thing about the conference was some of the speakers in the general session didn't seem to come prepared.
* The diversity speaking was repetitive and annoying. The smaller groups were great. The networking event on Thursday was terrific.
* The Don't Ask Don't Tell breakout session
* The exhibit hall resources were the highlight for me. I had no negative experiences.
* The general session with the employers/ universities in the main Coronado Conference room. Many connections made and relationships cultivated
* The least beneficial aspect was the lack of communication from the SVA booth. I tried to talk to them twice and got completely ignored.
* The least beneficial experience was the lack of breakout sessions for employers. It would be beneficial to have 1 or 2 breakout session to teach employers about military experience on a resume and how to decipher it. Or a session on what employers need to know about student veterans. It can be an educational two-way street.
* The least beneficial thing for myself was the lack of variation in companies that were present to network with. The majority of companies that were present for networking focused around financial, IT, security and technology; there was a lack of other companies in healthcare, social work, and or other areas of focus.
* The least beneficial thing was that I plan on pursuing a career in the health care field, and the closest thing to it in the conference was insurance.
* The least beneficial thing was the constant corporate advertisements disguised as panels or discussions. I appreciate that SVA was sponsored by many companies and that these things could not happen without that sponsorship - but I came to learn about student veteran leaders. I didn't come to learn about Kathy from Google's HR. I didn't come to listen to two hours of an "inclusion panel" that's actually just a talk about how a corporation has hired veterans.
* The least beneficial was the restriction of companies to being engineering fields. Bring in other sciences
* The most beneficial about the conference is hearing and listing to what other schools are doing with Veterans on campus and the programs they are offering in the break out sessions. The least beneficial thing about the conference would be that some of the break out session seem like they were trying to push the up and coming class on business.. No hand out material like you need money, loan to start a business this is how you get it etc. topics or speakers I would recommend would be veterans in higher office. All across America our leaders are lacking big time and Veterans are the best fit for the job.
* The most beneficial experience was the amount of students, the networking and the volume of breakout sessions and activities to attend.
* The most beneficial part of NatCon were the other student veterans who attended. They are the heartbeat of this conference. I can't tell you what speakers I could recommend, but use this year to learn how to be thoughtful in diversity and inclusion.
* The most beneficial part was being able to network and connect with the Australian SVA and learn about my study abroad opportunity. I enjoyed the women forums, it gave me a better insight on my own personal struggles being a female veteran.
* The most beneficial pieces were the Campus and the research breakout sessions. I would like to see more research topics at the next conference.
* The most beneficial thing about the conference for me was the networking opportunities and the information provided by the panelist. Due to the amazing information and the messages provided by the panelist I ended up changing my degree when I returned home and am now going to pursue graduate school. The least beneficial thing about the conference was the inability/ cost to go offsite to attend socials and whatnot due to lack of vehicles for others. I would not recommend any speakers because you guys seem to be doing a great job choosing speakers on your own.
* The most beneficial thing about the conference was being able to scout out the best sessions before the conference so that everyone attending from my chapter could maximize the entire experience. The least beneficial thing about the conference was all the financial institutions booths in the SVA Campus. I would like to see more topics about improving student veterans on a holistic level.
* The most beneficial thing about the conference was the breakout sessions on improving your chapter. It gave our entire group a better understanding on how to run our chapter. The least beneficial was the first breakout session (discussed earlier in the survey). Definitely would love to see more help with professional development and longer breakout sessions for improving your chapter.
* The most beneficial thing about the conference was the opportunity to meet other awesome student veterans and leaders and to hear their stories and their successes.
* The most beneficial thing for me about the conference was gathering some ideas and inspiration on what I can do to help my SVA chapter. The least beneficial thing for me about the conference was honestly the time at which the event took place right before our own Spring Semester started in which I know that can vary for numerous people. I honestly don’t have any recommendations for other speakers or topics.
* The most beneficial thing for me about the conference was getting to network with fellow student veterans from all over the United States and reuniting with my Class of 2018 Leadership Institute cohorts. The other beneficial thing for me was the free professional headshots. The least beneficial thing for me about the conference was staying off campus at an Air BnB and the negative attitude of my fellow SVA Chapter leaders who came with me from my school. I would recommend more Professional Development topics and speakers who are excellent at networking.
* The most beneficial thing for me about the conference was networking with other school administrators & Student Veteran program coordinators, etc. I love being able to share experiences, learn new ideas, be challenged, in order to continue to serve our students the best. It was also great to watch the bonding & relationship building that our students had with each other & with students from other schools. And the Business Partner Panel on Saturday at 3pm was stellar!
* The most beneficial thing for me at this conference was the networking and SVA campus.
* The most beneficial thing for me was learning more about the Voc Rehab benefits. I am utilizing this benefit and realized I did not know enough about it. This means that there are veterans out there who have no idea what is offered to them.
* The most beneficial thing for me was that this conference existed, I got to learn more about SVA and what it has done for me, and that I got the experience to see SVA as a whole instead of my chapter alone. I also really thought having breakfast and lunch provided helped me a lot financially.
* The most beneficial thing for me was the networking and the conversations surrounding opportunity instead of obligation. Veterans bring a lot of value to education and the work force. It was nice to see that being so openly emphasized. I also appreciated the use of "sisters and brothers" semi replaced or interchanged from "brothers and sisters". I felt that the conference was inclusive for the female identified population and perhaps bringing more of that to our other marginalized groups as well for the future.
* The most beneficial thing was being able to get deeply immersed in everything the SVA has to offer. The opportunity to mix and mingle and learn about the different opportunities was so invigorating that the buzz is still felt today. I really learned what being a part of the SVA can do not only for me but for my other fellow veterans. Speakers that I recommend, Marcus Luttrell or Omar Avila (he isn't a speaker per se, but his story and how he carries on now is extremely powerful and motivating) His Instagram handle is crispy11b.
* The most beneficial thing was connecting with so many veterans that had similar questions that I had. The least beneficial was having to wear a collared shirt during breakfast...inrwccomend all speakers. No matter I have going on, other speakers may be beneficial to other students.
* The most beneficial thing was learning from employees about the different jobs available to veterans. Mentors are present. Least beneficial was the tailgate.
* The most beneficial thing was the ability to bring a large number of student veterans to the conference. I'm glad we were able to get more students to drink the kool-aid and be inspired to serve in leadership positions on campus.
* The most beneficial thing was the networking and the niche topics.
* The most beneficial thing was to gauge how the conference operated, to establish if attending again would be beneficial for the amount of money that was involved in order to attend.
* The most beneficial things for me about the conference, were the Small Business, Entrepreneurship, VocRehab, and the many of the employers that was there. Meeting veterans from all over the United States and from different colleges and did feel like I was a stranger. They all were excellent speaker, but I can't remember their names.
* The most beneficial was the ability to network, the least helpful was the social work breakout. I would love to see speakers talking about the importance of mental health and also speakers to explain to social work students the best way to reach out for help for research.
* The most beneficial was the networking opportunities. I really dont have a least beneficial everything that was presented had great value.
* The most beneficial were the sessions on chapter management, the session about writing a personal statement for grad school, and the campus. The lease beneficial were some of the speakers at the general session talking about their transition out of the military. It seems that most of the speakers who talked about transitioning to civilian life at the general sessions were officers. I believe that everyone might face hardship when transitioning whether they were enlisted or officer. However, the enlisted transition is different from officer transition. It would have been nice to hear about transitioning out of the military from previously enlisted personnel.
* The most disappointing (or least beneficial) thing for me was the last of diversity & inclusion at the General Session 1: Diversity & Inclusion and the Honors Award banquet. Kiersten Downs did a great job of opening the session and then it felt like the rest of it missed the mark. I have seen a lot of the work SVA has done & improved change around the issue of diversity & inclusion but this session did not meet my expectations at all. I also gave a lot of feedback previously in this survey regarding the Honors Award Banquet but to reiterate I felt that there were too many speakers, no diversity, & the program went on way too long.
* The networking opportunities with all of the information that was available was incredible. I really don't think there was anything that wasn't beneficial.
* The networking socials/opportunities were extremely beneficial. Since we have a lot of companies that attend, how about host a “how to be vet friendly company” break out session. A lot of companies say “we are vet freiendly and love vets” but can’t tel you how they are or what they do for veterans.
* The opportunity to network with a diverse group and pick their brains for their knowledge and experiences. Lack of additional defense contractors in non-Stem fields felt detrimental. Attempt to bring in a rep from Defense Language Institute to further appraise Vets on taking DLPTs to enhance their marketability.
* The opportunity to speak with other chapters and learn from their successes and shortcomings.
* The resume workshop by google as well as the business panel were very useful. However, I did not get much out of the scholarship breakout session.
* The resume. I was able to interview with a few companies while at the conference and enjoyed learning about more opportunities. The network alone is worth paying for this conference.
* The session by manhattan college
* The SVA Campus was most beneficial. The least beneficial was the some, not all, of the sessions.
* The SVA Campus was very beneficial to me. I wish there were more exhibitors though. I really enjoyed the conferences about bettering myself financially and socially.
* the topic of VSO and working on the Hill, I found very useful
* The topics I recommend for next year's national conference is of minorities. About scholarships and fellowships available for Veterans. Also, a more accurate description of what the topics being discussed will be about. Some of the panels I attended were discussing things that were not part of the description.
* The two best breakout sessions I attended were the Vocational rehab session and the LinkedIn session. They were fantastic. The campus recruiting event was great too. I would strongly encourage you to invite Robert Morris University President Chris Howard as a speaker at the next NatCon2020. He is a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel who has made developing the veteran center as one of his primary missions at the school. He has a Ted Talk on YouTube if you would like to know more about his personality. He is also connected to many of the veteran leaders at Syracuse.
* The usajobs.gov workshop was cancelled. This would have been beneficial in navigating federal jobs and applying.
* The vast amount of companies.
* The Veteran's Advocacy Breakout Session and networking were the most beneficial.
* The vocab rehab and using benefits overseas was the most beneficial. Definitely the medal of honor receipitants and the female pilot from Amazon were great guest speakers.
* The Voc-Rehab session. My Voc-Rehab counselor was impressed that there was a session about Voc-Rehab and I was able to educate her on SVA/CSVA and their mission.
* The Washington Center and MVPvets were willing to work with veterans immediately to give them opportunities. MVPvets Victoria Tucker and Jayson Gilberti were really enthusiastic towards helping vets. Speakers from Suffolk Community College did a great job presenting new ways to have chapters get more involved on there campus. Joseph J. Culoso was a great addition of being an alumni and promoting growth for SVA chapters into their community.
* The workshops, networking and several of the speakers were very beneficial
* There is ALWAYS a wealth of information and there's ALWAYS going to be something new to learn and take back to other veterans.
* There was so much information out there that doesn't always reach students. I loved learning how to better other peoples lives.
* Things that I would love to see in the next conference are things that can actually help struggling chapters versus the quaint chapters telling you what they did. For example of this I would say, holding workshops on constitutions and by laws and writing them. offer times on the scheduled that a schools delegates can opt to attend a team building event where they can have time to share what they learned with their other delegates or even conduct some school business with people helping showing resources they have used and etiquette of how to run said meetings etc, A class specifically designed to help write fund raising letters that can be taken back to their home institutions to get approved to go out to the business in town to try to get funding for the next years conference. The most beneficial break out session for me was the one that was with the library of congress. That project has become our big out reach event to close this school year. I do wish that SALUTE and PAVE had an actual break out session vs just in the room.
* Topics I would recommend would be those that also focus or could would be beneficial to attending students that are Spouse/Dependent's of Veterans. While my husband served actively, spouses and dependent's also served on the home front, yet they seem to be greatly overlooked and under appreciated.
* Topics to cover should include resume and cover letter advice by those responsible for reviewing them, and also sector specific sessions (engineering, finance, hard sciences, etc)
* Topics: maybe some catered to bigger schools
* Visiting with organizations at the Campus.
* What was the most beneficial thing for you about the conference? What was the least beneficial thing for you about the conference? What topics or speakers would you recommend for next year’s national conference?

# Appendix 8: Are there any other comments or suggestions about the SVA Honors Award Banquet you'd like to share? (Open Ended Responses)

* A bit long, but great. Thank you
* A three hour banquet was far too long. During the first 90 minutes it seemed as though the speakers went very long just to cover time. There should only be one keynote speaker at a maximum of 30 minutes. Concentration over multiple speakers was difficult. Serving any food (bread) and then forcing a 90 minute wait for a banquet meal made the event feel as if being held captive just to get to the award portion.
* Also, I think it was incredibly disrespectful that some member of the audience thought it was appropriate to clap and cheer when Rep Takano said he was wrapping up his speech. I don't know if it's because he said he was gay, or he was a person of color, but as the chair of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs he has great power over every person in the room and that should be respected. At the very least someone should have come to the microphone to remind members of the audience to be courteous to all speakers, and a verbal apology to Rep Takano.
* Although much appreciated for their remarks, some of the speakers were very long winded..
* Are there any other comments or suggestions about the SVA Honors Award Banquet you'd like to share?
* Assigned seating by school would be good
* At the end of the dinner, the Disney staff started taking down the front stage while we were standing in line to meet Jared and have our picture taken. One of the tall light fixtures fell forward (towards us standing in line), where it could have hit us not to mention it triggered one veterans PTSD (guessing at the diagnosis, but he had a service dog with him) and he had to leave. Not only is rude for them to start taking apart the fixtures while we were still there and in line, it was clearly an OSHA violation. Someone should have been on the other side to ensure that it did not fall down and injure anyone physically or mentally.
* Attended the Banquet however; did not get to enjoy it there was no room for myself and students. We arived as everyone enter the room and was told that it was almost a max capacity and there were scattered seating. We chose to dine elsewere. Though I heard from other it was a good a usual. This was my 5th confrence. I was excited to see that many people attending so was not upset at all.
* Australian Student Veteran Association President - Returning to the point about women vets not having a space, there was room in the program for someone like the ASVA President but not room for women veterans to speak. This felt like a slap in the face.
* Being held at the doors and not being allowed entry upon arrival was off putting. Having the salads and desserts already placed was also off putting. Being told by the servers upon being seated to "hurry and eat the salad, because they were on a schedule to take them away and bring the main course" was reprehensible. The wine at the table, which consisted of 3 varieties was insufficient for the amount of people per table, especially if the majority had a preference for a specific variety. The salad was wilted from being placed at the tables for so long prior to having people arrive, the dessert which was milk based also was left setting out as long as the salad, and the dessert should not be present until after the main course, as per proper etiquette. The main course was very much lacking, many of the veterans at the table complained of the small potions that they were given. In all the meal provided as a whole was very poor.
* Being together as our school and with all the other attendees was a great start to the program. I felt that the program dragged on way too long. Our students were not engaged for most of the program. I was disappointed in the lack of diversity of the individuals that spoke. I know SVA has worked hard on diversity and inclusion but that was not reflected in the Honors Award Banquet. I would highly encourage organizations like the VFW to have their speaker be a young veteran in order to connect with the student veterans present. I know SVA may have suggested that but it seemed like such a missed opportunity. I think the transition presentation form the Medal of Honor recipients was not the right time & place. At that point, so many people had spoken that our students were not paying attention. One idea I have is have some speakers, give out the awards, have dinner, and then have dancing. I watched over the 3 days many of our students connect and bond with other students from different schools and I think doing something like dancing would have ended the conference on such a great, cohesive high note. Instead, it felt like people couldn't wait for it to be over. Not matter how much great information or how dynamic your speakers are, over 3 hours of being talked to is just too much.
* Congressman was grandstanding.
* Dinner could have had alot more food, some of the speakers used this as a platform for things that shouldn't have been brought up
* enjoyed it very much, got to wrap up with people i met over the weekend and make great connections. honestly the best banquet I've ever been to. (Jared is the best!!!)
* Fantastic event
* Food is always chicken change the menu
* Food was great. Presentations were excellent. Had a BLAST at the banquet!
* Food was OK and it took forever to come. Students were impatient and were not able to focus.
* For the most part the over all experiance was amazing. This was the first year i have attended Natcon. but some of the speakers are very long winded...
* Give a time limit to the speakers - VFW and Legion spoke way too long and the VFW speaker was so negative. I liked when the Cogressman went off script and spoke from the heart, but his speech went way too long as well. The Australian SVA rep was perhaps the best because it was genuine and brief. Also, while the panel was good, it was awkward for a banquet. It would have been better for a general session.
* Great closing event
* Have a program to follow along. We weren't served food until an hour after the program had started. This is a little long before eating, especially since there was wine on the table.
* Having more options for entrees would be nice. Vegetarians/vegans/those with food allergies to chicken really didn't get to eat much because that was the only entree available. The speakers and presentations were great, but the order in which things were done was a little odd. Starting with the national anthem before inviting everyone to eat would have been better.
* Host - At one point when the host was thanking the Australian Student Veteran Association for speaking, she said, "Your accent is really working for you." In a culture where we are working to diminish the pursuit and rape culture that have resulted in an epidemic of rape and sexual assault of service members on our hands, perpetuating this behavior in a place of leadership, no matter if it's a woman pursuing a man or vice versa, is completely unacceptable behavior.
* I enjoyed the entire night. My first NATCON and love it. Thank you!
* I had a difficult time attending the break out sessions due to room size and crowding.. I tried but couldnt sit through
* I just wish that there was a bit more to the food that was served.
* I loved having the Veteran of the Year nominees leading parts of the general sessions. The banquet was wonderful, but some student veterans were turned away due to not enough seating.
* I really appreciated the conversation with the gentlemen about transitioning and how that is an ongoing process for veterans. I like how the conversation was future focused for the audience.
* I really like the MC she was very authentic and kept a good pace
* I think it was wholly inappropriate that the head of the VFW was given the platform to say what he did. That was a politically motivated attack speech of views not held by everyone in the room. It was uncomfortable to have to sit there and listen to him, especially knowing how many women and people of color openly choose to not join his organization because of racism, sexism, homophobia, and misogyny. If you're going to talk about increasing numbers, talk about the ways that you're making your posts safer for everyone to join them.
* I think that some of the pre-dinner speeches during this year's Award Banquet were a little too lengthy and repetitive.
* I think the length of time between entering and eating was a bit long, and the redundancy of having two VSOs speak back to back may have made this more of an issue for me. I think the program would have been more impactful with just a few powerful speakers, instead of the many that spoke. I think the discussion with the Medal of Honor recipients, SSgt Pitts and Sgt White, was the most valuable part of the evening, and I would have liked to hear more from them. I think the program was just too long. Well-intentioned, and a meaningful celebration of student veterans but too long.
* I think you all really missed the mark here.
* I thought it was a great event.
* I was upset that there was not enough seating. The three of us who had to leave because there were no seats felt left out. Have assigned seats, have extra seating, or an overflow room. It was upsetting for the three of us to be turned away because we did not participate in the mad dash to the tables. This was very disappointing.
* I would have liked to hear more from the Medal of Honor recipients
* I would have the company breakout sessions listed on the application. I would also provide breakout sessions for employers on ways to collaborate and orginizations outside of SVA that can help recruit veterans. You could have your non-profits that have a talent acquisition arm speak along with others. Since most of the breakout sessions are for students, this would be a nice touch for employers.
* I would like to see/hear more current students, especially students of color or from other marginalized identities, talk about their experiences in college. I feel like I could relate more to those students than some guy that got a medal a while a go; especially if the conference was about "diversity and inclusion". I feel like I did not see a lot of diversity or inclusion at that conference, but it was a good first experience/SVA Conference nonetheless.
* I would love to see Jamie Gray Hyder again! She was a wonderful host, very genuine in her speech and personality, and overall amazing!
* I would serve the meal EARLIER. People arrived hungry and ready to eat after the formal opening. I would truncate the time allowed per speaker. You were losing your audience 90 min into the program. People were just tired.
* It felt it was kind of long with all the speakers and I think that the food was great, but small portion.
* It is always a great part of the weekend, but it's too long. After hearing people talk for 3 days I was pretty tired of it.
* It lasted longer than planned. Great speakers. Very impressed with the VFW Commander Lawrence and his speech.
* it seemed to drag on too long
* It was my first time attending this event. I particularly liked when the person talked about the lone table for one.
* It was okay but went way over time. The CIC from VFW turned it into a political rant and was completely uncalled for.
* It was so long. One of the congressman talked for sooooooooooooooo long. He was very nice and had great things to say but I think a lot of people just wanted to keep mingling on the last time. I think the best part was the guided conversation with the Medal of Honor recepients, Lyons is a great public speaker and it felt natural. Don’t get me wrong the awards were very nice, just sooooo long
* It was too long to wait to eat. Several of our members waited too long and were feeling sick by the time we finally ate.
* It was way too long and way too many speakers.
* Jared/Ryan/Kyle chat was awesome. Could have listened to them for hours. Fantastic!
* Length - We've got to find a way to make these shorter. Half of the dinner was outside smoking because the program had gone so long. Consider maybe doing corporate awards and moments for corporations at some other event where we don't have to be a part as participants.
* Limit individual speaker’s time, possibly using a red light, similar to comedy shows. A twenty to thirty minute politically-driven acceptance speech should never, EVER happen.
* Limit politician’s length on speaking.
* Limit the amount of time for award recipients to speak, and allot more time for guest speakers.
* Little bummed Carlos Caro didn't win!!
* Medal of Honor speakers and Jared was excellent
* More champagne please
* More food for dinner or an option for dinner besides chicken
* More food options and bigger portions. The speakers that started were good, but lengthy speeches and dinner causes people to get sleepy. Spread out awards with speakers to break up the monotony and refresh the audience.
* My group chose to leave about an hour before it was completed. They were not having much fun and found it boring. I however made some new connections for our University and had good conversations. I also enjoyed a chance to be in a room packed with hard working educated people like me. This convention has been one of the best experiences of my life since leaving active duty.
* My low ratings for the banquet were due to mainly the length. I looked around in hour 2.5 and saw most audience members were tuned out. I felt there were too many guest speakers and no focus on one main speaker. The gap between eating a salad and the main course seemed way too long. IMO
* n/a
* No it was great
* none
* None at this time.
* Open seating is good for friends and chapters to unite. Maybe assigned seating so people are forced to mingle more. No one from the same state at the same table so people mix more. Or have tables/blocks set up for states/regions to mingle.
* Order of Awards - The point of the awards banquet is to honor the folks in your organization who have led from the front and done the work that you and SVA do. When the first 7 awards go to corporate sponsors, this doesn't match your values and gives the impression that you are there for money and not for the people.
* Overall the night was great. There was just one speaker who took way to long. The only ones that should be allowed to speak are the Veteran of year and Advisor of year.
* Perhaps recognizing multiple entities at once for the same award category or similar category.
* Please keep politics out of the SVA.
* Possibly give speakers a time frame to work off of, or get an estimate on their speech time to more accurately inform attending members.
* Provide advisors/SVA chapters the list of requirement/qualifications for student veteran of the year. Showcase more what the student veteran of the year accomplished. Do not allow Advisor/Chapter/Student Veteran of the year to all be the same school.
* Quite long. A couple of the speakers could have been provided less time.
* Quite long. Would consider a shorter programming in the future.
* Ran a bit long there at the end but otherwise, very good!
* Ran very long. but overall great!
* Recommend shortening congressman speech a bit.
* Response to Criticism - James Schmelling on Twitter was an embarrassment to SVA and all of the inclusion efforts you all have made in the past. He spent the evening and a part of the next day ignoring and mansplaining how great he and SVA were rather than actually acknowledging the women veterans who were upset at not being included in the program. He should be reprimanded for his actions both toward the individuals who raised concern and for what he did to tokenize other organizations in his responses.
* Seem to lag at the beginning before entering and before eating dinner. Seem to rock and roll after dinner though.
* Seemed to be too political
* Seriously, let’s bring our focus back on helping the student veterans without picking a political side.
* Some of the speakers took too long.
* Some of the speakers were long winded. It turned the banquet a little boring. maybe limit people to 15 minutes if possible.
* Some of the speakers were very long winded. By this time it would be nice for presenters to be short and sweet and to the point.
* Some of the speeches were a bit long, which pushed back the banquet a bit. I wanted to go to Disney at night, but because we got out so late, I didn't have time.
* Space and Capacity - Selling the tables to sponsors while turning away chapter leaders is the antithesis of your mission. This entire conference felt like everything was up for sale to the highest bidder and not focused as much on the people attending for leadership training as much as it should have been.
* Speakers should be more diverse in backgrounds and topics.
* start on time
* Start on time. Dinner was a lot to like. Wine was good.
* Started a little late and went super late.
* Tell the speakers to keep their political opinions and views to themselves and not make the conference a political sound byte
* The attire of attendees was all over the dang place, and I felt like an idiot for dressing up when at least half the people in attendance were in the same clothes they'd been wearing all week. The banquet took FOUR hours, instead of three, which was exhausting and not at all engaging. There need to be concrete limits on speaker's allotted time, and those limits need to be enforced. The banquet was honestly just disappointing - it felt like a dog and pony show and not like a celebration of student veterans and what we've been able to accomplish this year. I would have liked to see the focus shift more from corporate partners to veterans
* The awards dinner was way too long and felt half-assed. It was unprofessional in length. There was no reason for the awards dinner to be this long. There were way too many speakers and it caused the audience to check out, to be held hostage, and created a missed opportunity for others to mingle. The speakers often times did not make sense for the setting. The panel for networking was inappropriate for an awards banquet (would have made more sense for a general session). The doors to the banquet should be open 1/2 hour or 1 hour before the dinner starts. This is the norm nationwide. Instead, paying customers (sponsors, student vets, university officials) were stuck waiting outside the banquet hall doors for no reason for a long period of time. People were turned away from the banquet because SVA did not plan accordingly. This felt half-assed because it was half-assed in planning.
* The awards seemed a bit fluffy and would like to see more awards to people doing work that actually affects student vets
* The banquet is extremely long. There should be a dance floor and an amazing dj if it were to continue to be as long. I understand the seriousness of bringing natcon to a close properly— but what is more proper than a fun high note. Last year you guys announced where we were going to be the following year for natcon — this time it was either grapevined or mentioned on my bathroom or pictures break.
* The banquet itself took a lot longer then it should have. Some of the speakers should have been limited time to speak. Also, some of the events could have been there own breakout sessions. It made for a really long event.
* The Banquet was way too long and Jared's final speech went much longer than necessary. The medal of honor winners were amazing to listen to and I enjoyed the awards piece.
* The banquet, awards, and most speakers were all great. Atmosphere was wonderful. However, it was an hour over and the congressman in particular spoke for quite a long time. More time to celebrate the achievements of the nominated student vets would be a nice addition
* The beginning was too long. Many veterans were stating that they would have liked to have had their dinner on the table while all the introductory speakers were talking.
* The big break between salad and the entire was too long for most i was sitting with including myself.
* The California representitive spoke way too long. The event was too long as well. It felt like too much and too long.
* The dinner portion and the giving of the awards were great until one of the recipients spoke for what seemed like 30 minutes. This took away from any other award that was given. Also having closed caption and American Sign Language interpreters would have been very beneficial.
* The evening was truly amazing and I am so grateful to have been apart of this wonderful event. Thank you so much.
* The food portions and quality in comparison to other meals was very bad the networking event had a more appropriate amount available. There are some big vets and most had to go get more food after.
* The food portions were too small, and the chicken was undercooked. The banquet itself was great!
* The food took to long to come. The food was a huge dissapointment. The speakers spoke for way to long.
* The Honors award banquet was fantastic! I genuinely enjoyed the speakers and the message that they conveyed to everyone. The entire conference was truly inspirational!
* the hour over was a little too much since most of us had to leave on the 3 am shuttle
* The mad dash for tables is crazy. Has to be a better way.
* The Medal of Honor recipients should be given more time, and less time to the politicians! They talked way too much!
* The mentioning of the article by the Commander of the VFW, B.J. Lawerence, caused a bit of a negative reaction, however, it was taken out of context. I know B.J. and the message he was trying to say was that others may portray the VSO as divided. Do the VSOs all agree all the time? No, they don't but I do believe they hold the best interests of the veteran community at heart. Each one goes about things in their own ways and it took the Tiger Team to pass legislation for the Forever GI Bill. I hope student veterans remember this and the hard work each of you do on the Hill and beyond every day. I know SVA took some hits this year but I want each of you to know that there are those of us out here who will continue to champion SVA because we believe in what you do and have seen first-hand the difference you have made in lives. I am a living testimony to at least one life you have changed and I am forever grateful. Stay the course!
* The one thing that stood out to me was some of the award recipients' acceptance speeches went excessively long and lost the attention of the audience. My suggestion to avoid this would be limit the time the speakers are allotted.
* The organization of finding a table was not easy. The one speaker insulting a sponsor was uncomfortable but all together a good event. Wish there was a notice of dressing up. That would have been nice to know to pack a dress being first time
* The politician spoke too long.
* The SVA Honors and Award Banquet was the best way to end each NATCON. Just wish people didn't sneak in to save their seats/table before the doors opened. Also, thank you for the opportunity to be able to take photos in the end, on-stage. Our campus loved the shot with SVA and CSVA staff along with the "Big Red" flag from our campus.
* the two medal of honor recipients could have been the only speakers and would have been great
* There was no need for a panel. It was too long. Just give out awarda
* There were too many speakers, and not enough speakers that reflected the membership of the group. The fact that the only woman who spoke on stage was scripted, and a non-veteran is inappropriate. Surely SVA can find a woman veteran to emcee the event, and surely the organization can be more reflective of actual membership moving forward.
* There were way too many speeches and the speakers went on for too long.
* This was fun.
* This went about 90 minutes too long. I really like Jared and respect everything he does, but that man needs to learn when it's time to end a speech and move on. The food and drinks were great, along with the speakers and awards ceremony. The two congressmen giving speeches could have been cut down to about 5 minutes each, along with shaving about 30 minutes off of the time between people being seated and being served dinner. Once you keep Jared down to about 5-10 minutes at then end, the banquet/ceremony will be perfect.
* This went way to long and two of the speakers talked about topics that we already know through networking and such.
* This year the speakers and length were rather different compared to last year. This year the banquet seemed to drag along and the speakers weren't as impactful compared to previous years.
* Too many speakers and too long of a banquet. I like what B.J. Lawrence had to say. I think the panel with Ryan Pitts and Kyle White should of happened some other time during the conference but it was still an informative panel. Bring back Jaime Gray Hyder for next year.
* Too many speakers up front. 3/4 of our table left before the awards. Yes, they were civilians.
* Too many speeches. VFW was too long in that speech. The conversation with Jared should have taken place instead of the speeches. It just went on too long and I ended up leaving before anyone got an award. Also, we got messages that the doors would open at 6pm sharp.......and it wasn't until 6:10 that the doors opened. The food was not as good as both lunches that were available. Just not the same quality and quantity.
* Took a little longer than usual to be able to eat. Some of the speeches were longer than expected.
* Total time should be no more than approx. 2 hours long.
* Two bottles of wine for 10 people was not enough.
* Was an awesome experience! Great food, great wine, great speakers
* Way too long
* Way too long. Waited an hour to eat (i understand it was for the sponsors and such, but was a long time) and the portions were too small (understand over 2300 people to feed)
* Way too many speakers opening the banquet. There is no need to have 4 people speak to open the banquet. Do not have the Excellence, Legacy, and Distinction Awards recipients speak. Students were leaving to do laundry during the long-winded speeches. MOH panel should not have been done at the banquet, the attendees were tuned-out. The banquet needs to be 3 hours MAX. This year's banquet lasted 4 hours - that is too long.
* We are focused on helping student veterans, we do not care about your political views.
* We brought enough people from our chapter to fill an entire table but it was difficult to find a table to accommodate the size and a person with a disability. It would have been easier if their was an option to reserve a table. The food and service was amazing. The responses of the politicians were way to long though.
* Went an hour long. Started late. You should serve food while speakers are talking.
* Women veteran participation - 3 women veterans were allowed to speak, two sang the national anthem and one recited the words of men. At no point were women veterans allowed to speak their own word. The only woman who was allowed to speak her own words wasn't a veteran but plays one on tv and in a video game. This is completely unacceptable.
* Words are Hard
* Would have been nice to have the VFW SVA Leg Fellow stand so we could see who's who
* WOW!! with the message of Diversity and Inclusion, one would think that SVA Leadership would be Diverse and Inclusive ... the General Sessions and Award Banquet could not have been further from D&I ... I am just surprised more folks did not get up and walk out ... a note to Leadership, remember to practice what you preach or lead by example

# Appendix 9: Please provide any comments, recommendations, and/or suggestions for NatCon below: (Open Ended Responses)

* Again, I loved all the love being shown for one another. The breakout sessions were amazing and truly inspirational. Thank you so much again, I am so grateful to have been apart of such an awesome event that benefits so many wonderful people!
* all companies should have a scanner so they can pull students' information and resume
* Also (Things you didn't ask about, but I found no space to write about them) The design of the in hand schedule booklet (which I would have preferred to use) was not user friendly, straightforward, or helpful. I kept having to check my app - and i hate relying on technology for that. if the phone dies, it's over. Anyway, the natcon magazine needs more attention for 2020.
* Also the rooms were small and even when you signed up for the session it was SRO and some of my students were upset about that. So maybe less sessions and larger rooms or registered individuals were able to get in first then open to general population if room available.
* Also, I am very committed to being part of the solution not just complaining about things I wish were different so if you were looking for more support and/or future volunteers to help with NatCon planning for 2020 feel free to contact me. I believe Student Veterans are amazing individuals who are great scholars & can become the most amazing leaders which is why I believe having Diversity & Inclusion as a core pillar for SVA & NatCon is crucial to developing the best leaders that each student veteran can become.
* Also, I know there's enough for everyone to do, but since this is educational, isn't there a way to record these sessions and have an online library? I know that's a huge logistical and financial challenge, but I think it would benefit everyone involved, and especially student vets who couldn't make it, but had an interest. there will never be any replacing the in person networking and experience. even so, this could be really useful.
* Also, really encourage people to upload materials on the app - presentations, etc.
* Also, the game was a waste of time. It seemed like most of the people who held the clues had no idea what to do and they didn't even participate after the fifth participant because they gave away the codes. There were thousands of people present at the event, I wish i had an opportunity to play. Also, I did not understand how to play the game on the app.
* As a major corporation stepping into our first SVA experience I was very impressed with the overall conference. It's clear that the corporate sponsor space is a little disjointed but you can see that work has been done in this here and that its evolving. We are a very social company so we follow along closely online at any event we attend to determine social media presence and perception. I was greatly disappointed in a Twitter exchange between an SVA official and a participant and if we don't participate next year this will be the sole reason why. As someone who attends a multitude of conferences I can tell you that this was a diverse and inclusive experience. Your representation of diversity was great and shows the hard work you've put in to show up well here. While we all have room to grow, to allow an official of your organization to interact with a participant in that manner, on a very public platform without a public apology is disappointing and speaks to a larger issue. While we seek to partner with SVA in the future it would be good to know how issues like this are addressed internally. Its also of significant concern to us if we are standing next to an organization at a conference that is not inclusive of all veterans (including women, LGBTQ, and underrepresented minorities) as this impacts our personal brand as well. I would love to know more about how organizations and companies are vetted before participating in SVA Campus.
* Attempted but was ultimately unable to attend the dinner as there were no tables left to accomodate our group. Recommend bigger banquet hall or at least reserved seating
* Begin sessions at 9:00 am rather than 10:30. Allows for longer sessions or and additional session each day."
* Being a college student on a fixed income, the prices of some of the food and bottle water was ridiculous. I also understand that is Walt Disney has to make money, but most of the students that was there were was disable veterans.
* Breakout session on mentorship.
* Bring back the SVA chapter Grant, with that not sure how many of us would have been able to attend this years Natcon... also having more smaller entrepreneur time business to help out vets looking to start a business but nothing super major.
* Bring back the time for networking as a state.
* Bring in the Agriculture community.
* Change from just having diverse sessions/speakers to truly doing inclusive work!
* Come to Hawaii 2021!
* Companies should offer job application assistance and network
* Continue to promote younger veterans in the presentations and panels. The older vets may be knowledgeable but may come across as a little stiff. It sometimes felt like we were getting briefings from the brass rather than a conversation......and I'm an older veteran with 28+ years active duty time.
* Digital materials from the event are still not available... they should be live online during (in case you miss out or have to step out).
* Disney was interesting but It was very expensive and isolated from outside resources.
* Diversify your panels, cast your net wider. There are many organizations to look to for panelists and expertise. Align your visibility more with the demographics of this group. It can only help.
* Emails were sent to our chapter advisor, attendees and myself right before and during the conference but were sent to our spam folders. We did not realize this until after the conference and unfortunately missed out on some excellent opportunities like being on a panel and such. We adjusted our email accounts to ensure this does not happen again but were at a loss as to why this happened in the first place, considering all other emails from the SVA did not have this issue.
* Ensure to have lodging for all student veterans and guests, it was very difficult to enjoy conference when you are 14 miles away from main event.
* Find as many inspiring people and load the deck.
* Food at breakfast and lunch was not tasty
* For those who bring their service dogs, it would be nice to possibly have a sitter service, such as Wag, available to give the veteran time to interact with potential employers one-on-one.
* General demographics should be sent out after the Conference is over. Like the number of attendees, exhibitors and institutions attending. Some of the student governments and or institutions want a synopsis to justify funding.
* Get better breakfast!!!
* Get more federal, state and city jobs to recruit Veterans at the sva campus
* Good conference. I know how much work this is. Thanks to the organizers, many of whom are students.
* Great job! Excellent opportunity to network with other SVA chapters, businesses and veterans.
* Great job, everyone! No hard feeling, Jared!
* Have a lost and found. More time between sessions to ask presenters questions.
* Have enough seating so people are not forced to miss sessions because they have to “camp out” to get into their next session. Have the AV people check to see if any of the lightning is blinding anyone. Our group had to move due to a light pointed right into the seating area.
* Having a Q&A general session, bring out motivational speakers (alumni or upbeat personality)
* I am sure it is because of the number of people who attended, but the rooms were to small. At least half the breaks I had attended, I had to stand.
* I chose not to attend this session [Finding Your Tribe: Building Your Chapter into a Community], but I want leadership to know that this language is unacceptable and inappropriate. As an institution that prides itself on Diversity and Inclusion, SVA cannot afford to be this sloppy and offensive. Do better. 0% disability connected veterans served too.
* I did this already in another section of the survey.
* I greatly appreciated the opportunity and privilege to attend NatCon. I wish that I could go again, but I do not know if I will have that option again or if someone else from my chapter should have the opportunity and privilege to go in my stead. Again, Jamie Grace Hyder was amazing! It is probably rude to ask, but was there by any chance any opportunities to get a picture with her? That would have rocked my world!
* I have attended many conferences as a presenter and panelist. This was a first for me as an attendee. The conference was simply outstanding and was well organized from registration to the very end. Looking forward to LA and 2020!
* I hold the SVA NATCON in such high regard that no other conference compares.
* I may be an outlier here but do we need to have it at Disney? Very expensive and not very good food
* I noticed from last year's pictures there was a Coast Guard get together. That would have been fun!
* I think it would be helpful to identify the break out tracks a little better. overall a great experience! I would love to see more regional networking events happening through out the year.
* I think the overall consesus from most of the attendees was, we received too many emails. It got to the point where most people would just send them straight to their trash/junk inbox. Try limiting the frequency of emails.
* I think you all know what you are doing. Keep up the great work! It was quite the event.
* I was very impressed with the corporate sponsors you were able to get.
* I wish i could have access to the slides from the speakers i have seen. We could add them to the app and possibly follow along with our smart phones.
* I would also enjoy a time were we could create a state breakout sessions or meeting time were all the SVOs from one state could gather together. After learning the Nevada SVOs created a state SVA event, we decided to follow suit and are in the process of planning and initiating a South Carolina State SVA event. I think this could benefit other SVOs and want others to have this opportunity.
* I would have ALL presenters add a 60 second LinkedIn Nearby drill to the beginning of their presentations. That way everyone gets used to the "battle drill" of opening the app, finding contacts Nearby, and adding them instantly. This grows everyone's networks and allows them to continue the conversation in a professional online setting long after the break out session ends.
* I would like to see a registration that takes into account how many people can be in a room. In other words, however many seats are available is how many spots are available for registration. My only complaint was that a couple of the breakout sessions had people sitting in the floor because there was not a cutoff for registration.
* I would like to see more diversity at the SVA leadership and organization level. Even with the SVA student vet of the year nominees and the access some have that others don’t is concerning. It may be that we need to do more research and we will.
* I would love to see a certifying official track.
* I would love to see more women forums. I would also like to see more people from the medical/first responded field.
* I would recommend hosting fewer breakout groups at the same time. The vast variety of the sessions available was wonderful and certainly appreciated. Choosing between the various speakers and panels was extremely difficult and if it would be possible to be able to attend more of them, I believe student vets and supporters would benefit.
* I would shorten the awards ceremony script down by 60-90 minutes. I notice a lot of attention was lost as the night grew longer.
* If the breakout sessions are panels - have the panelists on a raised platform.
* In addition to the fun run, please consider another exercise option such as yoga or meditation. One of my friends suggested this and I think it's a great idea.
* In the past, I was inspired from the start, hearing Kevin Preston announce the screening of "The Finest Hour", Listening to Christopher Titus, George Bush, etc.
* Instead of three breakout sessions, I think two sessions that ran a bit longer would be better in order to give presenters time to adequately go through their presentation with enough time for the audience to ask questions.
* It would be nice to see a holistic treatment for PTSD. Information concerning alternative routes to assist students with PTSD. Events/practices we can take back to our chapters
* It would have been nice to be advised that it was business dress for the whole event. This was our first year and we were not made aware of this.
* Just make the app a smoother experience.
* Keep it up!!! This was a great conference and so very important to ALL student veterans and the faculty/staff that support them.
* Keep up the great work, and keep having Natcon everyyear to our Veterans together.
* Larger block of rooms at the site.
* Larger classrooms for the breakout sessions are a MUST. You can not have disabled people sitting on the ground or trying to stand in the back. That was my biggest complaint. my initial impression was that the SVA underestimated how many people would attend the breakout sessions.
* Like I mentioned earlier, it would have been nice to have some type of breakout or gathering for first time attendees
* Longer break out sessions as a couple of them seemed rushed.
* Looking forward to NatCon2020 and our chapter wishes to extend our sincerest appreciation to SVA HQ, volunteers and sponsors that make the conference possible! Thank you!
* Lower ticket price, more food.
* make sure you add my school to the list. FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, NY
* Make the app user friendly.
* Make the general sessions shorter and more to the point.
* Make the survey shorter and less in depth
* Maybe have a NatCon in Puerto Rico as there are Puerto Rican veterans that could benefit from this and it would help the local economy.
* Maybe have AMEDD recruiters available to talk about programs such as HPSP for potential med, vet, dental etc. students. Maybe opportunities outside of the big military hiring employers. All in all, I had a great time and hope to be back next year, thanks for the opportunity
* Mentor connection booth for SVA participants to connect with persons in different career fields
* More companies please.
* More Federal and State VA interaction.
* More inclusion at all levels, including planning, opportunity for networking for affiliate groups, women, veterans of color, administrators.
* More in-depth connections that accomplish what's needed to catapult student veterans into a successful and secure future
* More information on community colleges.
* More interactive games for networking or ice breakers.
* More opportunities to connect
* More partners that provide support for veterans a the community college level. Such a internships and employments.
* Much like I've mentioned already, this general session felt like it was sold to the highest bidder and you only actually put people on the stage that bought their space. This is an inclusion NIGHTMARE. Access and money bought your conversation and that needs to be leaps and bounds better next year. Ask the experts in the field before you do this outwardly visible programming.
* Much of this conference is geared toward veteran students at traditional colleges. I would love to hear more from online schools & how schools are supporting active duty military students, etc.
* N/A
* N/A
* n/a
* Name badges should have state flags on them. This makes it easier to find other schools and therefore networking easier.
* NATCON2020 I CANT WAIT!!!! -Amir
* Need to look at the set up and access to the exhibitors, we were out of site in an exhibit hall where it wasn't convenient for students to come see us between sessions. We were there during breakfast and lunch but students were there to eat not to see us
* No 4 hour banquet!
* none
* Not everyone is in the 18-24 demographic. There are older veteran students who may not have been into the tailgate thing with obnoxiously loud music in a cavernous space.
* On the part for describe the military status there was not a place for either veteran or retired.
* One small suggestions I would recommend is possibly amending NatCon's stance on allowing children to be present. As a parent myself, I know there is a time & place for children. I think the blanket stance of no children is not accommodating or inclusive for the population of Student Veterans you are serving. I exclusively breastfed each of my kiddos for the first year of their lives and the first four months all they would have done is eat & sleep in my arms. If I were a female veteran with a newborn I would not feel welcome or included. I would possibly think about changing the policy to a case by case basis or for children up to a certain age, or something. Increasing access & accommodations to parent student veterans is an area we are starting to work on in our center.
* One suggestion I have would be to give Advisors a indicator on their badge (similar to the presenter/sponsor tags). It was challenging to be with our students who were talking to employers and then when they would ask if we were also looking for a job to explain that we are the advisor and have a full time job. I also believe that this would help with networking so advisors could more easily identify advisors or other higher education staff members.
* Opportunities to interview and sign up for scholarships
* Our chapter is booking the NATCON 2020 hotel trip before NATCON tickets go on sale, my chapter finally understands the importance on staying on-site. Thank you guys for everything, like I told Jared. The Citadel and SVA saved me and I can't thank y'all enough.
* Overall great conference, glad I attended. Would like to see more higher ed tracks to educate/collaborate with college administrators. I work in the college admission department at Syracuse University which deals with military part-time online learners. Recruitment, student career outcomes, statistics on success of military students, and how to attract military to attend is something I'd be very interested in. Overall, excellent experience...and the location was Outstanding!
* Overall I think it's great and I'm excited about this every year even if I can't make it. I hope I've made most of my comments, but the big message I want to send is that there's room to improve on the phenomenal job you're all doing!
* Overall, I had a GREAT TIME, there were a few things that were very upsetting on how they took place
* Overall, my first NatCon experience was amazing and I cannot wait for NatCon 2020!!!
* Please add in more break out sessions that are aimed at supporting women veterans who are students.
* Please bring back the SVA Chapter grants. Without those grants, those students from smaller colleges with little to no funding available would not be able to attend such conferences. Myself and my peers would not have been able to attend this conference without such a grant and it truly makes a difference to smaller SVA Chapters and their members.
* Please consider a better breakfast next year. Please consider enough seating and appropriate seating arrangements at the Honors Dinner.
* Please do not have Concerned Veterans for America back in any shape or form, or provide awards to anyone who has links to this organization or has espoused racist language.
* Please do not put company logos on the SVA shirts. Im a walking amazon add and people ask if i work for amazon rather than student veteran. I understand the need for sponsor shit but i think the size the of the logo is ridiculous . We should bring back to the blue sva shirts you used to give out in the 2016 natcon those were great SVA motto on the back and SVA logo on the front. I think thats what we should highlight not amazon. My values align with SVA not amazon or other company.
* Please take the feedback you are given seriously. Also, the VFW should not be asked to speak again next year on a stage (unless it's their government affairs folks). That rant was absolutely inappropriate during the banquet honoring student veterans and was a lecture we all didn't deserve to hear. Many veterans of color, LBGTQ, and women are impacted by local VFW type orgs in their cities or hometowns. Telling them to join and work their way up to vote to change the VFW is a slap in the face to people who have faced actual discrimination at a local VFW Post. In the words of Michelle Obama, "Sometimes that shit don't work" and I know I wasn't the only person thinking that in that room.
* Please try and recruit healthcare employers to come and exhibit. I am a nursing major and there was not one company I could network with at the job fair.
* Please work a little closer with the presenters to make sure that they are presenting what they claim they will in their abstracts since 2 of the workshops I attending did not match (read below to find out which). "Creating Impactful Partnerships: How to Accomplish More than a Logo Swap" & "How Key Decision Points Affect Student Veterans' Education Life Cycle Outcomes"
* Please, fill free to contact me for further discussion of the conference.
* Provide a late-night venue for carrying on the party for the banquet night if not already provided by the convention venue.
* Recommendations: really emphasize using microphones with presenters and audience. Here’s a good article that helps explain the importance: https://www.uua.org/worship/lab/what-youre-saying-when-you-say-i-dont-need-mic
* Schedule longer sessions or limit presenter time to first half of the session to allow for Q&A.
* See above
* Send fewer emails during the conference itself!
* Side note: every breakout session I went to went over time which is great because that means the conversation was valuable. The recommendation I would make is for the presentation to be shortened or SVA making sessions longer.
* Some form of event once the day is done to build camaraderie amongst attendees
* some of us are seeking careers is education. the Department of Defense Education Activity is an agency that recruits U.S. certified teachers to transfer overseas and teacher military k-12 dependents. You should have a rep in one of the break out sessions and/or at the SVA campus area
* Stop kissing military contractors butts and make it more nonprofit and higher ed driven.
* SVA should have holistic system upload resume and share with companies so they can reach out to significant candidate before the NatCOn
* Teach veterans how to handle the transition in between graduation and finding a job. I'm not talking about teaching them how to get employment, be leaders or write resumes. I'm talking about handling the transition of pouring your entire life into a college career without time to think, graduating on top of the world to the next day feeling like an unemployed loser twiddling their thumbs at home waiting for a second interview. How do you confidently "sell yourself" when you've been rejected 20 times? How do you remain optimistic when nobody is hiring you?
* Thank you all, for putting in this enormous effort.
* Thank you for another good conference!
* Thank you for having a later start time on Saturday morning.
* Thanks for asking for my feedback!
* The music was too loud for most veterans.
* The registration fee should not keep increasing as the weeks go by. I have been going to conferences for more than 20 years and there is an early bird reg fee and then a regular fee after that........and that is it. I also think students and professionals should pay the same amount to register. Colleges are paying these and professionals don't have more money - travel budgets are limited.
* The scavenger hunt and bingo were not announced or broadcasted well. For the scavenger hunt, there were only 5 bar codes and clues passed out, so people that were late to gather clues were told they were already given away. It should be organized that all people have the chance to gather clues and only the top people win.
* The session on Diversity and Inclusion was a joke. While the conversation around inclusion of veterans on higher education campuses and in their next steps as employees is important, that conversation started happening 5-10 years ago which is why you see the emergence of veterans centers on higher education campuses.
* The signage in the hotel and the app had conflicting information. We wanted to attend the Hiring our Heroes event for employers, but had to ask 3 different SVA employees where this event was located.
* The tailgate party should have contests for prizes. Or team games that can be played. Mix everyone up so they are in different groups, staff, veterans, employers and college recruiters should participate. This should be an ice breaker for student veterans.
* There should be dedicated times the exhibit is open so the employers aren't constantly having to man a booth all day for 2 straight days. This is especially important at lunches/breaks for employers with only 1 representative since everyone has lunch and breaks at the same time.
* There was a LOT of talk of women and sisterhood, and I understood that to be a push toward inclusivity. However, there were plenty of opportunities to use gender neutral language that would have included everyone, and in every single one I witnessed that opportunity was missed. Literally all you have to do is use the word 'they' instead of 'he'. It is that simple. It's a basic linguistic tool anyway, used when you're not sure who you're addressing. I want to see a more diverse set of topics, I'd like to see more engaging career sessions that actually teach us how to be successful and allow for professional growth.
* There were to many great breakouts. I would spend 20-30 minutes per breakout to run an catch clips of another one
* This annual gathering of student veterans is where culture change happens. You're educating the next generation of leaders and these are conversations that absolutely NEED to happen. If you're going to have a giant banner that says Diversity and Inclusion hanging over your head on stage, you darn well better be talking about the tough stuff.
* This is an excellent meeting for the students. What an outstanding networking opportunity!
* This leads me into my main point. This was my first year. I was very lost. I wish there were an introductory Welcome/How to SVA conference meeting on thursday to go over topics like how to play the came, the schedule of the SVA Campus, dress attire, social hangout spots for after the conference, etc.
* This would exclude people from certain breakout sessions, but it would also enable them to go much smoother. Fifty seats in the room would mean fifty people there, and registration cuts off once fifty has been reached.
* Throughout the year, it would be great to send out suggestions on how to prepare financially for the conference. There are quite a few veterans that wanted to attend, but could not afford to pay. Next year, I will need to find financial means to attend. Any suggestions for preparing to attend is greatly appreciated!
* Too many emails during NATCON but I understand that not everyone downloaded the app.
* Topic suggestion: The importance of and how to conduct informational interviews (I'll volunteer to present). For those not seeking employment but advice on next career steps.
* WAY TO MANY emails though. Some emails were great to receive but 75% of them were notifications of upcoming events. If SVA would please, for next time, break down what type of emails the participants would like to get.
* We lost our funding to go to NATCON because of the opening for registration happened after the close of our grants. If SVA could open up pre- registration that states this is an expected cost but not the final cost so schools could charge those amounts early before their grants expire and the end of school year as summer starts. On this page possible a printable document that shows what an expected cost per student or faculty member will be so they can use it to go out in their communities and try to use it to get corporations to donate the amount that it cost a single or multiple students cost/
* Well done!
* When approaching the next conference to plan, I would suggest that breakout sessions topics be available for one hour, but that each session last 30 minutes. This would allow someone to chose 2 session per hour, this would allow more information to be accessible rather than having to chose only one subject.
* While I am a full supporter of individuals with a disability having service dogs, I am horrified by individuals who have untrained dogs and attempt to pass them off as ADA protected service animals that are disruptive to all attendees. Under federal law, an individual/business may ask if the dog is a service animal that is required due to a disability and what type of work or task the dog has been trained to do. I would have liked for NatCon or the location staff to ask these questions for the safety of all attendees.
* While I appreciated having food provided, the types of food that was catered for breakfast and lunch wasn't satisfying. I understand that the food was intended to be "fancy" but the selections lacked in choices the majority of people prefer. For example, among the salad dressings that were served, popular options like Ranch, French, and Italian weren't offered. I would like to see more options provided at breakfast.
* Y'all had a great opportunity to open the conversation with a session on including veterans into higher education and corporate then turn over to the problem of toxicity and lack of acceptance of minorities into the veteran space. Instead of doing that, y'all decided not to talk about that at all with the exception of Kiersten's words which were amazing.
* You all did a great job! Keep up the good work!
* You need more diversity: people of color / disabled as panelists/speakers. Far too many white males featured especially when the theme this year was diversity.
* You're all rockstars :)

# Appendix 10: Ratings and Comments for the Individual Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session Title: **2018 Veteran Well-Being Survey**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 43

Percent of Room Capacity: 53.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 3.8

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Have more physical material to pass around.
* I would like to have heard the whole presentation, the questions from the audience disrupted the full presentation.
* Power points were hard to interpret. handouts or access during the presentation would have helped quite a bit. Learned a lot about what the perspectives of veterans and employers are as well as other stats about interships and more.
* The presenters should have waited until the end for audience questions, they weren't able to get through many of the slides because participants kept asking questions.
* The speakers focused too much on discussing misperceptions about veterans. Each time they would just say the findings weren't true, but they never addressed how to address misperceptions about veterans.
* There were many questions during the session so the full results were not reviewed/completed. Session seemed too short.
* Well put together and very detaieled
* Would love to have had a handout of condensed survey results

Breakout Session Title: **A Veteran's Journey to Disney**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 63

Percent of Room Capacity: 54.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 3.8

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Absolutely loved the insight from the panel
* Fascinating hearing the stories of how the veterans present from Disney and ESPN rose through the ranks to get to where they are at their respective companies. Thank you for all the Q&A time afterwards.
* It was good but I believe all the members on the panel were older and did not really feel relatable to those of us transitions right out of college.
* Made some great connections, great content
* Most speakers were from ESPN; expand and bring in speakers from the other Disney companies
* Smart idea for Disney to present. Highly motivating and encouraging for veterans struggling with job identity and age issues.
* This breakout session was unexpectedly enjoyable for me. I honestly attended because the USA Jobs one got cancelled. Even though I do not see myself at Disney right now, hearing the panelists' journeys to the company, and how their previous experiences not only translated well to a number of jobs with Disney, but were valued by those they work for, was really great. The panelists took great care in answering questions, and offered a good deal of encouragement to attendees.

Breakout Session Title: **Advocating for Veteran Awareness on Campus**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 102

Percent of Room Capacity: 68.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Amazing presenter and presentation. Definitely will be using all of this information and have already shared with my entire team. Thank you so much.
* Great info
* Great resources!
* none
* Presenter warned us that the video she wanted to show was a little on the long side. We still asked for it. Regret that decision now. Considering it was information to civilians about veterans, the room full of veterans quickly lost interest.
* PsychArmor is awesome!
* Thank you
* There was a sliver of data collected on veterans without service connected disability. Does anyone really care the we too served?
* this was exactly what I came looking for. so I was a happy attendee
* Will attempt to integrate PsychArmor Institute's faculty and staff training package as pre-Green Zone requirement.

Breakout Session Title: **African American Veterans at Historically Black Colleges**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 55

Percent of Room Capacity: 45.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.6

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* great topic. needed more time for discussion.
* I thought it was a great topic that gave a voice to an under represented group, and provided valuable insight, and information on their unique journey through academia.
* Provided insight to researching less visible populations that have been in the literature
* SVA needs more topics like this
* This was an excellent topic and would have landed differently at an academic conference. This was a research presentation with little context to the intent of the research or modification for this particular audience. I'm unclear what the intent of the session was. However, some of the bullet points were interesting. Slides were very word heavy (and they were read to us), again, very appropriate for an academic/research based presentation but I left with more questions than answers.
* This was interesting but it was very superficial we never really got into the real conversation of the history behind black colleges and the reason why student of color choose black colleges. I think this conversation go much deaper than just surface level conversation. It feel like SVA might just be including this to check a box and might not be ready to talk about these issues.
* Wonderful session. The discussion that followed was very lively.

Breakout Session Title: **All Politics is Local: Institution, Local, and State Policy as a Student Veteran**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 80

Percent of Room Capacity: 53.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I'm working now to connect presenters and SVA with a new veteran in US House of Representatives- Gil Cisneros. Thanks for all the veterans advocates do.
* It felt a tad rush, and it jumped around quite a bit.
* It was eye opening and providing valuable information about the power the SVA has and how to effectively wield that power so our voices are heard
* It was nice to give a platform to student vets to present but hearing students talk about getting involved in their local Student Govt Association wasn't very useful. Bringing in legislators to talk about how to contact our local elected reps and what that process will look like would be more beneficial.
* one of the panelist seemed nervous and had trouble answering some of the questions. This weakened their credibility with the audience.
* Some of the audience mentioned having a tough time seeing the speakers. It may be useful to have an elevated podium or rearrangement of the speakers and audience next time.
* This session helped me realize how many untapped resources we have on our campus. I think it was a vital session for my NatCon experience.
* Topics covered were interesting, but could not see the presenters and it was very difficult to hear. It was clear that the SVA was going great stuff."

Breakout Session Title: **Beyond Diversity: Increasing Your Chapter's Capacity for Inclusion**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 73

Percent of Room Capacity: 29.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 3.6

Usefulness: 4.0

Presentation: 3.9

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 3.9

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* As an employer we attended this session to learn how SVA chapters approach diversity. This was great content but probably too much for the time allotted. The participants were engaged and wanted to keep having the conversation. We weren't able to get to all of the activities. Perhaps this content could be a good multi-hour workshop instead of a 1 hour session.
* Big topic, not enough time but was great for the time that was available.
* Great talk that really made me think about how we can include minority groups more into our SVA chapter namely our LGBTQ veterans. Only concern I had with the presentation is one of the presenters let out a sigh followed by "Jesus" and I was there with a devout Christian who I could just feel was bothered by it and later he confirmed it. The talk included topics of tolerance and awareness, and I felt like that delegitimized the conversation. I'm not particularly bothered by it other than it was contradictory to the discussion. I really enjoyed the talk and thought the overall message was very productive.
* I just there would have been more time for Q & A!!
* I wish this session would have had more attention and time. I think this is such an important topic in the current climate and is really hard to cover in such a short amount of time.
* I wish this was longer! Loved every minute too!
* I wish we had more time to explore equity, diversity and inclusion topics. Or have more than just one break out session. I would really like to see a focus on student veterans of color and the inequities they face in higher education and work force.
* like the capability to take notes on my device. also knowing who else is there
* More time, like 15 minutes
* Needed more time as the Discussion, Q&A portion needed more time
* Not enough time. Did not manage the Q & A so presentation was rushed . Excellent topic that is needed as well as dialogue about inclusion. Possibly have more workshops related to inclusion and diversity.
* The presentation was good, I just wish they had not focused as much time on building common definitions and rather focused more on activities and actions that they have tried and maybe ask the audience what they have tried in order to help those who are trying to get a better sense on application.
* There ended up not enough time for the exercises that we were supposed to do with the other people at our table. I really appreciated Lindsay's presentation and personal experiences. I learned something new.
* There were issues with time management on this one. I liked the topic overall and wish there was more time for group conversation (we were told 3 minutes with each topic but didn’t get that and then they had to rush at the end). Also, need microphones for those in the audience speaking. And, for a presentation on inclusion, really need to nix the profanity. “Apologizing” up front but not being mindful of how it may bother/offend some folks isn’t exactly inclusion.
* They should really plan things out so that they do not run out of time, everything felt so rushed.
* Two of the three panel members chose to use the platform as a way to feel sorry for themselves and complain about trivial situations with cashiers at shopping centers, rather than actually give any useful information on how to make others feel included. Crowds are getting sick of being verbally reprimanded for something someone else did and we're going to stop showing up to sessions on diversity if this lack of professionalism continues.
* We at UNM have an inclusive policy. This topic was great for those that didn't. The presenter was rude. I had another colleague sitting in the presentation and was going to sit in another break-out session to get as much information as possible. As I was walking back the presenter said, "I guess he needs a glass of water". As I walked out she said "bye". I was about to go back and put her in her place. You want to be a presenter just do your task, not make sharp comments without knowing I had someone in the class. Very poor representation from a member of the SVA. As president of my charter I let it go instead of causing a greater scene then what she was doing. I wasn't the only person she was heckling.

Breakout Session Title: **Bridging the Gap Between Women Veterans and the Workforce: A panel discussion on Women Veterans' experiences & barriers to employment**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 128

Percent of Room Capacity: 106.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.11

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* All of the panel was very knowledgeable and the subject would have been dry but they made it to where you wanted to learn more.
* As usual I wish there had been more time for Q&A. But it was really helpful overall.
* DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR
* Great info session!
* I enjoyed that the panel had both prior military and civilians/military spouses.
* I enjoyed the content. I thought that the panel was informative and I was confident in their knowledge on the subject. My only critic and it is a very small one: To ensure that uniformity is performed across the idea that "we" as veterans may need to adjust our way of conversation with other non-service member co-workers, interviewers, and other areas in which we (veterans) may need to co-habitat in but also that educating those non-service members on our way of thinking and the way we speak should be part of the conversation. Our veteran male counterparts may struggle less in this area of direct conversational push-back...which is fine and understandable due how uncomfortable the world can be around a woman with "masculine" conversational traits. However, it is not the sole responsibility of women veterans to change the way we speak but also, to ensure those non-service members understand our language style as well. There seems to be a lot of emphasis on "changing" or "adjusting" the way we (veterans) do things but not a lot of conversation surrounding how we can educate those to "change" or "adjust" the ingestion of our language. Just a thought from a female identified veteran.
* I have the same comment for all breakout sessions. Other than the Leader all additional speakers sat while speaking so unless you were in the first row you couldn't see them. They also didn't stand when introduced so if you were sitting somewhat in the back you couldn't see who was speaking. I also found not everyone had a mic so when 4 speakers sat as a group with only 1 mic you couldn't clearly hear everyone.
* I loved it. We need more sessions for women advocacy
* I only was able to attend a small portion of this breakout because I also tried to catch a couple other sessions during that time frame. Not enough chairs.
* I wish that someone would have mentioned the fact that women veterans who marry service members and then become dependents make up a considerable portion of women veterans. This group (military spouses) face far greater challenges in achieving academic and career goals with far less available resources than veterans who are not also dependents. I wish that we a conference like NatCon for military spouses. I also wish that this significant topic and it’s correlated challenges had been acknowledged in the women’s workshop breakout. That being said, the women’s breakout was fantastic in helping me to reflect, connect, and leave the conference holding my head a little higher than before.
* I would have been nice to have the panelist elevated someone to where we would see their faces when they talked.
* Kiersten Downs always does great presentations!
* Myself and several other attendees were rather disappointed by this session. As women veterans, we understand what challenges and barriers we face when it come to being a woman veteran in a civilian career. What we were hoping this session focused on (and it was very briefly touched on) is how to navigate those challenges/barriers and what approaches we could take to overcome them. However, the entire session was just going over the same couple of issues. The data given based on studies done for women veterans was interesting, but not enough to save the overall session from being considered useful.
* Seems that some of the questions did get off topic
* Sessions like these need more time!
* The room was packed, and unfortunately it was really hard to hear the presenters, who didn't consistently use a microphone.
* There needs to be representation that's not just officers and a spouse . There was little said in how to overcome barriers of being a female trying to get jobs or how best to represent yourself on a resume or how to deal with having years missing from a resume do family obligations. Overall I felt the entire breakout session didn't meet its purpose.
* This session was informative, but I feel as though it was geared more towards an audience of employers. Consider perhaps having a "Target Audience" suggestion in the conference programming to enable attendees to make informed decisions. While the session was done well and presenters were skilled and informative, my time may have been better spent attending a different panel.
* This was my second favorite sessions. The panel was excellent, knowledgeable and the speaker was amazing. She kept the panel going, asked pertinent questions and had gave great info/backing research
* Topics like these are great but they lead to discussion. More time needs to be added for Q&A

Breakout Session Title: **Building Your Chapter at a Small School**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 98

Percent of Room Capacity: 70.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Absolutely amazing presenter. Hands down, one of the best breakout sessions that I attended, almost every question was answered. Thank you so much.
* Engagement in this session was inspiring!
* Excellent presentation! I learned a lot and got a lot of good ideas. Very valuable. However, it seemed far too short a time to cover such an important topic. Again, not enough time or questions and discussion.
* Good information no matter the size
* Great presentation
* Most of the sessions I chose were extremely crowded with SRO
* none
* presenter was humble and on point. Very good discussion. Well organized.
* The guy who ran this did a good job at laying out what worked for him and gave some pointers. A lot of it was common sense in my opinion, but I still saw value in this session.
* There was a few things that came out during the Q/A that were amazing the lecture I feel that if you were attending NATCON then you pretty much already accomplished what they were talking about
* Very informative for me as a new advisor and the chapter president at a 2 year community college.
* Would've liked more Q&A

Breakout Session Title: **Building a Vibrant SVO Community by Managing Transition Stress Through Common Curriculum**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 37

Percent of Room Capacity: 32.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.6

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I wish the other presenters would have been there to get the perspective from both the smaller institution and a larger institution, but I thought they did the best they could given the circumstances.
* The ABSOLUTE best session that I've attended!!!!

Breakout Session Title: **CLEP me out of here: life hacks for college credit**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 21

Percent of Room Capacity: 17.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Great information, which would be helpful while on active duty as well. Perhaps a session DoD should be looking at too
* Very informative.

Breakout Session Title: **Chapter Career Development: Leveraging LinkedIn to Get Ahead**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 66

Percent of Room Capacity: 44.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.8

Length: 4.6

Usefulness: 4.7

Presentation: 4.6

Discussion / Q&A: 4.7

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Dan Savage was professional, well prepared and the presentation was very thought out. Calvin who was he co-presenter was less polished than Dan with his parts of the presentation, but overall the content was excellent and the audience was very engaged the entire time.
* Dan was super helpful with lots of tips and tools.
* Great to be able to pick the brains of the LinkedIn staff and get help with our profiles.
* Great topic and great presenters.
* I learned a lot of really useful tips and tricks for using LinkedIn, and I also gained some valuable knowledge to take back to my campus. I fully intend to complete the training program through Linkedin and the SVA, and I'm excited to utilize these tools to increase the success of our veterans and family members.
* Keep this one around!
* This was my favorite session, although Lida's personal branding was informative too. The reason I like this is because it is the single thing I can envision giving to new and current student vets who don't want to get involved. Since the SVA chapters can't force people to participate, we must hope that student vets turn out okay on their own if they don't want to plug into our support system. This linkedIn leveraging is the most do-it-yourself and down to earth tool for the student vet who wants nothing to do with a veteran structure within the university. (I've heard some people express, and I know where they're coming from, that student vet. leadership roles seem only to serve the person in that position but not the student vets. They feel that the sva is lip service and a self licking ice-cream cone. While that may or may not be true - these vets are STILL a part of our community, and this LinkedIn system is a way to serve them and their needs without trying to coerce them back into a community of vets. It's weird, but some people aren't ready or willing to reach out to their fellow vets for help, and want nothing to do with their former military life) Anyway, phenomenal tool. We are in talks with Calvin Jensen to get his train the trainer course at our school.
* Unique way to get noticed
* Very well done and extremely useful.

Breakout Session Title: **Chapter Tools Workshop: How to Build and Use a Business Plan**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 24

Percent of Room Capacity: 20.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.8

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.7

Presentation: 4.7

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Awesome! Was my favorite breakout. A lot of good ideas and discussion!
* Thank you
* The presenters were great. I learned a lot from them and they have promised to look at my plan and help me develop it well. They were really influential. What they implied in thier talks was more influential than what they said.

Breakout Session Title: **Collaboration Within and Beyond Your Campus: The importance of Relationship Building for the Veterans Education Community**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 94

Percent of Room Capacity: 78.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Dr. Miller is amazing.
* It was nice to see how Veterans are being supported but the information did not really apply to community colleges and the moderator let some of the panelist speak too long on their institutions and not on how they were supporting veterans.
* Made me think about building additional relationships within my own campus.
* Session did a great job of discussing the importance and benefit of networking with both other on-campus organizations and off campus organizations.
* SUNY cannot give tips. They've been given everything. It's easy when your President gives you everything and the President wants too. We need to hear from schools who had to put packages together. Had to hustle.
* Wonderful Job!

Breakout Session Title: **Cracking the Code on Making the Career Transition or Why Don't They Call Me for an Interview?**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 101

Percent of Room Capacity: 84.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 4.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Definitely could use more time on this topic, and points of view from more than one presenter. Should have more presenters and make it a more collaborative effort
* I don't think the presenter got to the issue of topic. It was presented mostly from her point of view and not a general or majority consensus reason as to why people aren't getting interviews.
* I have the same comment for all breakout sessions. Other than the Leader all additional speakers sat while speaking so unless you were in the first row you couldn't see them. They also didn't stand when introduced so if you were sitting somewhat in the back you couldn't see who was speaking. I also found not everyone had a mic so when 4 speakers sat as a group with only 1 mic you couldn't clearly hear everyone.
* I loved this session, I think the "don't do what I did" format was interesting and really grabbed my attention more than a "do this" format usually does. I think the real-world experience the presenter shared and the lessons she learned from her journey to employment was very helpful. I think we are all exposed to so much advice and guidance on how to apply for jobs but there is little explanation about why we should do things the way we are told. This session really bridged that gap.
* I would like to see more examples.
* We spent a lot of time discussing her story. We addressed her issues but we did not pinpoint exactly how to fix them. There was no clear directions as to what exactly we need to do to avoid those problems. I felt more time should have been spent addressing the solutions to the problems.

Breakout Session Title: **Creating Impactful Partnerships: How to Accomplish More than a Logo Swap**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 30

Percent of Room Capacity: 12.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.2

Length: 3.3

Usefulness: 3.6

Presentation: 3.5

Discussion / Q&A: 3.3

Overall: 3.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* At first the topic looked good, but the length and the lack of preparation from the presenters left me speechless, literally about 15 min into the presentation, they said they were done. They did not provide any useful information. I felt that this really took away an opportunity to learn from a different presentation. At the 15min mark when this was done I moved on to another presentation that I which I had gone to from the very beginning.
* This session was the session I was expecting to attend in the previous breakout session of the day. This session was a huge help when it comes to learning how to get my SVA chapter out in the community and working with local non-profits in order to advance my Chapter's mission.
* This was the last break out session for the sva.. with that it might of been a better session if everyone wasnt so burn out by that point, but it sounded like the topic had a lot of potentenal then what was said

Breakout Session Title: **Creating a Personal Statement That Pops!**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 98

Percent of Room Capacity: 65.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Another session that time flew by. Wouldve loved to have more time
* Excellent presentation and enthusiasm.
* I do not feel that the presenters were uniquely qualified to present this topic, and in fact one presenter had major typos and grammar errors in her Conference bio, leading to a lack of confidence. I expected the panel to be led by university leadership, admissions, or at least someone who reads a lot of personal statements, not someone who just has a lot of fellowships under their belt. Disappointing and a waste of my time.
* I truly wish I acquired this knowledge when I was a senior in high school applying to universities.
* The partnership between the presenters resonated in their presentation... well done ladies
* This was such a helpful session. Would like to see this at future conferences.

Breakout Session Title: **Destigmatizing Veterans on campus: Creating a more inclusive and empowering campus -- We're not just PTSD!**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 140

Percent of Room Capacity: 116.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.2

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 3.9

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 4.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Didn't realize until after the start that I had heard this presentation before.
* Great content, lot of great ideas presented
* I felt like this was less geared towards student veterans, and more towards faculty. I have to admit that I didn't get much out of it that I could take back to my chapter because it was so focused on the counseling group at one specific institution in Texas. Interesting topic and well spoken, but not terribly value added for me.
* I felt the presenter was speaking more about her work than providing options to the audience. Also, I felt her work was reinforcing stereotypes, not destigmatizing them.
* I would have loved for this session to be longer and have more time to ask questions. Also, to have the literature available due to not having enough for everyone who attended.
* It didnt really provide ways to really deal with this issue, it was more or less what the presenter does. I thought it would provide more information to the SV group on how to deal with these types of things
* It would have been more helpful to see more of how the created or are creating an inclusive and empowering campus outside of just PTSD. I felt a lot of the presentation focused on PTSD and how they were not wanting to focus on it, but lacked general focus of other issues.
* Limited information to utilize once returned to campus.
* More seats or bigger venue.
* N\A
* One attendee kept popping up during presentations (all 3 days) and taking up a lot of time with comments/questions that weren't really on the mark and rambled.
* Thank you so much, my only suggestion is more time to discuss, but a wonderful session.
* There wasn't even seating or handouts for the amount of people. I left half way through because I didn't know what was going on.
* There were a lot more people than seating, perhaps breaking it into two sessions would have been better or cutting it off at a certain number, say the room's capacity.
* This was geared more towards faculty than student leadership. Sessions that are geared towards specifics (i.e., faculty or students) should be designated ahead of time for better planning.

Breakout Session Title: **Disability Services Liaison: Access on Your Campus**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 60

Percent of Room Capacity: 40.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Dan standage was a excellent resource for this awesome speaker. Ana was awesome as well both knew what they were presenting.
* I really liked how accessible this training was and how easy it seems to be to implement on your own campus. I appreciated that they made the materials available and gave out their contact info so we could follow up and participate more actively.
* I want to be able to actually try it out from the app but excellent regardless!
* Provide closed captioning for any videos that will be played
* This is an excellent Breakout Session topic. Dan Standage and Ana Padilla did an amazing job, especially with the addition of a minor technological setback (only one microphone between them). They answered all questions with a more than sufficient answer and explanation. I firmly believe all college campuses should implement this program. Sadly, my campus has put the program on the back burner and may not implement the program. I have no complaints about this session.
* This was a fantastic addition to this year's NatCon. I was able to bring this back to my college and get it implemented. This is a service that will greatly assist veterans on my campus.

Breakout Session Title: **Empowering Policy for Student Veterans: 2019 and Beyond**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 51

Percent of Room Capacity: 20.4%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.7

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* again too overcrowded.
* By far the best breakout I attended! Wish it was two hours instead of one!
* It may have been useful to tell the group what topics were 'on the table' before sending us to find the one that interested us, but overall I found the session useful and enjoyed the discussions at my table. May also have been good to have each table provide a briefback to the group so that all the attendees heard the ideas.
* Needed more time to address issues
* Round Table Discussion was a great way to get student veterans to bring to the table their ideas of what they believed needed to be discussed at the policy level
* Round table discussions with other attendees was great way to share information, experiences, and to learn.
* small group time was a great opportunity to see what issues other chapters are facing.
* This session was another one I did not expect to enjoy so much, but my group talking about transition programs had such a meaningful conversation about the topic that I really enjoyed it. Feeling like my input could potentially help facilitate change was inspiring.
* This was a great session. It was great to be able to give input on policy. We were able to bring up some very important issues and hopefully they can lead to meaningful changes.

Breakout Session Title: **Engaging Student Veterans in the Greater Community**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 111

Percent of Room Capacity: 92.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.2

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.0

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Amazing
* Good information, but we hardly heard anything about the Travis Manion Foundation and why they were invited to be there. Almost zero time for questions and discussion. Felt like I was attending a lecture.
* Good overall presentation. Nothing that stood out over it.
* I didn't understand that this was about engaging students in the UNIVERSITY community. I thought it was about getting students out into the GREATER community. :-)
* I was hoping for some best practices on engaging veterans, not a psychology lesson on why it is difficult
* Loved the new ideas from this Session.
* The presenters did a great job of sharing the stage, engaging the audience and conducting activities.
* Was looking for more innovative ideas and strategies.

Breakout Session Title: **Facebook, Instagram, Twitter OH MY! Leverage your Student Talent to Up your Social Media Game to Increase Student Engagement**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 75

Percent of Room Capacity: 30.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.0

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* All they really did was show you how to make a video and post it to social media.
* Great course. Would like to see more value added by handing out flyers with bullet points for running successful social media accounts. Would like to see more information about strategies, campaigns, best practices, trends, and advertising on social media.
* Having to download apps to make videos to post to some of these other social media accounts. I didn't like having to utilize my phone that way or had the space to do that.
* I found that this was more of a “introducing your grandparents to social media” presentation.
* I have the same comment for all breakout sessions. Other than the Leader all additional speakers sat while speaking so unless you were in the first row you couldn't see them. They also didn't stand when introduced so if you were sitting somewhat in the back you couldn't see who was speaking. I also found not everyone had a mic so when 4 speakers sat as a group with only 1 mic you couldn't clearly hear everyone.
* I'm particularly interested in this as the PR Officer
* Interactive. Wonderful apps demos one on one.
* It was a bit disorganized
* Perhaps include a live demonstration of using the social media apps from various devices (smart phone, computer, iPad, etc) to help users who have never used the major social media apps.
* Perhaps offer two versions of this-an entry/beginner and an advanced level. Critically important topic, however, personally gained no new knowledge as I have a master of public affairs. This is not to suggest they did a poor job.
* The length was fine, but the presenter and the pace were so slow that it was hard to follow. The presenter was also monotone and his points meandered. I also didn't expect a hands on workshop - which required downloading stuff. No issues here, but wouldn't do it again.
* This breakout session was a perfect blend of knowledge and a great way to help expand the existence of our CSVA.
* This was probably the most useful breakout session for myself personally since I manage the social media accounts at our school. While there were great things to take away from this session, it needed to be broken down to even more simple terms. There were a bunch of individuals with minimal social media experience at all and struggled to follow along.
* very basic in information and was more or less for those who don't know how to use any technology
* Very difficult to have a action lab with 100 plus people in the room. I was on this panel and it was my presentation. The topic is so very well received, but it was difficult to manage so many people in the room and try to make is as hands on as we planned. I think smaller working groups would have been better. I think we would have been better off just doing a presentation instead of an "action lab" . Regardless, we did get good feed back from the student who stayed and received assistance to learn the software.

Breakout Session Title: **Finding Your Tribe: Building Your Chapter Into a Community**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 84

Percent of Room Capacity: 56.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.6

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Absolute favorite sessions. The topic is spot on with how veterans have a hard time fitting in and the presenter nailed it. He was well informed, energetic and his PowerPoint presentation was the best by far. He posed questions throughout his presentation that he later came back to. He introduced ideas to help support chapters but also took time to hear from the audience
* Amazing presenter, best speaker throughout the sessions.
* Another top pick for me. Really good info that I can take back to campus and implement immediately.
* Awesome information provided, will definitely be looking into the books referred by presenter. Thank you so much for having this session!
* Best of the break out sessions. Mark nailed it. Building a community and unique culture for your chapter is an extremely challenging task. Many of us come into military units with distinct histories and cultures dating back to World War 1. We take it for granted that the esprite de corps is common in all organizations. It takes work to develop and sustain it. Should be an essential block of instruction for Leadership Academy.
* Dr. McKenna was incredibly well spoken and knowledgeable
* Great presentation! Mark is great at explaining and relating the information to student veterans.
* Great presenter. Great information.
* I chose not to attend this session, but I want leadership to know that this language is unacceptable and inappropriate. As an institution that prides itself on Diversity and Inclusion, SVA cannot afford to be this sloppy and offensive. Do better.
* I needed ideas to see what it is that we need to keep our Military Support Center going strongn.
* Literally the best session of the conference and made the trip worthwhile. Excellent!!!
* Speaker was energetic and clearly passionate. Perfect way to end the breakout sessions for NATCON, people clearly left energized and excited.
* This session overall was very useful for our chapter, with 5 of 7 attendees sitting in this session. Hawaii is likely the most diverse state in the country and on campus. We took away many new ideals to really reshape our chapter to ensure we are opening up to all of the student veteran population
* This was an incredible presentation and fantastic execution by the speaker. Very interesting and informative.

Breakout Session Title: **From 'Broken Heroes' to Public Servants: Transforming Persistent Myths about Post-9/11 Veterans**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 83

Percent of Room Capacity: 103.8

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I didn't get broken heroes from the presentation. But it was relevant.
* I enjoyed the session and believe the presenters did wonderful. The research track was just not relevant to my position in our SVA, and did not present an action that could be taken to improve relations and de-stigmatize PTS in military as I thought it would.
* I understand that there is a major focus on the post 9/11 veterans. However it appeared at this conference that there was more pre 9/11 veterans attending this event and they did there best to cover the period, I believe that there should be a bit more bridging the gap for all veterans that are currently attending school.
* Redundancy for me. I would like to see more presentations that most closely encourages a strength based approach to the value that veterans bring to higher education and the work force. I think some of the general sessions described this really well.
* Rosalinda always does a good job of briefing info, keeping the presentation moving and answering questions/keeping things on topic. This one was one of my favorites. I hope they upload the slides on the app or send them out.
* The research surrounded finding a 'myth' researching how it might be busted and then presenting that counter arguement. It seemed a waste of time. It was however, interesting conversation that arrised from the discussions.
* Wish it had been longer. Was excellent.
* Wonderful presentation with fascinating information

Breakout Session Title: **Higher Degree Opportunities Outside the U.S.**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 64

Percent of Room Capacity: 45.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.7

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* A lot of useful information, clarifying misconceptions, and hilarious presentation.
* Best session of the conference
* I felt the topic was a bit misleading. When I entered the session, I thought this was going to be general information about higher degree opportunities beyond Sydney. It was a fantastic presentation including the "cheeky" and sassy campus representative whose humor kept us on our toes. I do not know how much space I have in this text box, but I want to make mention two things about the VA Representatives. One, stated that her creditentials were far too long to mention here. That's probably not a good way to start off a panel. She clearly felt that we lucky to have them onboard and it was made quite clear she was annoyed to have to answer questions. The other VA representative, Schnell made quite an alarming statement when a student asked if Financial Aid applies to these overseas schools. Her response, "I don't think student veterans should apply for Financial Aid considering we at the VA pay for everything." As a student veteran advocate, that is the worst thing I could have heard. It is hard enough to get veterans to apply for any benefits and then to hear a VA representative say something like this is heartwretching and unacceptable. I cannot believe someone who is employed by the VA to help veterans would stifle their income because student veterans still have to make ends meet during breaks between the semester. I was extremely disappointed to hear Schnell's comments and hope it is addressed.
* My second favorite break out session. The Australian representitive was very resourceful and livened the presentation. Wish there was a little more time for the PP.
* Please do this again.
* The presenters were excellent! They used a lot of real examples to illustrate how you can use your benefits or pursue a degree abroad, and gave a lot of information on how to do so while still involving your family. They gave actionable tips on translating your foreign degree to the US, and gave an overview of what programs are like overseas. I learned a lot and hope to study abroad for my masters thanks to this session.
* There were questions that still needed answers because the VA system is going through changes.
* This session was much more informational than I expected. The presenters were excellent and it was very nice to have VA personnel there to give clarifying information.

Breakout Session Title: **Hill Town Hall**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 98

Percent of Room Capacity: 65.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Almost no time for questions and discussion (the expected format of a 'town hall'). I got some useful information and found it interesting, but was very 'wonkish'. The panel use a good deal of acronyms and 'inside' vernacular. I had to look several things up afterward. Again, almost no time for questions.
* Moderate the audience's feedback a bit more than was verbalized.
* Need more concrete examples, visuals, etc to make it more interesting
* Q&A was too short. Presentation focused too much on GI Bill
* SVA never ceases to amaze me who they have on their panels. This powerhouse panel shared what is happening on the Hill with legislation, specifically veteran issues, without holding back. Each panelist listened and responded with respect and concern. They addressed each topic with a bi-partisan approach and thoroughly. I am thrilled they responded to the GI Bill fiasco and were willing to help beyond NATCON19. I asked about legislation for Voc Rehab and if anything was occurring to help level the playing field for different levels of education. One of the aides and I are in contact as he asked me to reach out to him after NATCON. It's good to know that they really do care about us.
* The only issue was one of the questions focused on a single person and how she could become a staffer. Wasted time on that question could have been focused on the Staffers noting that DoD Voluntary Education was their new focus. I would have liked to hear more about that and their plans for future legislation / closing 90/10 loophole, etc
* The only suggestion I could recommend for Panels such as this one is to provide a presentation slide with the presenters' names, pictures, and positions so that everyone can keep track of the presenters. This information was provided in the phone app, however, I would have preferred to not have to look at my phone during the presentation and give the appearance that I wasn't paying attention.

Breakout Session Title: **Host a Regional Conference, They Said; It'll be Fun, They Said**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 51

Percent of Room Capacity: 44.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I would suggest that the presentation organization was a bit cleaner. Other then that. Great information and thank you for sharing!
* The presenters were excellent and I really enjoyed hearing how they've created a sustainable regional conference. More importantly, the discussion at the end was really fruitful, and helped us to figure out how to bring this work back to our own campuses. I really enjoyed this presentation.
* This was so unorganized and excluded states who were in the room and mostly for at a community college level I guess. Because the next regional is during the week. But they did not have a organized talk speakers were out of turn and well Some useful information but not much.

Breakout Session Title: **How Key Decision Points Affect Student Veterans' Education Life Cycle Outcomes**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 87

Percent of Room Capacity: 108.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.1

Length: 3.7

Usefulness: 3.1

Presentation: 2.9

Discussion / Q&A: 3.0

Overall: 3.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Although I really enjoyed the research topic itself and the importance of it, the presentation was dry and I do not think it focused enough on how the research is being conducted, how they are working to solve the issues with the research, and what the data actually means rather than just talking about the data.
* Chris does an awesome job responding to Q&A. He's also an invaluable resource to have in a room when discussing these topics. His delivery when reading off of slides is not where he shines, but in those other areas I know of few better.
* Dr. Chris Cate has provided profound insight into the student veteran transition and education experience through his research. However, I do not feel as though he was adequately prepared for this breakout session. His research was too young for him to have presented on it, as he was unable to answer some vital questions that a full-research project would have been able to provide.
* Good info but presentation could be stronger
* I actually left the session because it was so overcrowded. There was not enough room and I felt that the presenter was not engaging enough for me to stand through an entire presentation.
* I found the material very valuable. Excited about the future data generated from this study. The questions from the audience were poor and they didn't get any better. The presentation was not guided well, but the presenter is an academic so if you can look past that it was great. Probably the most valuable presentation I attended as a practitioner and academic.
* I have a hard time following a disorganized presentation was my only complaint. The data portion, I absolutely loved and wanted to dive a bit deeper in the research portion. I do not believe that it was the presenters error. I do want there to be less involvement by participants until the presentation is at close. I felt that the conversation in this session was dictated mostly by the participants, not allowing the presenter to get to talking points.
* I understand more data is needed for this session to become more valuable, maybe having all attendees complete this survey prior to the convention so we can be included in the research.
* In my opinion, the presenter should have been more sure of the information he was providing.
* Presentation was somewhat limited due to progress of study. Very interested to learn more as study progresses.
* The discussions seemed to get away from the presenter and more focused on what information he doesn't have. It would be really helpful to have heard what are the key points schools should be measuring and how to best use that data to help veterans. There was too much Q&A from the audience which didn't leave much time for the actual presentation.
* The presenter was ill-prepared. He was missing the link to the survey that he gets his data from. He was not prepared to be confronted by many other researchers who had valid critiques of his work. He seemed like a nice man but I think he greatly underestimated his audience.
* The session was not long enough to accommodate the conclusion and Q&A- lots of missing information, or rushed answers.
* The title of the breakout session is what brought me in, but the presentation and information wasn't that useful or applicable. I felt that there wasn't enough information for the data and the Q&A portion of the breakout session really proved that point.
* There is a lot of research presented bu never outcomes and what change is being done.
* This presentation's abstract made me think attendees would get to actually learn from the gathered data some glimmers into how decisions made may affect students and how administrators and chapter members can use this information to better support student veterans on their campuses. However this presentation focused too much on the nitty-gritty details of the research and not its application. The presenter seemed to talk more about the groups surveyed and how he was still missing data. I understand it is a work in progress, but he should have stated this in the abstract or made a statement that the presentation would focus on what the data gather can teach us. Instead the presentation seemed to focus on Q&A about what groups were surveyed and what items were included loosing sight of what we were there to learn about.
* This topic was not ready for presentation. It was terrible. There was not a large enough sample size to make any meaningful conversation. I felt like I wasted my time.
* Wish we could have gotten through more of the slides. We spent a majority of the time on peoples’ questions. It might be helpful to have a handout with info on methodology, prior SVA research, etc. as that seemed to be a lot of what people were asking about. Also, I sure hope they upload the slides so we can see what all we missed.
* Worst presenter of conference. Kept stammering, was easily side tracked, and seemed overall unprepared.

Breakout Session Title: **How are veterans doing in financial outcomes? New findings from the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 48

Percent of Room Capacity: 60.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.5

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I thought the information provided was information that everyone should have already known. It was a great session anyway.
* I would like to work with the presenters to encourage more research on financials for student-veterans. No representative research exists.
* While the information presented was interesting, the data was heavily favoring Vietnam era veterans and did not apply to the audience on hand. It would be great to see the same study redone to target OIF/OEF era veterans.

Breakout Session Title: **How do I translate my military experience to a civilian workforce?**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 93

Percent of Room Capacity: 37.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Although there was plenty of useful information being shared from those in the crowd, I thought it was rude and time consuming to hear everyone's story of how people found jobs through LinkedIn. Despite it being a powerful tool in finding careers, there was no need for the lengthy anecdotes. I feel as though the speakers could have given more pertinent information.
* I was hoping for more examples of translating skills
* I was hoping for more of a presentation from this session. The format ended up being mostly Q&A, but the content was very applicable and supporting of student veterans.
* I would include a more robust representation of the topic from other perspectives instead of one company. This was VERY well attended but the way that particular company approaches things may not be reflective of others so it's always good to have different methodologies presented alongside each other.
* It was just a better version of TAPS class. Most of the answers were "it depends". This would have been better as a booth, for indivdiuals to come up to with their resume or general questions.
* It was well worth my time and to bring back information to my site Supervisor what it was that I can incorporate in my Veterans Center at my school.
* Many veterans are unaware that they can use this information for school credit.
* The topic covered was great but it became more of a sales-pitch to use/connect with Gartner. It was helpful to hear from a veteran on how they went through the process to land a job in the civilian workforce.
* There was little to no helpful information presented. The presented had a short presentation and the majority of the time was taken up with Q&A.
* This breakout session gave me a great understanding g on how to translate my military life and accomplishments into civilian knowledge.

Breakout Session Title: **How to be More Than Just a Club**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 145

Percent of Room Capacity: 58.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 3.7

Usefulness: 4.0

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Again, microphones for audience members speaking. I appreciate the follow-up email and notes from Karin. I feel this could be longer - we only got to hear a few ideas on each topic.
* Again, panel was good, however I feel that a collaboration of clubs could get together and put an actual presentation together, it would be more helpful and more time.
* Alot of time was wasted asking audience members about personal issues. I feel it would have been more productive to stay broad and applicable to all attendees.
* If you were attending natcon you pretty much had done the things and understood what was in the session already
* My only critique of this that I would like to see from the SVA more is breakout sessions for established clubs. I felt this reviewed best practices, but our chapters concern is that we are maintaining but we're not thriving. I thought this was going to be a talk about taking our chapter to the next level and didn't really feel like I got that out of it.
* Outstanding session, my only complaint is wishing there was more time for discussion, amazing presenters, thank you so much.
* Small of the rooms were too small for the amount of attendees, but you really can't tell how many people will be attending. Standing room or sitting room I still enjoyed the Breakout aession.
* Some questions asked were written down but not answered due to time constraints.
* The input from other chapter leaders and advisors was good
* The set up of the room was very misleading. I thought we were going to discuss with other students from our round table. I would have learned more if we would have done it that way.
* There was just so much to discuss. We ended up dicussing fundraising and social media. Those were good conversations and I did learn from them.
* There was just too much information in this for the time allotted. Breaking this into two separate breakout sessions, one for fundraising and one for recruitment and involvement, would make it more effective.
* This session was kind of a let down in that the information provided was general and generic. There was little take away information that I found could be related to my chapter that we are not already doing nor are other chapters actively doing.
* This was a great opportunity to hear from other SVA's and what was successful and not successful.
* Unfortunatlly it seemed like every question that was asked was answered by the answer..."do whats best for your club" that wasnt very helpfull...
* Very good input.

Breakout Session Title: **How to use VA's platforms to tell your chapter's story**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 25

Percent of Room Capacity: 17.9%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 3.9

Discussion / Q&A: 3.2

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Teaching people how to access their own social platforms to share with the VA.
* With this being the first session many people had a hard time finding the location of the session. The presenter wen so fast through the slides it was over very quick. It would be nice to have copies of all presentations.

Breakout Session Title: **If you didn't write it down, it didn't happen. Keep your chapter alive with documentation.**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 68

Percent of Room Capacity: 56.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Best breakout I attended.
* Best session at the conference! Wish my entire chapter had attended!
* Important topic but turned into a recap of events they did. Not actually how and what to document so much. Should have been a better discussion on what and how to record. Many student veterans were junior enlisted or lower NCO's. Unless they had staff time their organizational management processes are not well developed to run an independent organization. This had a lot of potential but fell short of my expectations.
* The presentation was really good and well done.
* This was my session so my responses may be biased.
* This was the best breakout session that I went to during this conference. I learned so much and have not stopped talking to the presenters. They were fantastic. I really got a good idea of how to manage our chapter.

Breakout Session Title: **Integration for Organizational Success: Working Towards Creating an Empowered Student Veteran in a Well-Connected Campus**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 52

Percent of Room Capacity: 37.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* It didn't feel like a cohesive or well rehearsed presentation. It would have been helpful to have an outline rather than each presenter tell us some things they do on campus without discussing the measurable impact, or the measurable change in engagement form year to year as they added programs, etc.
* Thanks for all the great information!
* This probably wasn’t the best sessions for me as it didn’t really pertain to me but i was interested to hear from my own college on the panel. The panel was very impressive, the speaker kept the flow going incredibly well especially since the topic was a loaded one. It was interesting to see how our campus and others are tailoring to the needs of the veterans
* Would enjoy a longer session for discussion and Q&A

Breakout Session Title: **Internships: How it is crucial to your successful veteran transition**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 99

Percent of Room Capacity: 86.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* During this presentation, I found it lacking in diversity. What I mean by that is, all the panel members all were interns from the same program doing the same thing with the same story. The same message could have been relayed with 1 panel member. For future panels like this, I’d recommend bringing in 3-4 veterans who interned at diffrent companies doing different jobs. As well, I think there should have been someone talk about how from their internship, they were able to educate their host company on how to be more veteran friendly. For example, I’m interning at Jacobs engineering right now, and I have gotten highly involved with leadership in the company on how to be more veteran friendly. Some of the things I’m working are having dedicated intern positions for student veterans, supporting local SVA chapters, etc.
* Fantastic student panel! I left inspired. The Minnie ears women made me realize Inwas my own best advocate and the only limits I have are the ones I place on myself.
* It always good to hear feedback and ask questions of a student veteran panel.
* It was great learning about the opportunities provided to student veterans through The Washington Center. I'm looking forward to sharing this information with the student veterans on my campus.
* Kristen was awesome!
* Room set up - panel was set up awkwardly on one side of the room. Suggest to set panels center of the room so more visible to the entire room.
* We could have used a larger space. There were a lot of people standing or sitting on the floor. Larger spaces for the sessions should be a big part of the scheduling aspect of these sessions.

Breakout Session Title: **Key Partnerships: How Student Veterans and Disability/Accessibility Offices Can Collaborate**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 28

Percent of Room Capacity: 24.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Just an overall good topic and conversation
* Provide closed caption for any videos.
* Thank you
* The title and description of the session was slightly misleading. This session was geared more towards staff and faculty at college campuses. As a Chapter leader it was not the most beneficial breakout session I could have attended.

Breakout Session Title: **Maximizing Your SVA Chapter at Community College**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 50

Percent of Room Capacity: 35.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I come from a regional college that the next closest colleges are 35 to 40 miles away in either direction north and south. We are the only institution of higher education in our county. It would have been of greater benefit for me to have information on a more rural environment.
* I loved that all of the student vets gave part of the presentation!
* I'm the advisor at a community college so this was very helpful.
* Really engaging discussion and very helpful to those attending community colleges.
* The information was jumbled and the presentation style and powerpoint were difficult to follow at times. Did not find the information useful.
* THe presenters were not prepared well. They were reading from an essay.
* Would have liked more time for Q&A, but overall I found it very informative.

Breakout Session Title: **Measuring Success for Military-Connected Students in Higher Education: We Need Data!**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 68

Percent of Room Capacity: 56.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Amazing presentation! I felt that this was the only session that I attended that felt to short. Time went by so quick and so many questions were left unanswered due to time. Would love to hear them again!
* Average presentation
* Before presentations start people should save there questions and experiences until the end so everything can be covered. the presentation was great but too much input from the audience took us on tangents we didn't need to take
* Best presentation of the entire event.
* Could use more breakouts regarding data and how to capture.
* Good stuff! Love data to make informed decisions!
* Had some interesting information but again room was too overcrowded
* I got a lot of good resources and ideas from this session
* Katie Giardello did a wonderful job with this breakout session. The only downfall was during the Q&A portion, attendees kept talking about what they do and did not ask any questions and because of this, those who wanted to ask questions were unable to do so.
* Presenter could have stayed more focused on topic but overall, presentation was good and the tools/resources shared were helpful.
* There was no real data, so this wasn't very informative.
* This was a good presentation with useful information on data and where to access it. Presenter did a great job from what I could tell it was a last minute change and they made it work. I would advise the presenter to be mindful about her own bias when presenting "data" points and information.

Breakout Session Title: **More Money, More Schooling: Using Scholarships to Supplement Your GI Bill**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 125

Percent of Room Capacity: 83.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* A handout of possible places to go to apply for scholarships would have been useful.
* Great info! Great speakers!!
* I couldn’t believe the student vet with Minnie ears had received over $3k in scholarships... she was at both panels’ we need more students like her on panels. It was neat to hear the different perspectives. I have no excuses and I need to make time for this. Huge help
* I kind of wished this would have been a bigger session. Especially with the implementation of the forever GI Bill. As you know, there are many questions people have about exactly what the new bill does and how to obtain certain benefits.
* Thank you!!
* The problem arose with the lack of specificity. We all know that there are scholarship opportunities out there, but it would have been great to give specific examples. For instance, maybe logging into College Board and using the system to show how a person can narrow the search. Also, a section on vetting. Here's what you do to vet the scholarship. And, maybe mention organizations like Scholarship America, which manages scholarships for organizations like Dr. Pepper
* This session was exceptionally helpful. As someone who is hoping to attend vet school if finances allow it, this session was invaluable to me. Seeing how many different types of scholarships are available, what resources/tools to help look for scholarships, and getting direct advice from members of scholarship selection committees was extremely beneficial to not only myself, but other student veterans who need additional financial assistance when it comes to completing their education goals. This was by far one of the best sessions offered throughout the entire conference.
* Too many specific questions from audience that can be addressed later in person one-on-one.
* When asked about where to find Scholorships, it was glanced over... if you have a break out session like this next year have handout ready for people.

Breakout Session Title: **Motivating, Mentoring, and Mediating: Advising a Student Veterans Organization**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 108

Percent of Room Capacity: 90.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Great information!
* Having went as a Chapter member I recieved valuable insight on the advisor side of the organization. I will be able to help more having the knowledge of what they do.
* I don’t think there was a lot of difference between this and the previous advisor session.
* More time, 15 mins
* Need recommendations and best practices examples
* none
* People wouldn't let the presenter finish, kept asking questions.
* The Q&A seemed to get away from the presenters with many audience members wanting to share their own practices. This may have been better as a roundtable discussion.
* This presentation provided a decent overview of what advising should look like, but the discussion and presenters often got derailed by the audience leaving the presentation feeling disjointed and distracted.

Breakout Session Title: **Navigating the GI Bill to support Your Future**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 87

Percent of Room Capacity: 60.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 3.7

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Better info than what is given during SFL TAP! More informative
* Have more structure in the presentation versus all personal Q&A
* They were just restating what Robert Wilkie said and they didn't have any of their own content to present so 10 mins of presentation and then they opened up the floor for questions.
* This session was too technical. There needed to be veterans representing.

Breakout Session Title: **Not Just a Technologist - Exploring the Intersectionality of Veteran Status, Gender, and Race in STEM**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 38

Percent of Room Capacity: 31.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Great discussion, I am more interested in intersectionality then STEM itself.
* Great panel and topic.
* Please don't put at the same time as other STEM panels - it was disappointing to know that attendees had to choose between this and the STEM session \*at exactly the same time\*
* Subject matter is very important, SVA could use more on this topic
* The topic was great but I don't think that the race identity and how it informs STEM folks was really brought in. There was lengthy discussion of gender but not so much the other part.
* There was not a lot of time for Q&A

Breakout Session Title: **One Team, One Fight: A Holistic Look at the Transfer Process**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 45

Percent of Room Capacity: 39.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I did not think that the actual presentation matched the description as I did not realize this had to do with "How to transfer to a 4 year school"
* Thought slides were supposed to be uploaded to the site, but haven't seen them
* Very informative.

Breakout Session Title: **Preserving Your Chapter's Legacy with Technical College of the Lowcountry and the Veterans History Project**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 29

Percent of Room Capacity: 20.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.7

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Love the idea of the VHP!
* We have initiated this project on our home campus in april

Breakout Session Title: **Public Sector Leadership Void**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 35

Percent of Room Capacity: 29.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 3.9

Length: 3.9

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 3.6

Discussion / Q&A: 3.7

Overall: 3.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

Could be more relevant.

* Great topic, just needed more work on the sort of information; audience participation kept the discussion moving along; however, needed to be more generalized so the information could be applied to a variety, rather than just one
* Internet didn't work on laptop and presenter had to go without PowerPoint but still did well. One audience member was rude and tried to change the topic to an unrelated subject
* Presenter did a great job without the use of powerpoint very informative and very engaged was able to answer all questions and provided exceelsnt information
* The computer did not connect to the internet so no PowerPoint was presented during the session. I feel like that held back the session from being excellent.
* The presentation did not work for the instructor. He emailed it out later and it was well done. There were many contributors in the audience that were able to help drive the conversation and make very beneficial. Everything was covered from lack and desire to hire veterans, how to apply, what skill sets are needed, the job culture and everything in between.
* The presenter did a decent job of presenting his materials but was constantly interrupted by audience members about political rhetoric. The presenter should instruct the audience to hold their questions until after the presentation is complete; last 10 minutes of the hour for questions.

Breakout Session Title: **Rebranding Disability through Achievement: How Lime Connect Supports the Career Success of Student Veterans**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 15

Percent of Room Capacity: 13.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4. 6

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 5.0

Presentation: 4.8

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* None

Breakout Session Title: **Reputation Recovery: How to deal with and overcome a PR Nightmare in your SVA Chapter**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 74

Percent of Room Capacity: 61.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.8

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Best part was the q&a, presenter was flat
* Great session. Puts into perspective how bad a PR mistake can get but also helps in that people were offering advice.
* One of my favorite sessions. We are dealing with internal power issues within our chapter and that is why we attended this. Can’t say enough good things about the presenter, professional, great presentation. The participants had pretty serious questions that he handled flawlessly and allowed other audience members to give feedback as well
* Overall, Raul did a great job of presenting an outline, not reading from his slides (!), giving an overall context for doing PR, and then had great discussion by having audience members share their PR nightmares, what they did, & ask for feedback.
* Presenter had limiated experience in some types of issues. Decent presentation but did not fit the scope of what many people came to hear about.
* The presentation was scripted and the individual in charge didnt have any experience. There were some real issues in the audience and real support was needed. This was the greatest and most helpful session to some of these programs that had real issues. Someone from SVA staff should have been there. These programs were close to being shut down by thier school's leadership and were hanging on to a thread.
* This session helped me with a decision I was trying to make about term limits and length of time left until graduation.
* This wasn’t really about crisis communication, rather, a discussion about internal issues attendees were facing.

Breakout Session Title: **Resume workshop with Google: how to make yourself stand out on paper**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 117

Percent of Room Capacity: 78.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Feedback: the room was not large enough to accommodate everyone in attendance.
* Google gave maybe 3 tips that weren't common knowledge for resumes, and those 3 tips were specific to creating a Google resume. They didn't actually teach us how to create a resume that Google would find appealing, and they didn't facilitate the activities well enough for them to be useful. The room was far too small for the size of the crowd - I'm not sure why SVA thought this workshop wouldn't be packed. It was just mediocre and I was expecting more for spending an hour of my time in a cramped room with Google representatives. They also asked people to hold questions until the end, and then immediately ignored their own rules. Which made their presentation much longer and much less helpful. I wouldn't recommend this to anyone.
* I was amazed to dive into the minds of Google employees! I really enjoyed their presentation, the media they used, and the presenters: Charlene Clee and James Durago. Although they focused on what a successful Google resume would look like, they did cater to the best of their ability to offer more specific information on what a good generic resume should look like. They were flexible, relevant, and very knowledgeable in their field. I would love to see them again!
* If there is a panel like this one, or similar that will happen at NatCon 2020, one of the bigger rooms with table and chairs would be more suitable.
* Thank you
* That wasn't any useful info given on how to make one standout other than the veteran recruiter stating that he prefers to see education on the 1st page of a resume.
* They had real life examples to show the differences between better written sentences. It was very helpful.
* This session could have been 30 min longer by taking a deeper dive into resumes, their significance and going into more detail about the actual interview itself. Having an interview breakout session next year should be key an very-well attended.
* This session was awesome!! Google presented very well and gave us so much useful and relevant information. They presented in an interactive, engaging, and fun way.
* This was another great break out session. They was able to expand on last year's presentation and add additional details for veterans.
* This was great and very useful.
* This was very interesting and I will take it back to my students.

Breakout Session Title: **Roll Up Your Sleeves, Changemakers: Creating Your Service Plan**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 68

Percent of Room Capacity: 27.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 3.8

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Creating a service plan takes longer than the time that was allotted. There is just alot of information.
* Definitely a great topic but think about possibly expanding the time for it and polishing up the presentation.
* I helped coordinate it and our group was well-received from our peers.
* My least favorite of the sessions.
* No enough seating for the people there
* Service plans are great to start an engagement conversation and promoting the chapter organization.
* Some of the information was not clear. Too much information on slides. Presenters were helpful when answering questions. Could have been organized a little better.
* The presentation was scattered and unorganized. I loved the idea behind it but it needs to be refined more.
* There was so much to cover in this and I feel like an hour was not long enough. Loved the session though!

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: Business**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 21

Percent of Room Capacity: 18.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 3.8

Length: 3.7

Usefulness: 3.0

Presentation: 3.8

Discussion / Q&A: 3.5

Overall: 3.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* The panel only consisted of alumni who had gone on to careers in consulting roles. A broader view of business would have been better representative
* Wasn’t as productive as I would have liked
* Would definitely enjoy a longer session.
* Would've liked to have more panelist from varying areas of business, or at least companies

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: Healthcare and Social Work**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 51

Percent of Room Capacity: 44.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 3.3

Length: 3.7

Usefulness: 3.3

Presentation: 3.3

Discussion / Q&A: 3.5

Overall: 3.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I thought the panel did a great job and gave great information. I have been a practicing social worker for about 20 years and I thought they gave accurate information, suggestions, & guidance. I was very impressed and felt that the audience got to engage a lot by asking their own questions to the panel.
* I would treat social work separately from health care. I understand the mind-body connection, but the social workers did most of the talking. I would have liked to hear more about the pathways to MD, DO, DD for student-veterans.
* It was very well presented. However the only drawback was that with both topic together there was just a lot of information to cover in the time frame.
* It would have been nice for the panelists to have had a couple things they could've spoke about or may their expertise in more detailed pertaining to their career field. It also could have been longer cause one profession relating to biology did not seem to get a chance to talk as much.
* Only discussed social work not health care
* The moderator knew nothing about the topic and interrupted the panelist with unnecessary jokes, such as "I also have business cards if anyone wants one."
* The speaker did not seem organized or even interested in this topic. It was only a Q and A without any guided topics or questions. The panel seemed very enthusiastic but without the right directed questions, it was hard to stay on topic. Least favorite session which was disappointing because I am going into the professional medical field (not social work)
* The title and description was highly misleading. I was under the impression it would be about getting into the actual healthcare field, such as nursing. However, it was about getting into advocacy work.
* The topic discussed was 99% social work. The two panelist who have experience in social work did an amazing job. However, I was seeking to hear from a healthcare professionals such as physicians. The topic should have just been called Social Work Panel.
* This break-out was very informative and useful..
* Would be helpful to have more experienced Social Workers/ Health Care workers on the panel. I just felt that its difficult to give your perspective when you have very little practical experience. This is my opinion from a Social Worker with 15 years experience who is sitting in the audience with my two master social work interns.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: Law**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 39

Percent of Room Capacity: 33.9%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.7

Presentation: 4.7

Discussion / Q&A: 4.7

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* As a potential lawyer this was great insight
* Christine Black was amazing! She had so much information that was helpful and insightful. Margaret was also very knowledgeable. She had great information geared towards the current Law students.
* In comparison to the other Law Panel, this was phenomenal! These two panelists were honest, helpful, and engaging. I love their confidence and willingness to share their experiences with us. They gave us options of how to use a law degree if litigation is not what we want to do. For example, you an do lobbying, run for office, or teach. You can work in the private or public sectors doing research. I walked out of this panel feeling empowering because I had options. They shared why they chose one field over another. For example, one panelist said the difficulties she was having representing the LGBTQ community in one state, but it inspired her to do pro bono work for the transgender community who needed name changes. Problems and solutions, this is what this panel offered the audience. I love how they each shared their personal stories and how they ended up in the law field. It gave me hope that no matter what you start from that it's about making the best of it to get where you want to be. I left this panel inspired and hopeful. Kudos to these panelists for making such a positive impact. This session was just what I needed.
* The moderator and presenter did a great job of adapting to the lack of other panelists. Please bring back Christine Black as a speaker because she is amazing!

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: Non-Profit**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 38

Percent of Room Capacity: 33.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* 1-2 more alumni on the panel would have improved the panel
* Great format and panelists!
* Have it geared more toward what the student veterans need right now for internships and opportunities.
* I found the information very helpful and applicable
* I thought it was good. Panelist did a goof job of telling their individual stories.
* It was very well organized and enjoyable.
* n/a
* Thank you
* This session ended up being wasted talking about personal things people experience working in the non profit industry. It would have been nice to get more information on how to be a successful non profit group. Not individual.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: Public Sector**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 44

Percent of Room Capacity: 38.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Another spectacular panel who shared the up's and down's of the public sector. I never realized how many opportunities they are in this arena. I appreciated their honesty of how it is not for everyone especially if money is your primary focus. Personally, I would rather do a job I love for less money rather than make a lot of money and be miserable. Their passion for what they do really did shine through their story-telling. I only wish I had more time to approach each of them and ask questions, but thank goodness for LinkedIn! This panel further instilled what I want to do after graduation.
* Good comparisons between public and private sector, such as networking, relationships, and job expectations.
* Overall a great presentation. I was always interested in how to get involved with working for the state. This was a great session to learn how to get into just that.
* The moderator of this panel tried to take over the conversation at points when we really just wanted to hear panelists experience
* There was not a lot of concrete information on the various pathways to public service. It was mostly personal experiences.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Alumni Panel: STEM Degree and Fields**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 54

Percent of Room Capacity: 47.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.5

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 3.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* As before there is a large gap in stem that is not being represented.
* I did not gain much from this session
* I was disappointed with this session. I am in a STEM degree program and work in a STEM field, but this session seemed to be geared only towards those going into technology (i.e. computer-engineering) or engineering. Several of us are in science fields and this particular session did not touch on degree or job fields pertaining to science at all.
* No variety of STEM degrees/fields. All panelists were technology or engineers. Didnt explore what was available for STEM majors. I didnt feel like the fully answered the questions being asked.
* STEM stands for more than just Computer Science/ Computer Engineering. I would like to see a more diverse panel
* The panel was not as diverse as could have been, although all of those which were present were appropriate and great additions. There are many STEM fields and 3 students didn't quite capture the likely STEM paths many veterans may be working toward.
* This panel had so much to bring to the table and should be considered for a general session panel next year. Their message was eye opening and their experiences were easy to relate to. This was my favourite panel that I attended at NATCON.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Chapter Advisor Best Practices**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance:

Percent of Room Capacity:

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Again, microphones for questions from the audience or Eric needs to repeat the questions every time.
* Again, moderator needs to maintain professionalism and watch his language
* As a student who is about to graduate and could possibly end up working at a university, this session was extremely useful. Not only did it clarify our expectations of our advisor, it also taught me how I be handling the role if I get the opportunity to fill that position one day. Just like with the chapter best practices, this one could easily be 2 hours long.
* Need to make sessions longer or leave more time for questions and answers / discussion. I found the sessions both inspiring and depressing: inspiring to hear the great things some schools have been able to accomplish, depressing because we have been attempting the same things at my school with much less impressive results. Our administration does the absolute least they can get away with to support student veterans and "No" is the default answer on every question.
* Needed more time, 30 mins
* Panel presentations were very informative
* Presentation was not engaging me as much as several others.
* Some good stuff, but much of it too general.
* The presenters allowed the audience members to take over the discussion, especially one attendee. I would have liked to hear more from the presenters.
* The whole presntation was nothing but questions and answers.
* This breakout session was helpful to understand what should a successful chapter advisor be.
* Very informative for new and experienced advisors.
* Wanted a few more tangible things that can be implemented.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Chapter Best Practices**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 145

Percent of Room Capacity: 120.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.1

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Could be a workshop and discussion for cross pollination of ideas.
* Could use more structure with detailed example vice adhoc discussion. Comments were still beneficial. My expectation was to have a SVA collective presentation vice chapter reps saying what they did/do.
* Everyone went to this presentation, it was packed. This topic should have been ran all three days!!!
* Excellent session, could have been a little longer, but was very useful and worthwhile.
* Facility was too small for interest in session. Topics were good, but would have been better to determine scope clearly in the information blurb. Some overlap with many other sessions. Panel was well informed on many topics, but not some others.
* Good presentation, offered an overview of how to run an SVA chapter, engaging speaker.
* Great ideas and it was useful to hear the common themes from successful programs. Would have like a good deal more time for questions / discussions.
* Great information and organization of panel members. There were 4 or 5 panel members and and MC from what I remember. They were all respectful of the time restraint and each others' thoughts. This session helped me see the overall culture student veterans have created. This is a useful session and I suggest it be given every year.
* Have less people on the panel with more succint and applicable answers. All of the replies were useful but actually few were difficult to translate how I would use them at my chapter
* I also enjoyed this session very much. The information was very helpful and timely for our chapter. I also connected afterwards with one of the panel members.
* I feel that even though a panel was good, that there should also be a presentation of some sorts.
* It seemed like that most of the advice was just, "Do whats best for your Chapter." Which is not exactly helpful.
* It was really just asking different students questions. Didn't think the moderator did well at all.
* Left early due to lack of space
* Overall I believe this was the best breakout session I attended. The only issue I had with this session is that it was too short! This should be made into a 2-hour session.
* Presenters need to maintain professionalism when speaking. One of the speakers was not a Veteran but she swore like a sailor every other sentence. Also, the moderator representing SVA needs to clean up his language. When speaking in a public venue, he needs to maintain his professionalism.
* Suggestions were real life and applicable for small colleges.
* The speakers were amazing! The advice given by the panelists was really useful and insightful and gave me a lot of ideas to use in my chapter leadership at home.
* This could have been longer, perhaps two sessions long!
* Very good topic and I learned a great deal, especially as a new SVA Club advisor.
* Very repetitive for returning chapters, but useful for new and developing chapters

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Business**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 41

Percent of Room Capacity: 35.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.5

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.6

Discussion / Q&A: 4.6

Overall: 4.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Panelists were great. They focused on the role individuals need to play for their personal and professional development when considering a future business career. It is not always about completing a degree that gains you entry to a job, but the other work you put in to understanding the business culture, reading about relevant/current topics/trends, and being willing to excel at jobs 'beneath' you while working toward your longer term goals. Their history of prior service was evident, useful, and helpful to provide perspectives for success not heard at other panel sessions. Excellent.
* This breakout session was the best one I went to of the conference. The presenters on the panel were direct, informative, and dynamic. I am not in the business field and I found all of what they said about being in the work force to resonate with my own experience & said in a way I can use in my own job. They made the session a true discussion and the access that students had to top performing individuals in the business world was fantastic. I cannot give enough great feedback on how great this session was, it could have a been a general session.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Consulting and Professional Services**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 79

Percent of Room Capacity: 68.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4. 5

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Good discussion, could be 30 minutes longer
* I just walked in because the session I planned on attending was canceled. I did think that I could be a consultant, but after this session I realised I could be, that this was an employment option I had not concidered before.
* Maybe provide also insights into how the students can be consultants, supplier diversity.
* There were several companies represented and often the general questions could have been covered by a lead presenter at the beginning of the presentation to allow for more in-depth questions and topics later in the panel.
* This was basically a “Come work for my firm” session where all panelists shared how great there form was and all the opportunity they had to offer. Half of the audience were recruiters trying to hire students. This was great for someone ready to start a career in a consulting firm however, I personally did not receive any value from this session.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Healthcare and Social Work**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 20

Percent of Room Capacity: 17.4%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 3.5

Length: 3.0

Usefulness: 2.6

Presentation: 2.8

Discussion / Q&A: 3.1

Overall: 2.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I and many others left after 15 minutes into the session. The moderator was not very good at his job he seemed lost after every question was answered. The panelist were just using their platform to market their companies instead of talking about what it is the current climate of the healthcare profession. They also got caught up with buddy inside jokes. When I left I went to the Voc Rehab Success Stories. That was not bad but people in the audience got caught up telling their personal stories that didn't add to the topic.
* Representatives from CVS did a great job discussing the resources they made available to veterans
* The presentation was not what I expected from it.
* This discussion just felt like a pitch for CVS and Atena. Almost everyone walked out because once again, they either wanted to hear more about social work or actual physicians. This topic focused more on the healthcare management side. Please see if you can get actual veteran physicians to come share their experience. This topic was very misleading and I could have attended a better session.
* This was a poor presentation. The moderator seemed to be winging it. The panel members didn't have a lot to discuss. Did not discuss social work at all and when asked if they would they said no because they did not have any experience or knowledge about it. I felt mislead by the topic and ended up leaving after 30 minutes. I wasted time that could have been spent on a more useful session. As the only individual representing my university and SVO I am picky with my selections and this was a disappointment.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Marketing, Communications, and Entertainment**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 44

Percent of Room Capacity: 38.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 3.8

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* All male panel - & self serving panelists. I was not impressed.
* This as a communication studies major was so great to hear and be a part of. Thank you

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Non-Profit**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 23

Percent of Room Capacity: 20.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 3.6

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 3.9

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 3.9

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Again, the description of the breakout session was misleading. I was given the impression that this breakout session was about how non-profits can partner with SVA chapters. This session was actually about seeking employment with non-profits.
* It was a wonderful experience listening to how veterans are making a difference with nonprofit
* This was not what it appeared to be. I thought it was about how to partner with non-profits, but it just seemed about how to get a job with a non-profit.

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: Preparing Now for Your Career**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 77

Percent of Room Capacity: 67.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* A real informative session, in which I acquired knowledge about preparing for my career that I did not know about before now. One of the panelist made a point to send a thank you card, rather than an email.
* Due to the over-compacity and constant movement (standing in the back of the room). it was hard to remain focused.
* I love panels. Very good discussion
* Needed a bigger room for sure!
* the time could be longer to allow for more interaction amongst the audience and panel

Breakout Session Title: **SVA Partner Panel: STEM**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 105

Percent of Room Capacity: 91.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 3.8

Usefulness: 3.4

Presentation: 3.5

Discussion / Q&A: 3.3

Overall: 3.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I have the same comment for all breakout sessions. Other than the Leader all additional speakers sat while speaking so unless you were in the first row you couldn't see them. They also didn't stand when introduced so if you were sitting somewhat in the back you couldn't see who was speaking. I also found not everyone had a mic so when 4 speakers sat as a group with only 1 mic you couldn't clearly hear everyone.
* I love seeing more STEM focused breakouts, but didn't feel like this was entirely informative on resources in STEM. A lot of veteran resources focus on business, entrepreneur, and leadership fields and practices. I feel STEM is overlook or generalized. I would like to see more focus on the STEM field through improving connections and companies.
* I wouldn't concentrate too much on employment but more like what students need currently. It was way to job focused for STEM.
* I'm a STEM faculty member so I did not learn much in the session. Participants might have. Most panelists had good suggestions and comments.
* Needs to focus on more than just engineering and computer science. There was NO info for those in physical and natural sciences and it felt shitty to have my stem degree be ignored.
* One or two more successful STEM professionals from Information Technology or Computer Science STEM areas for the next one please.

Breakout Session Title: **Seat at the Table: How to Make Your Pitch to University and City Leadership**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 66

Percent of Room Capacity: 47.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.6

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Having two Mayors speak was a really good way to show Student Veterans how these people think and what they are looking for when meeting with people.
* I felt that the presenters spent entirely too much time talking about who they were, and I left before they even got into the discussion of how to make a pitch. Probably 30 minutes of "who am I".
* It was interesting to hear from the mayor and University administrator, but the room size was a bit small for the group size IMO and that I found distracting. I had to keep getting up and moving from my chair so people could push past to go to/from their seats.
* Learned a lot to bring back to my college to improve the veteran and college adninistration
* Loved having a university president to give us his thoughts! Great ideas!
* Need to create documents or handouts for people to take with them.
* Outstanding presentation. Very valuable, all speakers were well spoken, well prepared and offered excellent, practical advice. By far my favorite session this conference. I am very happy that I attended and I will definitely use the tips I learned going forward.
* There is real value in this session. I appreciated the advice on partnering with local Chambers of Commerce.
* This was the best breakout session in my opinion. The table members were informative and very open to answering any questions posed.
* This was very informational. Thank you for having this session.

Breakout Session Title: **Secrets to Competing in the Private Sector: It Starts with Your Personal Brand**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 114

Percent of Room Capacity: 99.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.7

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Bring back this presenter
* I have the same comment for all breakout sessions. Other than the Leader all additional speakers sat while speaking so unless you were in the first row you couldn't see them. They also didn't stand when introduced so if you were sitting somewhat in the back you couldn't see who was speaking. I also found not everyone had a mic so when 4 speakers sat as a group with only 1 mic you couldn't clearly hear everyone.
* I'd love to see the next level of this info. Let's get deeper into the weeds.
* Lida is awesome and feel like she really knows Veterans.
* Needed a much bigger room!
* Such a good message for student veterans and it was very well delivered. I spoke with a few student veterans after this discussion and they all loved it as well.
* The presenter was excellent!
* This needs to have been a longer session and in a larger room available to more people.
* This was by far my favorite breakout session. I learned a great deal.
* Underrated topic which should be empathized because of its real world necessity

Breakout Session Title: **Small Business Success: Tactics & Tips**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 91

Percent of Room Capacity: 79.1%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 3.9

Length: 3.6

Usefulness: 3.4

Presentation: 3.7

Discussion / Q&A: 3.5

Overall: 3.6

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Felt like more resources could have been discussed I love a good how I did it but I meed more starting Steps post graduation
* Great panel, and presentation.
* If I remember well the us small business did not show up. I was hoping they would have touch on vboc.
* More resources needed to available at the session such as handouts or even a print out of the slides
* The panel that resented did not offer any information that seemed relevant in how to either start, support or succeed in a small start up business.The panel discussed how a large company, such as Disney might chose a business to contract with, rather than what steps one should take in becoming an entrepreneur.
* There wasn't enough time and 2 of the 3 were large organizations. They gave us resources, but I didn't learn any tactics or tips for small business success.
* This was the biggest disappointment of the entire conference. Not once during this entire breakout session did any of the panelists offer tactics and tips for small business success. I mean, come on, the session is titled tactics and tips yet none were offered. As I left that session, walking down the halls, I heard other fellow students complaining about the same thing. It was at this point that I started to recognize a pattern. All the small business breakout sessions were basically a pitch to join a business group and offered very little real advice for small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs. I understand that there must be some mutual benefit between sponsors and the students, with that being said, in the future I think it would be great to ensure that each sponsor or panelist has at least one solid piece of information that would bring value to veteran entrepreneurs.

Breakout Session Title: **Step by Step - Navigating the corporate career path from internship to leadership**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 65

Percent of Room Capacity: 54.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Thank you

Breakout Session Title: **Step by Step Guide to Completing Your VocRehab Education Benefit Application**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 17

Percent of Room Capacity: 6.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 3.2

Usefulness: 3.5

Presentation: 3.1

Discussion / Q&A: 3.5

Overall: 3.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I was great to sit with other student veterans and hear their experience applying and using voc rehab. It was disappointing those who needed to be there to complete the forms did not show up.
* If the experts do not show, please cancel.
* Speaker did not show up to this, However, several individuals took charge and ended up being one of my favorite break out sessions of them all.
* the guest host did not attend the session
* The presenter did not show so myself and a few other veteran and administrators hosted a Q&A based on our experiences. There was a VA rep present.

Breakout Session Title: **Stories of Success Using VocRehab Education Benefits**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 60

Percent of Room Capacity: 52.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Anything voc rehab should be given a larger window of time. I felt that another 30 to 45 minutes would have been great. The VA reps also attended the class which did help. I wanted to attend the VA's presentation on the topic the day before but was unable to. This second session was a good way to make up for that. The presenters were very good as well. It was great to hear from American Legion, VFW, and wounded worrier project talk about such an important issue.
* Having panelists that have or are using the vocrehab program would be a bit more beneficial.
* I am a Chapter 31 recipient. It is an excellent benefit. I truly appreciated Mr. Goldsmith's story. There are so many veterans that are ineligiable for benefits due to their discharge. Often times, their discharge is associated with PTSD that's associated with an event that happened while on active duty. Many more need to hear Mr. Goldsmith's story!
* I understand most stories are specific to each but this session was helpful in regards to being able to refer others to the right people.
* none
* Thank you for providing information that covered my era of veterans. Also I learned some things about dates that was never covered prior.
* The veteran that participated was very open and engaging
* very knowledgeable people with direct answers to problems that veterans were having and how to solve them. not enough seating people were sitting on the floor and people heft due to being uncomfortable though out the session

Breakout Session Title: **Strategic Planning for Transfer Students**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 47

Percent of Room Capacity: 40.9%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.1

Length: 3.9

Usefulness: 3.6

Presentation: 3.6

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 3.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I spent most of this session thinking the topic meant something else. Didn't make it through entire session.
* I think this would have a little better if it would have been identified as a community college perspective. Although I found a lot of the information very useful, I think the target audience was missed.
* Information pertaining to GI BIll was incorrect.
* Most information could very easily be found in a transfer guide found at most transfer offices. The session would have been much more useful if the information presented troubleshooting, tips when speaking to a transfer office or bargaining transfer credits that the institution does not automatically accept.
* This was pretty common knowledge discussion. It might not help the audience that they were presenting to. They would have had to give this prior to someone deciding what higher level education system in order to be useful. This was kinda retrospective and would have helped me four years ago.
* Would like to learn more from the perspective of the High Ed administrator. This presentation was more geared for students.

Breakout Session Title: **Student Government can help you**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 65

Percent of Room Capacity: 46.4%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I would like to see this session again at future conferences. (1) If a panel was great and I learned a lot, I wouldn't feel compelled to give comments. With this panel, it showed me how the various sessions range in usefulness. Unfortunately, with this panel - I'd rather not have gone. While the gentleman who presented was full of enthusiasm, he failed to do more than describe a few relevant terms (If all a reasonable person can learn in a session is a handful of terms and a structure they can easily google and comprehend by themselves in ten minutes or less, it's not a useful panel... in my personal opinion). After he described the what, why, how, where, and when of student governments (the answer often being: depends on the school), he then asked our peers to describe their own experiences. This led to people rambling on about their own accomplishments without providing any structure for us to follow suit. it felt like a big back patting session, which made me uncomfortable. Like Mr. Sevola said in his speech; for those to whom much is given, much is expected (paraphrasing). I didn't need back pats, I needed direction and critical contributions about how to utilize a resource. I eventually brought up a nuanced question, which the presenter responded with a non-sequitur answer, and I had to note another veteran who had some idea for me across the room. The presenter talked until the time was out, and I did manage to connect with that vet at the end. (2) I hate to come off so critically, but I just have to say that I didn't feel my time and intelligence (nor four of the other vets, who agreed with what I'm bringing up when I voiced my concerns off line) were respected in this panel. My attendance this year was comped by my university, so my attendance was in service of the other 40+ student vets at my school. I felt like I had a duty to get as much critically useful information as I could - and I took it a bit hard that this was a dud. As well, I left a session I thought could be useful to come to this one to cover down for the team I came with. (3) Now for a solution: If Mr. Butch wants to do an open forum with collective sharing about this topic, frame the session in that light so the expectations are not inconsistent with the experience. The Natcon description promised a more useful session than I experienced. At the end of the day, a blurb framing this session as a "know-nothing intro to student government, with audience participation and discussions about communal best practices and ideas", would have been more honest. I would have stayed at the other panel.
* Overall a good session to attend. A major change to be included for next time would be to not just have 'what to do, but also to how to do it. The take away was get involved with student government for help, but I left we left with the question of what steps to take to make this happen.
* They didn't really say how, on a step by step, to go about getting student gov't to help each student. This was more about improving SVA on our campuses.

Breakout Session Title: **Student Veteran Career Pathways: A One Credit Veteran Centric Career Exploration Course**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 21

Percent of Room Capacity: 17.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.4

Usefulness: 4.6

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Clear presentation of a course designed to assist veteran students explore options. Well thought out materials presented in the course. Presentation to us a bit less clear, perhaps the use of slides to assist with the different course segments would have helped audience members through the course breakdown.
* Presenter was engaging and welcoming, though the presentation was a little hard to follow at times. This session would benefit from a visual aid/presentation/flyer.
* would like syllabus for 1 credit course

Breakout Session Title: **Student Veteran Graduate Students: Tomorrow's Leaders in Business**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 23

Percent of Room Capacity: 15.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.5

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.5

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* No diversity. It was three lawyers.
* wish we had more time! was a wonderful panel who were well prepared and extremely knowledgable!

Breakout Session Title: **Student Veteran Graduate Students: Tomorrow's Leaders in Law**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 32

Percent of Room Capacity: 27.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.6

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* As much as I appreciate any recommendations and insights into the law field, I did not find the two current law student's advice to be helpful. (1) I genuinely believe both student veterans were candid and did what they could to answer the audience's questions, but they may not have been the "right" student veterans for this particular panel. For example, when asked about tips of how to study or manage time through law school, their answers were you push through it. Well, that's terrific advice but other than reach out to upperclassmen and professors, the answers were not necessarily insightful. What I found most alarming was the fact they both stated they were uncertain that they wanted to practice law. That's understandable, but when further probed as to what they plan to do with their law degrees was simply, "You can do anything with it." Yes, but there are a lot of unemployed lawyers (ones who have a law degree but not have taken the Bar or non-practicing) and attorneys (ones who have passed the Bar). They both financed their law degrees by either scholarship or the Hazelwood Act (only available in Texas), however, many of us in the audience are coming out of pocket for law school. Again, I believe they both were genuine in their responses and did want to help, but they were not that helpful. (2) Another comment that was made me feel uncomfortable. I understand the political world we live but there is a time and place. One of the audience members asked how they deal with "Liberal" professors. The panelist from Texas made mention that he turned this to his benefit that it gave him an advantage because it opened for discussion in the classroom. I thought that was well said, but some of the banter back and forth assumed that ALL veterans are conservative which is far from the truth. I felt very uncomfortable in this session and would have left if it had been so noticeable. (3) All was not lost, however, the law professor who sat on admission boards saved the session. He insight of what law schools are looking for in their students was most helpful. His advice and perspective helped me consider more ways to improve my chances of being accepted into law school.
* Loved the speakers and content. Best break out session I attended during the conference!

Breakout Session Title: **Student Veteran Graduate Students: Tomorrow's Leaders in Research**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 50

Percent of Room Capacity: 41.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 3.5

Usefulness: 3.0

Presentation: 3.4

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 3.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Nothing specific. Just broad overview of the individual's career arch. Could have been better on how to select and what resources to use.
* The presenters concentrated on the graduate tests required to get into graduate school. More about research processes e.g. thesis or dissertation process materials should have been included.
* The presenters were great! The information they spoke about was very practical and applicable. I wish there was more time to ask questions but I understand there are time constraints.
* Would have been more helpful to actually talk about resources and not just 3 students experiences. Didn’t really help too much in showing people how and why to go to grad school

Breakout Session Title: **Student Veterans: A Valuable Asset to Higher Education**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 57

Percent of Room Capacity: 47.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.1

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* All great!
* Good
* Great info session! It provided lots of resources!
* I didn't find much personal value in this panel. It was geared towards university administration and not to the student veteran trying to improve campus climate. A "target audience" blurb in the programming may have helped.
* I think the information on student veterans of color needs to be explored. Having subsets of data about student of color is unacceptable. SVA should look into how student veterans of color are doing compared to there white counterparts. I think there might be a despaired impact meaning student veterans of color are not being treated the same.
* none
* Some of the numbers did not apply to my school in terms of graduation rates etc so part of the information simply didn't apply.
* Well done and pertinent

Breakout Session Title: **Tackling Transfer Problems: The Interstate Passport and Benefits for Service Member/Veteran Students**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 27

Percent of Room Capacity: 22.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 3.7

Discussion / Q&A: 3.7

Overall: 3.9

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Trying to bring this to our institution.

Breakout Session Title: **Talent Management Trends of Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities--Opportunities, Challenges, and Nuances**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 31

Percent of Room Capacity: 30.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.7

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Some panelists seemed to not really speak during presentation so that felt disconnected. The content was good and the audience input was valuable.
* Susan Lang was an excellent presenter/educator, very knowledgeable and engaging.

Breakout Session Title: **The Eras of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 73

Percent of Room Capacity: 48.7%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.8

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.5

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* #tears. So powerful to hear their voices and heartbreaking to hear their experiences as a veteran. I dont know how to measure bearing witness to pain, but your facilated discussion did that #snaps
* A topic and discussion that really needs a few hours. Such great stories and discussions. It would be nice to give both the panel and audience plenty of time to chat.
* At times it was a little too personal.
* Breakout Session needed more time ... audience was fully engaged and needed at least another 30 minutes
* David was very brave to share his experiences for the first time in a public forum.
* I think to move forward, more ideas about how to integrate on campus would be more helpful. As sommeone currently serving in post don't ask don't tell there was not enough discussion on how to help veterans transition their mindset in stead of talking about experiences that happend to some people. We all have been through some sort of bias in our lives but how we help others to view us in a different way is how we move forward.
* I was a panelist on this. Could have been a longer session. Lots of attendees sharing their stories.
* I would like to work with MVA more.
* one of the panelists was not taking the topic as seriously as the others and wasting time during the panel. Thus another one of the panelists didn't get to share her input as much as she should have. 5 panelists plus a moderator may have been too much for the short hour.
* The session itself was amazing. Given the topic and the intense conversations that happened as a result, the session needed more time to truly get to the content that was being presented. Longer breakout sessions for some things would be really helpful.
* This panel and panels related to Don't Ask, Don't Tell have been excellent panels year after year. This year it became a community discussion and was the first time I came out publicly. This panel was more impactful than any general session or any veteran event I have ever attended as a professional veteran advocate. SVA HQ leadership, more board members, and corporate sponsors who are dedicated to diversity and inclusion need to be more engaged in attending panels on this topic. The lasting ramifications of this policy profoundly affected SVA chapter members and leaders across the U.S. and SVA cannot be the strongest advocate for student veterans without hearing the stories of those within these sessions.
* This presentation was a panel discussion, but we heard very little from the panelists. I was hoping to hear more about legislation, military rules/climate, and panelists experience.
* This session absolutely needed to be longer. It was primarily a discussion with the audience. More time and space is needed to discuss topics like this at NatCon.
* This was by far the best part of the conference for me.
* This was the most useful and best presentation I attended during this conference! It was informational from all persons, including the audience. Well worth the trip to FL.
* We should have more inclusive breakout sessions such as this one!!!

Breakout Session Title: **The Relationship between PTSD Symptoms and College Life Adjustment in Student Veterans**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 75

Percent of Room Capacity: 93.8%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* A little hard to understand Dr. Umucu do to his accent.
* By far the best presentation I attended
* I am a Psychology nerd so this session was perfect for me! The information they presented was very interesting and I believe the research these presenters are doing will be very impactful and helpful to the veteran community.
* Like a number of the other breakout sessions, the title and/or description of the breakout session was highly misleading. We were led to believe that the session would provide ways that student veterans can manage our PTSD symptoms and College life. This is not the information that was provided to us. My biggest suggestion would be to have clear and adequate descriptions of the breakout sessions.
* My son has PTSD and I was hoping to get information out to help him and to see what it is that I need to do on my part. But this was not the course that I needed.
* This type of research is very important, and as indicated during the talk, it is not widely studied nor understood. SVA could play a significant role in expressing the need for veterans to contribute to research such as this. Sample sizes for this study were very small and thus the lack of statistical power reduced the number of correlative connections which could have been made, had the samples been larger. SVA, if interested/appropriate could send a link to the conference attendees to this study in order to express the value of research and encourage greater participation. If the veteran is willing to contribute to the survey without compensation, the work could continue without the need for immediate increase funding.
* This was an excellent session. The topic is something that is relevant to student veterans and showed useful data from recent studies based on student veterans and the impact PTSD can have on them. Not only was it informative, but ways of helping students with PTSD have a better transition and overall time in college were discussed. The information I took away from this session will be incredibly helpful in making a better environment for not only student veterans with PTSD, but all veteran and non-veterans on campus.

Breakout Session Title: **The Return on Returning: The Economic Benefit of Degree Completion Programs**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 13

Percent of Room Capacity: 16.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 3.7

Usefulness: 3.7

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 3.7

Overall: 3.7

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I misunderstood what the session would cover. I thought it would be the economic benefit to the school for programs that are designed to fill the gap and offer degree completion to individuals who attended elsewhere.

Breakout Session Title: **The Virtual Veterans Center and its potential benefits**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 29

Percent of Room Capacity: 36.2%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 3.9

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 4.1

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Good needs more attention this area in general
* I liked the idea but the research quality was disappointing- interviews with only students to base an entire dissertation?
* none
* The best breakout session I attended.
* Thought they would present their virtua center but they didn’t

Breakout Session Title: **Tomorrow's Transformational Leaders: Journey to the C-Suite**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 100

Percent of Room Capacity: 87.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.0

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 4.0

Overall: 4.1

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Best overall breakout session I attended. Got great info from Mr. Bob McDonald, Mr. Jack Clare and Ms. Pamela Erickson
* Great opportunity to interact with some people that have really achieved top level positions within their companies.
* I appreciate there being female representation on the panel.
* I did not feel like they connected with the audience. I wished they were more transparent and vulnerable.
* I had difficulty hearing at some points, but overall it was well done.
* It wasn't what I originally thought it was going to be
* One of the most enlightening words of wisdom stemmed from this panel. Their combined level of experience in various fields made this presentation one that left a notable and positive impact. I appreciate the candor and perspective of each panelist. They were authentic, thoughtful, and helpful.
* The discussion was very high level, but could be useful for all types of people in various situations. I wish there were 2 or 3 key points to take-away.

Breakout Session Title: **Understanding Corporate Culture: Where do I fit and why is that important?**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 42

Percent of Room Capacity: 36.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.4

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I was able to note down the questions that was asked, which will be useful when at the end of an interview, and the employer asks if there’s any questions.
* Outstanding panel and questions. This panel selection was well thought out and perfectly selected. There was broad representation of different company cultures, and the facilitator was engaged and had perspective to share as well. This was one of my favorites.
* The presenters were great!
* Wow! This was a good session.

Breakout Session Title: **Veteran Employee Resource Groups: What are they and why they matter**

Breakout Session 4

Breakout Attendance: 62

Percent of Room Capacity: 53.9%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.3

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.3

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* As a corporate attendee I would have liked to have this session go a bit longer.
* Did not discuss resources that specifically applied to ones major and did not say what jobs their resources provided for veterans
* I loved the session, but I would have loved to see more panelists from outside of HR or "Veterans Affairs." ERG leaders usually come from "the business," so it's critical to have that perspective to offer effective counsel when it comes to ERGs.
* The title didn't align with my expectations.
* wish more data relevant to the topic was provided. also I think the intent was to be collaborative, but more could have been done - encourage more input from audience, have the speakers stand up or sit on taller chairs (couldn't see them)
* Would have liked information on ERG within higher ed and not just corporate world. Is there value in bringing together Veteran employees on a university/college campus?

Breakout Session Title: **Veteran Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 113

Percent of Room Capacity: 98.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.1

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.8

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 4.0

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Felt like more of a sales pitch than an informational session, was not useful.
* I did not feel like I learned any new information regarding entrepreneurship and innovation but sounded more like a sales pitch for Bunker Labs.
* I really would have liked to have left this session with a pamphlet or something containing the information and websites for Bunker labs. I was able to find everything online, however, it would have been nice to bring the information back to my fellow student veterans.
* It seemed to be a little more of an advertisement than a how to start your own business. There are so many resources out there from government agencies that are targeted to veterans that there should have been too much material to present.
* It was great to learn about Bunker Labs and what they do as an organization.
* It was not nearly about innovation, just an ad about Bunker Labs.
* Overall, the presentation was good and helpful when thinking about supporting veterans considering many of this population do go on to start their own business. The presentation could have benefitted from more structure and better explanation of what they do & their process.
* This session was four panelists telling students there back round and then saying, “find us at our both.” It did not provide any value other than the opportunity to network with the individual panelists. Don’t get me wrong there is great value in that but for a breakout session it left many disappointed.
* This was my favorite session of the entire conference. I am looking forward to connecting with the Bunker Labs group.
* wish it would have providedd more detail on where to get loans and money that would help out veterans start a business.

Breakout Session Title: **Veteran Service Organizations: A Legacy of Service**

Breakout Session 3

Breakout Attendance: 52

Percent of Room Capacity: 65.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.5

Length: 4.2

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.4

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Great session and knowledgeable speakers.
* I was VERY delighted by the presentation. I am a member of the American Legion. The information is very much needed.
* I would have been nice to have the panelist elevated somehow to where we would see their faces when they talked. I wish the VSOs would have discussed some of their scholarship opportunities.
* Thank you

Breakout Session Title: **Veteran Victory Begins with a Battle-Buddy Connection: Unity of our peer-to-peer program (PAVE) with UNLV's School of Social Work**

Breakout Session 8

Breakout Attendance: 42

Percent of Room Capacity: 28.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.3

Usefulness: 4.2

Presentation: 3.9

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.2

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Great panel. Great program.
* I loved learning about this idea, I hope to bring it to my University and encourage others around me too also.

Breakout Session Title: **Veterans Advocacy from Campus to Capitol Hill**

Breakout Session 2

Breakout Attendance: 93

Percent of Room Capacity: 62.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 4.3

Presentation: 4.3

Discussion / Q&A: 4.5

Overall: 4.4

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Give more specific examples of topics you know veterans in your programs are advocating for. Session was too vague.
* Great to see how SVA and VFW have become a force to be reckoned with!
* I got a lot of value from the NatCon experience, but as an adviser, I found that many things were geared toward a job fair for students. So while I'm sure it was very useful for them, it just wasn't as helpful for me. Nevertheless, I felt that the time was well spent, because I made connections and learned a lot about options for students.
* I really enjoyed this session and found it valuable and informative. I learned a lot and left impressed by the folks advocating for us on Capitol Hill and by the individual presenters. I also appreciated the inclusion of a latinx woman veteran on the panel.
* I would have been nice to have the panelist elevated someone to where we would see their faces when they talked.
* It was just about a fellowship opportunity for students.
* Not what I thought it would be, but useful nonetheless
* There were several that were canceled but the one I attended was good. I kind of skipped around in the beginning because the presenters were either unprepared or did not communicate the information clearly. This session I thought was excellent though. If anything I wish it was longer.
* This was actually one of my favorite sessions! The presenters were inspiring and knowledgeable. I would love to hear these presenters discuss this topic again at next year's conference.
* Would have been great to also note the fellowships administered by other veteran-enrolling/veteran-centric organizations, such as HillVets who were also present at the conference. Although focus may differ between organizations, focus also differs among veterans. This panel could have been more inclusive of opportunities for veterans to have exposure or impact at the hill-level.

Breakout Session Title: **Veterans in Transition: A Systematic Review and Recommendations**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 41

Percent of Room Capacity: 51.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.4

Length: 4.1

Usefulness: 3.6

Presentation: 3.5

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 3.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* I dont feel like there was any recommendations, this breakout session seemed more of just the review of study, which were all similar theories.
* I felt the topic ended up being more about the research, how to conduct research, how the presenters group presented research. Very little time was spent on the outcome of the study, but a whole lot of time on how the study was conducted. Not what I thought I was signing up for.
* I liked this one. I was surprised by some of the info she shared. Explaining methodology was a good idea. I hope the slides are uploaded to the app.
* Some good information, but not necessarily thought provoking.
* Was sadly disappointed in the data and the presentation.

Breakout Session Title: **Vocational Rehab: An Overview**

Breakout Session 1

Breakout Attendance: 101

Percent of Room Capacity: 67.3%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.6

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 4.4

Presentation: 4.2

Discussion / Q&A: 4.2

Overall: 4.3

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* A walk-through of the application process with pictures would have been helpful
* I actually think they needed more time for questions and answers. There wasn't enough time.
* Important topic
* Kept getting the answer that it depends on the individual's situation. There were unknown benefits I learned. Speaker looked like he was getting aggravated with the audience.
* not enough seating people were sitting on the floor
* Poor guys got hammered but were ready to respond.
* Thank you for providing this breakout session! I had my Voc Rehab appointment a few days after NATCON and this session answered everything I need.
* The presentation was useful. More in depth information about the program would have been a bit better.
* They had a lot questions- I would started 10 mins early with taking questions
* This information needs to be shared. The problem is not that it is stigmatized, most veterans do not know what benefits they are entitled to or how they work. I learned most of what I know by working in a VA office and my father. The classes you take when you leave the military does not seem to benefit veterans all that much.
* This session could have been longer given the types of questions and the new changes happening.
* This was a great topic for SCO's. We get lots of questions about CH 31. Access that we got to subject matter experts like is invaluable.

Breakout Session Title: **What Got You Here May Not Get You There: Developing & Sustaining SVO Chapter Leadership**

Breakout Session 5

Breakout Attendance: 69

Percent of Room Capacity: 57.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.2

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.9

Presentation: 4.0

Discussion / Q&A: 3.9

Overall: 3.9

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Excellent presenter. Great tips.
* Good information as a new advisor.
* I left halfway through because it was too basic.
* I really liked how the presenter connected student leaders! I thought this focused on too much of what a leader is by definition and not on what got us "here" isn't going to get us "there". I would have liked to see more information and best practices on sustaining leadership and maintaining a student group over time.
* Janine was great. Informative for young leaders to understand more leadership styles and when to use them.
* Looking for best practices to make a chapter thrive.
* My favorite session of all of NatCon. Janine Wert's presentation was so relatable and incredibly helpful to improving our Chapter. Her reading list resources were incredibly helpful, by giving continuing direction after NatCon was over.
* Not quite as expected but good and useful info to pass on
* The session focused mainly on leadership types. It could do more focuseing on what a chapter could do to stay or grow it's membership.
* The title didn't quite match the presentation. It was about what is leadership, not really associated with the SVO chapter.

Breakout Session Title: **What SVA's Business and Industry Roundtable Means for Your Chapter**

Breakout Session 7

Breakout Attendance: 36

Percent of Room Capacity: 24.0%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.0

Length: 4.0

Usefulness: 3.8

Presentation: 3.7

Discussion / Q&A: 3.8

Overall: 3.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Another fantastic breakout session. My key takeaway was how much corporations want to hire student veterans. We took this information and brought it back to our chapter, highlighting one of these companies at each general meeting.
* This session was honestly a giant waste of time. The guest speakers were spread all over the room and never really discussed anything. It sounded like a sales pitch for the national conference, which we were already at.

Breakout Session Title: **Yesterday's Pension, Today's TSP, Tomorrow's 401(k) - What You Should Know!**

Breakout Session 6

Breakout Attendance: 51

Percent of Room Capacity: 42.5%

NatCon 2019 attendees were asked to rate the breakout sessions they attended on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on six different categories. The average scores for each category are below.

Topic: 4.9

Length: 4.6

Usefulness: 4.9

Presentation: 4.9

Discussion / Q&A: 4.8

Overall: 4.8

The attendees were also given the chance to provide comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback on the breakout session through an open-ended question. Their comments are below.

* Amazing session I walked away with so much information that I will be putting to use.
* As unfortunate as it is, as a millennial, I will be making my own estate plan.
* Bob did an astounding job tailoring the presentation to meet the needs of the older veterans in attendance.
* Great Info!!!
* I learned a lot about the 401(k), and about strategic planning for retirement. As one who knows nothing about it, I wish I could learn more!
* I wish that all documents / worksheets mentioned were available to us.
* It was very helpful to get a better guideline on what I should be doing with my TSP. And he provided other financial information.
* Most useful class
* The handout was very useful
* This is deffinantly one to have again next year!
* This was a really wonderful presentation and the presenter was very knowledgeable and willing to help. The information presented was well organized, in-depth, and extremely useful.
* We just ran out of time. This type of session might be good if there was more than