



North Carolina Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education

Student Veteran Transition

Presented by Appalachian State University, with the support of Cape Fear Community College

February 24, 2020

1:00 PM EST

AGENDA

- 1:00 - 1:05: Veteran Voices: Transition Challenges
Caroline Bringham (US Marine Corps) - Cape Fear Community College
Blaze Carswell (US Army) - Appalachian State University
- 1:10 - 1:15: Welcome and Thanks
JJ Brown, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs - Appalachian State University
- 1:15 - 1:32: Student Veteran Transition: Logistics
Jason Bocchino, VA Coordinator - Cape Fear Community College
Jennifer Coffey, Program Director - Appalachian State University
- 1:32 - 1:50: Student Veteran Transition: Social / Cultural
Amber Taylor (US XX) - Cape Fear Community College
Dr. Lynn Gregory, Associate Professor - Appalachian State University
- 1:50 - 2:00: Student Veteran Transition: Resources
Jason Bocchino, VA Coordinator - Cape Fear Community College
Jennifer Coffey, Program Director - Appalachian State University



Meet our Presenters:

Appalachian State University:

Dr. Lynn Gregory

Dr. Lynn Gregory is a faculty member in the Department of Communication and chair of the Military Affairs Committee at Appalachian State University. Her research and service over the past 6 years has focused on Student Veteran transition and using intercultural communication as a skill set to bridge military and academic culture. She was the author and primary project director on the university's 2015 FIPSE/Center of Excellence grant. Lynn served in the US Army and Army Reserves. She is a dedicated ally and advocate for Student Veterans.

Mrs. Jennifer Coffey

Mrs. Jennifer D Coffey began serving Appalachian State's military affiliated students in October of 2010 as a School Certifying Official (SCO) for Veterans Affairs Education Benefits in the Office of Student Financial Aid. In February 2020, she assumed the role of Program Director of Student Veteran Services, fulfilling a long-time desire to serve Appalachian State's military affiliated students in a full-time capacity. In addition to her role at Appalachian State, Jennifer serves as Vice President of the Southeastern Council on Military Education and as a Mentor for the North Carolina Association of Coordinators of Veterans Affairs. Jennifer is committed to supporting student veterans as they transition from the military and into higher education.

Mr. Blaze Carswell

Blaze Carswell is a former Army Sergeant and current Student Veteran at Appalachian State University. Blaze is a Junior majoring in Political Science and Comparative Politics. He serves as the current Vice President of Appalachian's Student Veteran Association. Blaze volunteered to participate in this NC STRIVE session to elaborate on the challenges he and his peers have faced during their transition from Active duty to a college campus. Being an NC native who has lived all over the state, Blaze feels he can give an accurate assessment of the challenges today's veterans face. Blaze hopes NC STRIVE can be an instrument for improvement and change.



Cape Fear Community College:

Mr. Jason Bocchino

Jason A. Bocchino serves as the Veterans Affairs Coordinator for Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. Jason is originally from Poughkeepsie, NY. He spent 24 plus years on active duty in the U. S. Navy as a Religious Program Specialist, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. Jason graduated from American Public University with a Bachelors in Emergency Management. After retiring from the Navy Jason served as a work study for the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment office at Camp Lejeune. He was then hired by Cape Fear Community College as the new Veterans Affairs Coordinator in February 2020.

Ms. Amber Taylor

Amber Taylor is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. She joined the Marine Corps right after high school and served 4 years as a Radio Operator. Amber married her husband and had her first child prior to getting out. Amber started school exactly 4 days after EAS and has been enrolled since that time. She had her daughter a year later while in school. While obtaining her degree Amber has always been especially drawn to other veterans. She's passionate about aiding this population in the struggles and successes they have while they obtain their degrees.

Ms. Caroline Bringhurst

Caroline Bringhurst separated from the Marine Corps as a Telecommunications Operator this past September. She is originally from Tennessee and moved to North Carolina because she started a new chapter in her life. She was an avid coffee drinker in the service and is an even greater coffee consumer now that she's in college. She looks forward to sharing about her transition from being in the military to leaving and attending college!

