



Veterans and Families,

First of all I want to congratulate all of our Spring 2023 graduating Student Veterans! You've worked hard so be sure to thank those friends and family who supported you along the way.

*Below is a hilarious photo of fellow Veteran, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and the Assistant Director for the Center of Rural Behavior Health, Professor Paul Force-Emery Mackie, PhD, LISW*



Now onto business: The sun is shining again once which means that the great state of Minnesota we call home will experience a change of seasons. We have begun our transition from the clinically depressing winter to our awe inspiring "construction season". Make sure you spend some time outdoors to get reacquired with Minnesota's state bird, the mosquito, in all its glory.



Speaking of getting outdoors, make sure you get out and support *The Mav Vets* softball team! Thus far *The Mav Vets* have played three games and are performing...as my dog would say..."ruff". So make sure to get out there for their next and final game when they face off against the *Inglorious Batters* on April 23th at 5:30PM.



**Minnesota Veterans Career Fair : Brooklyn Center MN : May 3**

Veterans, current service members, spouses, and Gold Star Families are invited to attend the 17th Annual Veterans Career Fair! **May 3, 2023, 2:00 pm to 6:00pm** at the Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center (previously called the Earle Brown Heritage Center) 6155 Earle Brown Drive | Brooklyn Center, MN. Are you looking for a higher salary and a great career? Work for an employer that recognizes and appreciates your military service and the value you bring to the team!

For more information, go to <https://www.careerforcemn.com/VeteransCareerFair-May3-2023>.



**Minnesota State - Mankato Night, August 15**

Show your support for Minnesota State University - Mankato and the Twins during "Minnesota State - Mankato Night" at Target Field on **Tuesday, August 15**, when the Twins take on the Detroit Tigers at **6:40 p.m.**

This special "Minnesota State - Mankato Night" ticket package includes your ticket to the game plus an exclusive co-themed Minnesota State – Mankato/Twins cap! The night will also include an honorary first pitch by a distinguished alum and more! A portion of each ticket purchased through this special ticket package will support the Minnesota State - Mankato Alumni Association.

Link : <https://www.mlb.com/twins/tickets/specials/mnsu>

**Upcoming VRC Event:**

**Michael McLaughlin : Blue Earth County Veterans Service Office, April 26**



**Michael McLaughlin**

For the month of April, Michael McLaughlin of the Blue Earth County Veterans Service Office will be at the Veteran's Resource Center on **April 26 from 10:00am - 2:00pm**. Michael will meet with Veterans and their dependents going over a diverse array of benefits and services such as claims assistance, benefit counseling and advocacy.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with Veteran Service Officers (VSO), VSOs serve an important role assisting military Veterans, Retirees, and their Next of Kin. Please sure to stop by and have a chat with Michael about any of your VA questions.

**Student Veteran Welcome Back Open House : Centennial Student Union, Rm 253, August 25**

The Veteran Resource Center will be hosting a **Student Veteran Welcome Back Open House** on **August 25** in **Room 253 of the Centennial Student Union**. The purpose of this event is introduce Student Veterans to various VA services, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Career Force, Vet Center, Registrar information and various points of contact within the community that can assist them re-acclimating back into civilian and Student life. The event will run from **11:00am to 2:00pm** with lunch being provided so be sure to bring your appetite.

**Reminder:**

The following link is for the e-form that the university utilizes in order to track requests for VA education benefits by students. Every term (Fall, Spring, or Summer) that a student desires to utilize VA benefits they must fill out this form after they have completed their registration for classes in that term.

<https://inowform.campus.mnsu.edu/imagenowforms/fs?form=MSU%20RG%20Veteran%20Certification%20Form>

This second link goes to a page that explains how to access the Degree Audit Report (DARS) as well as explains how to understand the information it contains. In order for the school to certify a student for VA education benefits, the courses must fulfill a previously unfulfilled general education (Goal Area) requirement, or be moving a student towards completion of their major/minor.

<https://www.mnsu.edu/academics/course-planning-and-registration/registration-and-academic-records/degree-planning-and-completion-tools/degree-audit/>

For questions or additional information contact Benjamin Pierce at (507) 389-5264 or [benjamin.pierce.2@mnsu.edu](mailto:benjamin.pierce.2@mnsu.edu)



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