



FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Connecting FDU Veterans & Alumni and Their Families



A true soldier fought not because he hated what was in front of him, but because he loved what was behind him.

PAST Semester Review

Spring 2021 presented many challenges and amazing opportunities. From Women’s Appreciation Month and Campus Cleanups to marching for pantry supplies and leadership development, social distancing compelled our student veterans to band together. The SVA’s determination to bring veterans together across two campuses is a testament to the grit and grace with which they achieve goals.

PRESENT New Board Members

A new season of leadership has taken reign in the FDU SVA! Joe Cerciello (USMC, Florham ’22) is the new President, Dillon Pontes (USN, Florham ’21/’22) is the new Vice-President, Jonathan Seimaszkiewicz (USMC, Metro ’22) is the new Treasurer, and Heidi Jones (Dependent, Florham ’24) is the new Secretary. We are excited for the next wave of student veterans continuing a legacy of service and excellence.

FUTURE Alumni Connection

Are you looking for an opportunity to lead a fellow veteran? Have you found success transitioning from university to gainful employment? If so, we want to connect with you as a mentor. Many of our veterans are looking for internships or full-time employment, and your success can help pave the way for the next generation. To connect, please contact us at veteransservices@fdu.edu.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS

- We welcomed 71 SALUTE National Honor Society members from 2020 and 2021 on April 29th.
- March Against Debris on Florham Campus resulted in appx. 20 pounds of trash collected!
- Partnerships with FDU organizations such as Devil’s/Knight’s Food Pantries result in great support for FDU students.
- A handful of student veterans discovered their top five strengths in a Strengths Finder Professional Development workshop.

WE ARE EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH A GREAT EDUCATION TO GO OUT, SERVE, AND BUILD A COUNTRY WORTHY OF THEIR BOUNDLESS PROMISE.

Debrief from the Director

Academic Year 2020 - 2021 has been very unique. The Veterans Administration has allowed online classes for all Veterans with no impact on their BAH, Catherine Gutierrez and I have been working remotely from home, and our Student Veterans Association has had their busiest year in recent memory planning events.

Zoom has been a blessing and a curse. It has given us the opportunity to stay connected with our Student Veterans through one-on-one calls, meetings, and events. Student Veterans who would not normally participate due to geographical constraints were able to join in our virtual events. It was a necessary tool, but nothing can compare to in-person interaction, and we are all looking forward to returning to normal.

This fall semester we will be back on campus. We are looking forward to getting back into the office and seeing our military-connected students using both the Metro and Florham Veteran Lounges.

I hope you and your family have a safe and wonderful summer. Let's stay connected!

Follow us on Facebook at: /FDUVeterans/, LinkedIn at: /company/fdu-office-of-veteran-services, and on Instagram at: @FDUSVA.



Our Community Salutes!



★★★★★★ On Wednesday, June 9th FDU hosted Our Community Salutes of North Jersey. This was the fifth year FDU has had the honor to recognize high school seniors enlisting in the military after graduation. This ceremony was pre-recorded and broadcast online. Over 150 high school seniors from North Jersey are recognized each year. The ceremony will be uploaded to the FDU Veterans Facebook page if you would like to watch it. You can also use the link below!

<https://vimeo.com/562710971/dd0294e81f>

Check us out and connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram for the latest events, successes, and opportunities with our student military community!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Although the past year has brought many challenges, we are proud to announce that this past May FDU was able to hold four in person graduation ceremonies at MetLife Stadium over two days. Student veterans from the class of 2021 and 2020 were recognized.

Social distancing rules were in effect, but that did not dampen the celebratory mood for those who decided to attend and walk. They came, they saw, they conquered!

If you were not able to attend your graduation ceremony and have yet to receive your Veteran Stole and FDU Challenge Coin, please contact the Office of Veterans Services at veteransservices@fdu.edu and provide your name, student ID number, class year, military branch, and home address so these items can be mailed to you.

We look forward to what you will accomplish as leaders, graduates of FDU, and beacons of light in a global workforce.