



## ATI Veterans Community of Practice Fact Sheet

### ABOUT THE ATI VETERANS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:

The Veterans Community of Practice (CoP) provides opportunities for interested members to work together in smaller groups based on their strategic priorities. The Veterans CoP includes more than 40 ATI members, which have committed to improving veteran student access and success at high-graduation-rate institutions. If your institution does not currently participate in the Veterans CoP and would like more information, please contact Emily Schwartz ([Emily.Schwartz@ithaka.org](mailto:Emily.Schwartz@ithaka.org)).

### WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT:

- **America’s veterans are an underserved and talented population who higher education institutions must engage far more effectively if they are to live up to their missions of access and opportunity.**
  - Two-thirds of the military veterans who were on active duty after 9/11 have not earned a bachelor’s degree, which is critical to economic mobility.
  - Veterans are half as likely to enroll at high-graduation-rate institutions—those where at least 70 percent of students graduate in three or six years—than their civilian peers.
  - Veterans are 1.4 times more likely to graduate than the typical adult college student, and earn GPAs substantially higher than the typical traditional college student.
- **Given that an estimated 80 percent of active-duty service members are low-and moderate-income, this effort is aligned with ATI’s goal of enrolling and graduating an additional 50,000 low- and moderate-income students at the nation’s high-graduation-rate institutions by 2025.**
- **Colleges and universities benefit directly when they recruit, enroll, and graduate veterans.**
  - Veterans typically have higher grade-point averages than the total student population.
  - For institutions committed to economic diversity, veterans represent an important segment of potential students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds.
  - Veterans bring a diversity in perspectives and experiences that enrich the classroom and the campus.
  - Veterans bring important skills and a focus on achievement to their education.
  - Veterans often enter higher education with financial support from federal programs like the Post-9/11 GI Bill, reducing the institutional financial aid required to enroll and graduate student veterans.

Statistics cited from [Enrolling More Veterans at High-Graduation-Rate Colleges and Universities](#) and [Veterans Education Success 2018 Report](#).

### FAST FACTS ON VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS AND REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:



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- **DEMOGRAPHICS:**
  - As of 2015, there were 21 million veterans, of whom 1 million were under the age of 29, and 4 million served post-9/11.
  - The veteran population is projected to decline by 18 percent between 2015 and 2025, from 21 million to 17 million.
  - The demographic mix of veterans is projected to shift. The proportion of non-Hispanic white veterans is projected to decline, while the proportion of female veterans is set to increase.
- **REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:**
  - Veterans are overrepresented at four-year for-profit institutions and underrepresented at four-year public and not-for-profit institutions.
    - 30 percent of veterans enrolled at four-year institutions are enrolled at a for-profit institution, versus 8 percent of the overall full-time student population.
  - Compared to the overall student population, veterans are half as likely to enroll in high-graduation-rate institutions and almost 30 percent more likely to enroll at institution with lower rates of student success.
    - Only 10 percent of veterans enrolled at four-year institutions are enrolled at institutions with graduation rates above 70 percent, whereas 65 percent are enrolled at institutions with graduation rates below 50 percent.
  - Roughly 75 percent of post-9/11 veterans cite the opportunity to advance their education as one of their primary motivators for pursuing military service.

Statistics cited from ATI analyses using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs data and IPEDS (2016).

### **VETERANS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE OBJECTIVES:**

The Veterans Community of Practice follows the same theory of change as broader ATI efforts.

- **Committing to visible goals:**
  - Members set goals and track progress to goals.
  - Participants annually report common statistics on veteran enrollment and success.
- **Research and knowledge sharing:**
  - Opportunities to meet in person (annual meeting, smaller working groups, site visits)
  - Opportunities to co-develop resources/tools that address specific guidance
  - Access to experts and technical support
- **Communications:**
  - Features and profiles of effective practices and opportunities to elevate leadership voices on key issues

Follow [this link](#) for a recap of our most recent Veterans Community of Practice convening.