

Military veterans find OU a supportive, friendly institution

When military veterans return to their civilian activities and pursuits, the sudden adjustment can be challenging sometimes. Enrolling in college shouldn't be one of their concerns. At OU, it's a relatively smooth transition, aided frequently by someone who has been in the same position.

Veterans applying at OU have a wide range of services to support them — a fact that has not gone unnoticed in the military community. For the fifth year running, OU has been recognized as a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine, a veteran-owned publication that gives the designation to the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

Now OU has taken its support a step further. Last fall, the university's Board of Trustees approved a resolution that grants in-state tuition rates to veteran students who have been honorably discharged, regardless of their residence. "Giving veterans the in-state tuition rates is the least we can do in their honor," says Steve Shablin, OU registrar.



The university also reinstated evaluation of veterans' transcripts based on American Council on Education guidelines, a process that provides

transfer credit recommendations to military personnel. This means service members can receive credit for courses taken as part of their military training.

"Michael Brennan, the adviser to the Student Veterans of OU organization and also a veteran of service in Iraq with the U.S. Army, remarks that "the student veterans' organization is such a powerful force for bringing veterans together on campus. They support each other and create the link to the college experience that a lot of vets are seeking."

"For more information on support services for veterans or their dependents, visit the Veterans Support Services website at oakland.edu/veterans or call (248) 370-2010.

OUWB Partners with Downtown Youth Boxing Gym

The OUWB School of Medicine has partnered with the highly acclaimed Downtown Youth Boxing Gym to mentor students with aspirations to become future scientists and physicians. The partnership was born from students in the program expressing their desires to study medicine and become, scientists, neurosurgeons or nurses, says executive director Jessica Hauser.

Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program, based in Detroit, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop good citizenship in urban youth through a demanding boxing program, strong academic support and a connection to the

community through service.

"We recognized our kids really needed to be guided at a level that exceeded the bandwidth that we had when it came to careers in medicine," Hauser says.

"We reached out to OUWB to see if there was any way our kids could get mentorship, guidance, inspiration and some solid tools to fulfill their needs. The school has really gone above and beyond."

Downtown Youth Boxing Gym currently has 65 students in its program, a majority of them between the ages of 8 to 18 years old, with

dozens more on a waiting list. About 75% of the students live within a 3-mile radius from the gym, many of which are residents of the nearby public housing units.

The program requires kids to spend time in academic, boxing and service programs. "If they don't meet all of our requirements, they go on a probationary period where basically they don't get to take part in the fun parts of the program," Hauser says. "It's really not about boxing at all for us," she adds. "What they get out of the boxing portion is mentoring. They don't have to compete or get in a ring."



Another Accreditation Milestone Achieved

On June 6, 2013, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education informed Dean Folberg that the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine had achieved Provisional Accreditation. Passing this important milestone keeps OUWB on track for achieving full accreditation in time for the graduation of the charter class of 2015.

OU INC to celebrate graduation of first tenant client

Oakland University's SmartZone Business Accelerator OU INC will celebrate a milestone this spring: the successful graduation of Advenovation, the incubator's first tenant client to move to an independent facility.

For the past year, the robotics firm Advenovation has grown at OU INC, utilizing the vast entrepreneurial and business development resources on Oakland's campus. It is now expanding to a 5,000 sq. ft. facility located in Rochester Hills.



"Advenovation has grown into a thriving business while also becoming strategic partners with OU INC and Oakland University," said OU INC Executive Director, Amy

Butler. "It is very rewarding to graduate an OU INC client and have them locate in Rochester Hills, where they will contribute to creating jobs while supporting other local businesses and their global counterparts."



Through its collaboration with the City of Rochester Hills, Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and various industry partners, OU INC fosters a healthy environment for the growth of new start-up companies, and provides support for existing entities through its facility and business development resources.

Areas of focus include clean energy and energy efficiency, medical devices and information technology. OU INC provides customized services to assist domestic and international businesses.

"Having the opportunity to have Advenovation's home base at OU INC for the past year has been extremely beneficial to the company," said Adil Shafi, president of Advenovation.

"OU INC's location on Oakland University's campus creates the synergy needed to establish a positive relationship with the technology and robotics field, as well as a close cooperation and innovation

with our automation partner, FANUC Robotics. Having the opportunity to be affiliated with a university improves its credibility and ours as well."

During its tenure at the OU Incubator, Advenovation grew its customer base more than six-fold as a robotic systems integrator. In 2011, GM Powertrain requested Advenovation to write its global standards for the implementation of machine vision, and the company is now a FANUC Robotics Authorized Systems Integrator that specializes in bin picking, inspection and vision-guided robotics.

At the same time, Advenovation installed North America's first-ever bin picking work cell designed around FANUC's new 3D Area Scanner in a production setting, and has been entrusted to work on the Orion spacecraft's Heat Shield.



The Orion spacecraft will replace NASA's space shuttle program and will be used for crewed missions to the moon, asteroids and Mars.

For more information about resources, partners and services at OU INC, visit the website at oakland.edu/ouinc or contact a representative at (248) 648-4800, or ouinc@oakland.edu.

State and National Headlines

Study: Generation Xers Are Continuing Their Educations

Generation Xers (people who are now in their late 30s) are embracing the idea of lifelong learning, according to a new study by the University of Michigan. The study found that 1 in 10 GenXers are currently enrolled in classes to continue their educations. And 48 percent of the 80 million GenXers take continuing education courses, in-service training or workshops required for professional licenses and certifications.

Inside Higher Ed
May 8, 2013

AZ: House endorses free tuition for foster youth

The Arizona House of Representatives passed a bill last week that would permit the state's foster youth to attend one of the state's three public universities at no tuition charge. The provision is part of a larger plan to double the number of foster youths who attend and graduate from college. The bill will now be considered by the Arizona Senate.

The Arizona Republic
May 8, 2013

U.S. Releases 'The Condition of Education 2013'

The U.S. Education Department today published its annual compendium of all the data you'd want to know about American education: "The Condition of Education 2013."

The report, published by the National Center for Education Statistics,

includes special focus sections on the employment rates of young adults (noting that those with bachelor's degree are far likelier than high school graduates to be employed) and on various aspects of student debt.

Inside Higher Ed
May 23, 2013

More Evidence of Economic Value of College Degrees

Throughout the economic downturn, some pundits and politicians have suggested that there is limited value to a college degree. An analysis in *The New York Times*, based on the latest unemployment data, suggests otherwise.

The *Times* noted that in April, when the national unemployment rate was 7.5 percent, the rate for college graduates was 3.9 percent. Further, the number of college-educated graduates with jobs is now up 9.1 percent since the recession started. The number of those with a high school diploma, but no college degree, who have jobs is down 9 percent.

New York Times
May 6, 2013

Measuring Where People Pick Up Key Job Skills

A new national poll by Gallup, Microsoft and the Pearson Foundation focuses on whether students used "21st century job skills" in their last year of education. Those who did report higher work quality, and those who finished their education in college, not high school, were more likely to have used and

learned such skills during their education.

For example, 28 percent of those polled with a high school degree or less said that they had "often" worked on a long-term project that took several classes to complete.

That compared with 50 percent of college students or graduates and 65 percent of those with postgraduate work or a degree. Asked whether they had applied classroom lessons to "real problems" in their community or world, only 22 percent of those with a high school degree or less had done so, compared to 27 percent of college students or graduates, and 37 percent of those with some postgraduate work.

Inside Higher Ed
May 30, 2013

Master's programs surge at US colleges and universities

The nation's colleges and universities are churning out master's degrees in sharply rising numbers, responding to a surge in demand for advanced credentials from young professionals who want to stand out in the workforce and earn more money.

From 2000 to 2012, the annual number of master's degrees issued jumped 63 percent, federal data show, growing 18 percentage points more than the amount of bachelor's degrees. It is a sign of a quiet but profound transformation underway at many prominent universities, which are pouring more energy into job training than ever before.

Washington Post
May 28, 2013



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

Student Debt and the Value of a College Degree

Student debt in California has increased dramatically in recent years, but college is still a good investment. Californians with college degrees are more likely to be employed than those with high school diplomas, and they earn higher wages. Policymakers can do a lot to help make higher education more affordable—for example, by developing tuition savings programs and improving pathways from community colleges to four-year schools. They can also explore ways to increase efficiency and keep costs down.

Public Policy Institute of California
June 2013

New Jersey: Invest in New Jersey: Make Higher Education Affordable Again (Report)

This report calls on New Jersey lawmakers to reinvest in public higher education as an alternative to cutting taxes. The report recommends using some of the \$1.6 billion that would be used to cut taxes to double the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) for students from low- and middle-income backgrounds (\$325 million), stabilize operating budgets (\$400 million) and invest in innovation (\$180 million).

New Jersey Policy Perspective
May 2013