

# Student Veterans Organization (XGI) at IU Southeast



# Mission

Our mission is to provide a healing environment for veterans as they make the difficult transition from military culture into the civilian world. As an on campus support resource we will provide, educational, social, and networking mechanisms that assists a new generation of warriors achieve their goals.



# IU Southeast SVO Background

## Administrative

- Re-Established August, 2009
- Organization started due to grant initiative on campus
- 190 members (approx.)
- 300 veterans on campus (approx.)
- About 5000 full-time students on campus
- Large legion post located 1 mile from campus
- Historically a commuter campus that has recently taken on traits of larger campus
- Small class sizes with resources of larger university

## Uniqueness

- A supportive campus
- Strategically located around local national guard and Reserve bases
- Post-Vietnam presence of XGI on campus
- Alumni of prior XGI on campus faculty
- Challenges



# Objectives

- Assist veterans in reaching their goals by facilitating a sense of camaraderie and an understanding between university faculty and student veterans
- Provide a networking and communication function to help overall student veteran well-being



# Strategy and Implementation

- Give workshops aimed towards student veterans to help them with educational goals
  - TBI, PTSD, Transitioning, Coping Strategies, Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Budgeting, Writing for Therapy, etc...
- Community 5K run to increase veteran awareness
- Veterans social to increase communication between members and others in the community
- Traveling to conferences and implementing lessons learned by other organizations
- Increased use of electronic media to reach members



# Budget

• Supplies	\$250
• Advertising	\$100
• Travel	\$500
• Food	\$1150
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<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$2000</b>





# Marketing and Membership

- Maintains being a highly competitive force on campus
- Continue throwing social events to promote
- Increased use of electronic media
  - Working to implement increased use of electronic calendar, Facebook, campus Oncourse project site, and e-mail



# Leadership Team

- President and Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Public Relations / Membership
- Intramurals Coordinator
- Sgt of Arms
- Supportive Campus Advisors





# Previous Accomplishments

- Competed against peers in intramural athletics
- Established SVO color guard for IU Southeast homecoming events
- Planted a memorial tree
- Brought a speaker from Hope's Voice to campus to help increase campus awareness of veteran issues
- Hosted camaraderie trips such as paintball and caving
- Helped campus with multiple education events
- Volunteered at a local youth shelter
- Continued yearly tradition of Veteran's Day and Victory Week events
- Had group physical conditioning
- Built an incentives program for participation in programs of academic, athletics, and leadership excellence
- Facilitated different veteran's panels on campus



# Lessons Learned

- Develop a pledge period before placing new officers
- Check DD-214s prior to officer inductions
- An officer orientation needs to be instituted
- Winning is not always possible
- Limit student veteran overextension
- If you want other students to become involved
- Be careful who is allowed to wear your brand



# Looking Outward

- Established a relationship with the local legion, VFW, Eric Hall Foundation, Township Trustees, and County Service Officer to network benefits, entitlements, and avenues for community service
- Coordinated with Ivy Tech and Sullivan SVO for different events
- Participated in campus wide competitions to include campus boogie, pumpkin carving contest, campus drag show, and nearly naked mile
- Gave a speech to a legislative and membership committee at an Indiana state Legion conference to encourage a reach out to student veterans in their area
- Invited to speak at a Vietnam memorial in Leroy, at the New Albany Flag Day Ceremony, and other community events

