

**2013 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1289**

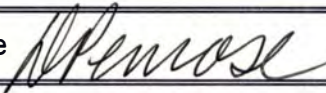
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
January 28, 2013  
17841

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Nathe:** We will open the hearing on HB 1289.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** Sponsor, support (see amendment #1). This bill provides funding for Veterans Upward Bound. It's a program designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in post-secondary education. This program has been in effect here in ND for about 40 years. But through some changes at the federal level, funding was not included this time around. In visiting with several others, some are here to testify and give details, I feel this is a very beneficial program. It helps our veterans go on to get their education. I've spoken with people who have used this program; they told me about the benefits of it and I would hope that we would step in to fill the void where there is one and make sure that this goes forward. When the bill was drafted there were some items in there that were not quite correct. I had an amendment drafted. It does change some of the funding and where the funds would go to. There is an explanation on the amendment as to what that would do.

**Ch. Nathe:** With the amendment, the original bill had \$450,000 and now it comes back on the amendment at \$548,000.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** That would probably reflect a better amount as to what the program would cost to fund for the period which we would handle. The federal grant, I believe, was for a longer period of time. Obviously, we work in a biennial nature, so that is where the number came from.

**Rep. Meier:** Do you know what the appropriation was from the federal government and for what number of years.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** I do not.

**Ch. Nathe:** This has been around for 40 years where the federal government has been picking up the tab. Now the money has dried up and the state is being asked to pick up that slack.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** I believe that is correct. There were programs that were funded, but not ND. I understand that we had a very good program going.

**Ch. Nathe:** As far as the amendments, you're just replacing the State Board of Higher Education with Dept. of Veterans Affairs that was just an error in drafting the bill.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** Yes. The way the program would probably operate better, would be to go through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs; that was another correction which was included in the amendment.

**Ch. Nathe:** Is that currently happening now, is it going through the State Board of Higher Education.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** I don't know.

**Rep. D. Johnson:** If this is a federal program, is it drying up for all the states, or how are the other states dealing with this issue.

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** I believe there are other states that are still receiving funding for this program. From what I understand, certain programs were funded, some were not funded, I believe there were some new programs that did not exist, did receive funding.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Testimony in support.

**John Haller, Interim VCAA for NDUS:** Support (see #2).

**Ch. Nathe:** So the program currently runs through the SBHE.

**John Haller:** Yes, it does.

**Ch. Nathe:** Do you have a problem with this running through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

**John Haller:** It currently runs through the Veterans Affairs but it does so through our office.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Dave Rice, Commander of the ND American Legion:** I represent our 17,000 veterans in the state of ND. I joined the Navy at age 17, went on active duty, completed my 4 years. I returned home in October 1973 too late to start college that year. During the winter months I received a call from Veterans Upward Bound. They explained the program to me, offering non-credit courses, refresher courses to help veterans get geared up for college. I immediately knew that was what I needed. I attended the Veterans Upward Bound and learned how to take notes, exam preparation, refresher courses in math, English, writing skills, etc. I completed that program and spent a considerable amount of time refreshing and learning again and I not only got a bachelor's degree but a masters from NDSU as well. Veterans Upward Bound was invaluable to me. It was what I really needed to get back up to speed and be able to

compete at the college level. The program was instrumental to me. This program gives the service men and women who have dedicated 2, 4, 10 or more years of their life in service, gives them the opportunity to have an equal footing with those students coming out of high school. I encourage passage of this bill.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Upward Bound Project Coordinator:** Support (see attached #3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f and #4).

**Rep. Meier:** When you talk about the homeless rate jumping from 3% to 14%, is that the national homeless rate or is that ND's homeless rate.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** That reflects what I have seen come through our doors. These are statistics that we have gathered dealing with our 674 in the last decade.

**Rep. Rohr:** Do those stats include MN and SD, as your testimony indicates.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** Yes, they do. We have a very small contingency; however, right now in those outer areas and in certain areas of the state, because we only have 2 classrooms in existence now with the 3<sup>rd</sup> one having to shut down, a year ago we developed an on-line program that anyone could apply through the internet and take the same courses that we provide in our classrooms. However, after that years' time, we discovered a few problems within this new program. One of the kinks is when you have a veteran, who has no computer skills, they don't know how to operate through the system. When you have people with low self-esteem, lack of focus, and basic fear, they don't know how to get through and push themselves when they start having problems. So I've reached out to several of the universities and what I had proposed to do was to put a time-slip person at each of the universities, if they would provide a computer cluster, and then we would have the people come in, they would still be using the on-line courses, but we would have an individual sitting there, helping them to learn the computer, helping them go through the process and steps, get past that fear factor, build that self-esteem, get that trust level. With this 5.9% cut now that we've just been notified that is going to affect us, that is going to be virtually impossible.

**Rep. Rohr:** Have you exhausted all of the funds that you received from the federal government or has there been carryover in funds.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** Our funding is allocated through August 31. As of August 31, the program ends, so any funds that are remaining have to go back to the federal government. With the cutback that we're expecting, I don't expect that we will have any remaining funds left to return.

**Rep. Meier:** How much federal funding have you received and for how many years.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** I've only been with the program for 7 years and this goes back 40 years. There was, at one time we actually were receiving cost of living increases to

**substantiate and carry us through. As of 2002, that stopped. We've been flat funded all along. It works out for the last 10 years, it's been \$273,279.00/year for the last 10 years.**

**Rep. D. Johnson: You talked about the program starting in 1972. That's the year I came home from Vietnam. Good program when it started, do you know why the federal government would stop funding the program or has it been replaced with something different, or lack of money.**

**Jeri Vaudrin: I have seen that it started out initially under Congress, and then control was handed over to the Dept. of Education. Over the years, because of funding issues, that's been the primary reason why this has continued to digress. They've cut the number of sites back from the initial 68, now we're down to 47. It seems primarily driven by the fiscal balances. If we had received this next grant, we would have been required to increase the number of students that we deal with every year, and yet do it with the same or reduced funding.**

**Ch. Nathe: My understanding is that some of the states are getting funded and some are not. Is that because we are a red state.**

**Jeri Vaudrin: Because this is a competitive grant, we have to write these grants every five years, and the way it's done is you submit your grant, it's put before a panel. Those panels rate each proposal. Up to this point, we've never had a problem with the grant application, we've never had a problem securing a high enough percentage. The differences in the rating system they are using now, with the restrictions in the funding, with the short amount of slots that are available, the percentage points that separate different applicants have gotten so thin, that when they do their cut off point, with 300 applications compared to 100, there are more now that did not succeed. There are 47 slots that are now filled. There were 1 or 2 new ones, most of them were older programs. That means that there are 2 or 3 of them that had been in existence that are not now in existence. When you look at the map of the United States, it isn't equally distributed amongst the state. TX with its large population and area mass has 1 in Brownsville. There is 1 in California, none in OR or WA, none in WY, UT, 4 in LA; there is a real disparity in how this is sent out. They don't look at the geographical location, it is blind competition. That's how it is distributed.**

**Ch. Nathe: Have you gone to our congressional delegation with your concerns.**

**Jeri Vaudrin: No, I have not yet.**

**Ch. Nathe: Is it part of your plan.**

**Jeri Vaudrin: Yes, part of my plan.**

**Ch. Nathe: Were you trying to see what the State would pick up first and then go to the congressional delegation.**

**Jeri Vaudrin:** I know that NDSU, which holds the grant right now, they have been in contact with Sen. Hoeven's office and we were working with Cong. Berg's office at the time. I know that they were looking to see if there was any form of an appeal's process that could be done. I was not part of that aspect of it. My understanding is that all of those points were exhausted. I was also informed that Sen. Hoeven's office was supportive of it coming through the state, and if we wish to contact him, that he would discuss it on the state level.

**Rep. Rust:** You are requesting dollars and I'm trying to figure this out. Is it fair to say that your request is basically what you're stating on page 2, is that when this runs out in August, you will no longer exist if you want to use the money for veterans educational training, that there would be less restrictions and open it up to spouses and dependents and provide more than refresher courses. Is that basically what you're going to do with the dollars requested in the bill.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** Yes, we're asking to be funded for exactly the same amount of money that we are receiving from the federal government right now, even though we have not had any increases in the last 10 years. I am hoping to serve those who meet those low-income first generation restrictions, but there are a lot of them out there, who have requested help, who need the help, that have not been able to because of those restrictions. I am hoping to serve more people with the same amount of money so that they have that equal shot going forward and getting their education on the same parallel level as a freshman walking into college at any of the institutions in the state. Most of them have been out of school for at least five years; a good share of them, if they've been lifetime military, have been out for 20-25 years. The rules have changed; the requirements to get into school are considerably higher than they used to be. So we go in and give adult basic tests, find out where the deficiencies are, and that's what we focus on; over and above all the other services that we hand out with the referrals and help with the homeless, etc. We do work primarily, staying focused on the education. Once we know what their deficiencies are, that's what we work with. We get them up to speed and help them find the college they want, in whatever role they want. Get them through the process and get them on board and then we're available to them if they get into school and find out that they are still missing one or two pieces, they can still come back with us and we will continue to work with them on the basics to help them get that strong foundation that they need to continue in that collegiate journey.

**Rep. Rust:** You stated that 3 years to complete a 2 year program, and 6 years for a 4 year program is unreasonable and I'm wondering what your thoughts are on that. Are you thinking unlimited, or what kind of timeline were you thinking of. Otherwise, sometimes if you have a long time to complete it, you take the entire time.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** We know that we have to have a specific guideline. We know that we can't let them become professional students. The problem we're running into is the federal level is so rigid that they don't make allowances for those who have extenuating circumstances. I would like to put together some type of guideline that is determined case by case. I've had students come in that just needed a quick brush up and they're off and ready to go. The six year level can be daunting for

some of them, particularly if they have to take time off to earn money because they have a family to support, or if they have multiple surgeries for injuries sustained in war, it's going to take more time that way. If we look at it on a case by case basis, we would have a little more flexibility. The other thing that we have to allow is we have students who come in who have suffered head trauma, and with that trauma, they need special help in their test taking, note-taking, memory loss is significant for a lot of them, so they have to go back and continually redo through the different processes in order to get it to stick. If that happens, it's going to slow them down. We do need some sort of guideline, but we need to have the flexibility so that those with the brain trauma, physical disabilities, those who have to stop and work to support the kids. We can't lock them into that level of rigidity, because they quit. They get so frustrated because they cannot do it all, so then they quit. Our goal is to get them to that end diploma.

**Rep. Schatz:** Did you say your Upward Bound program covered ND and part of MN. Would this money apply to kids that are out-of-state or is it the same geographic area.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** I understand that it's not going to be federally funded, if we're using state dollars, we're going to have to keep it within the state. At some point in the future, if we can show this is successful, at some point, maybe we could get some kind of joint powers with the other states so that they can learn how to do this and we can lead them. I am seeking those who have served in the ND Guard and the ND Reserves, the veterans and spouses that are all here in ND. The only exception to that would be if we have guard members, reservists or veterans who live on the border lands, say East Grand Forks or Moorhead and they served with the ND contingency, I would like to see them included as well.

**Rep. Meier:** How much staff do you currently have.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** I am the project coordinator and I have a site coordinator up at UND. Any other help that I get, I get through the VA work-study program so that I'm able to provide employment for those veterans who are continuing in school but they fall under the vocational rehabilitation program. It's provided to us through the VA and it doesn't cost us anything. Those are part of the things that we've done to hold down our costs as much as we can.

**Rep. Meier:** Your funding to your organization comes from two sources.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** All our funding comes from the federal government right now.

**Rep. Wall:** If you get rid of the restriction on the low-income, how many more students would be interested in this program; how many do you deny now because of that restriction.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** Going back through the records I have, I saw where we are serving 1 of 3, that's 1 of 3 of those who meet the restrictions. So if we were to open it up to all of

the military, guard and reservists, spouses and dependents, I would expect that we could potentially see 4 to 5 fold coming in.

**Rep. J. Kelsh:** You seemed to make clear that not getting the funding was not politically motivated against the state.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** Correct, I don't believe it was politically motivated because these are blind grants that come through. When they read them, they don't know who they are looking at.

**Rep. J. Kelsh:** You said that there were some deep-seated fears and problems with some of the veterans wanting to go to college; but then you said that they don't want any special treatment. Don't they need special treatment, are there programs that help them get through what they've been through; help them clear their mind of what they've been through, or just thrown out and we're trying to pick up and make a better life for them.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** It's hard to explain how the mind of a veteran works when they come back from deployment. You have some who recognize their needs, you have some that recognize that it's not working the way it was. When they leave the military, and this is my personal opinion, the depths of training that these soldiers receive when they go into basic boot camp and their initial training right afterwards is very intense. It's ingrained in them, these are lifesaving behaviors that are modified. When they come out of the military, there isn't time spent to undo this, to teach them that they don't have to think that way now, you don't have to be on guard all the time, you don't have to view everybody that's not know to you as a potential enemy. That's a program on the federal level that I would love to see happen. The reality is it's not. You have students who come in who understand that there are some limitations. They've come home with the idea that they were going to go home and everything was going to be just the way it was before they left. It's not, they are anxious, nervous, crabby, over-the-top, yelling at the kids, the kids haven't been around them, depending on the deployment (a year, 2 years), they don't know this person anymore. The loving, hopeful, kind dad/spouse that they had isn't there anymore. They become hardened, they can't show their emotion anymore, that's all locked down and part of that is part of that training. They have to know how to react without emotion getting involved, because it means their survival, and the survival of their group. Then you have a few of them, through working with military affairs committees at both UND and NDSU, we're finding a contingency that's coming in and while we're trying to become campus-friendly for the military, we're trying to find ways to serve them better. Whether it's giving them freshman classes that specifically have them surrounded by other veterans, or we have instructors who are veterans who are teaching those particular classes. We have the ones who come in, don't want the special treatment, they want it to go away. They just want it to go back to the way it was before, but it doesn't happen. We've tried various programs and because we're hitting both ways, neither way is successful. It's trying to find whatever basic way we can to give them that support and let them know its okay, its okay to feel what you're feeling. It's okay to walk into that lecture room with 400 students and back yourself out of the room because you can't be around that many



people at a time. Part of what we do, when we're working with them, not only in the educational aspect of it, but as they are getting ready to go on to school, is we're watching them and we're watching their interaction. They get a small taste of being on the campus, even though we have them in their own classroom, they go to the lunch room, the library, computer clusters and we watch how they interact. If this is a person who cannot be around crowds, we start talking to them about the aspect of maybe you don't want to go to a 4 year university right now. If you're looking at engineering or a science course, math course where you are going to have huge crowds of students in lecture halls, this may not be a good fit initially. Maybe you need to look at getting your generals out of the way at community college. Get used to classes of 25 students, then move it up to classes of 100. See how they respond, if they are comfortable. If you're not comfortable, you may have to rethink what you really want to do with your life. It may not be that you can work in that program. We try to help them come to these conclusions on their own, but we point out some of those issues they may be facing rather than going to school, doing a crash and burn because they can't deal with that level, and dropping out and never going back because of the frustration, when all it took was a little bit of time of talking to them, a little bit of counseling, starting them at a slower pace, getting them help through disability services, whatever services that they need, we need to get it fixed before they go into school, so they have a better chance of succeeding. That's one of the issues that we face when it comes to the high suicide rate. They get frustrated and can't immerse themselves back into school, they don't know what to do, they don't turn to anybody or try to find help out there. We don't know what is going on inside of them. Since I've been with VUB, in the last 7 years, we've lost 4 to suicide and a 5<sup>th</sup> one we got to in time. You can see what's happening, you do all you can do. We understand that we can't make those final decisions for them, but we can try to take that pressure off them. We can try to help them from falling off the cliff, if we can just show them a detour. Give them a little more time, something more to think about, a different avenue, a different perspective that they can look at. That's what we work at doing.

Ch. Nathe: Have you seen the amendments that Rep. Thoreson had brought in.

Jeri Vaudrin: I haven't seen the final form of it.

Ch. Nathe: They would like to replace the State Board of Higher Education with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, to have the money go through there.

Jeri Vaudrin: Currently working under NDSU, because the fiscal is done through NDSU, we fall under the chancellor right now. Where our space is located, I have access to information that has to do with the educational part because of where we are. We also report to the state approving agency, so anything dealing with education is right there. I personally would like to see us affiliated through the Veterans Commissioner, simply from the standpoint that we offer more than just education, and if I need assistance or if I'm struggling trying to find assistance for a veteran, I would rather be closer to where his office is located, so that he's just a quick phone call away, or I can go over there and strategize with him on an issue. My personal preference would be under the Commissioner.

**Ch. Nathe:** Currently you're getting funding for \$273,000 for every year for the last 10 years. In the amendment, is bringing it up to \$548,000, about a doubling of the current budget. Can you speak to that.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** I believe that is for the biennium, the 2 year period.

**Rep. Heller:** When Mr. Haller spoke, he talked about opening it up to all of the state colleges and universities, what are your thoughts on that.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** We are currently open to all the colleges and universities. We serve all the way down to certificate programs. Under the federal guidelines, we cannot recruit for any particular school or university program. All we can do is have the information available, lay the options out in front of the veteran and they make their own decisions.

**Rep. Wall:** What do people involved in Upward Bound get, what is covered, tuition, stipend, per diem, books, what all is paid for.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** We provide everything to the student for free, the way it stands right now. That's why, with the low-income first generation, they don't have the funds so we make sure that they don't pay for books, there is no tuition fees, these are non-credited courses. These are all refresher courses for pre-collegiate level. If we were to open this up for others, I understand that some of them would have the ability to pay, and that's one of the reasons why I would then develop a sliding fee scale to help defray some of the costs. Everything is provided for them, down to their pencils and paper.

**Rep. Wall:** Do they get a stipend at all, like the GI bill or anything like that.

**Jeri Vaudrin:** At one time, they were allowed to receive a stipend. I believe it was \$40/month. About 15 years ago, we had to cut that out of the budget because they were starting to cut back on our resources and we had to start making some hard choices and one of the hard choices was we couldn't pay the student for attending when it was going to sacrifice the cost of an instructor, or paying for those materials that we provide.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the State of ND:** Support. Quite a few years ago, I was taking a look at our access to the schools. In the Dept of Veterans Affairs, we really have no access or information from the schools. Over the time, I've learned a lot about the number of drop outs that we have for veterans and veterans that do not use their GI bills and other benefits. One really astounding thing that I learned in some states, they have 70-90% drop out rates for some of these veterans returning from the wars now. They come back with barriers to education such as physical barriers, which most schools can accommodate, but the schools aren't ready to accommodate are the mental barriers, such as PTSD,

reintegration issues, just having a hard time thinking or reading a paragraph and not knowing what you just read because your mind is still going 100 mph as it did for a year or so in combat. I've been working with Veterans Upward Bound, and the state approving agency and have been trying to work with AmeriCorps, to try and get into all the schools, so that as veterans come in, when they use their GI bill, they visit the state approving agency. We can get some information from them, what their goals are, what they want to accomplish and we can follow up on that person. We can help the schools out with the counselors and the teachers that train them what PTSD is, because not many people really understand what PTSD actually is, what the reintegration issues are. The idea is not to be the counselor, but to connect them with the services that are available. There are services available to help them, but they need to know how to find them. The other part of it is not to let them go if they drop out of school, but to follow them, give them a call, follow up. If they find a great job, that's good news, but if they are having problems, frustrations, thinking of giving up, becoming a suicide statistic that is something which we don't want. With Veterans Upward Bound personnel and the state approving agency, we've got the personnel there to start these programs and start helping our veterans out, getting them connected with the services that are available to them. The other great part about this is, the veterans that they are helping, many of them may have GI bill benefits coming to them, but they can't use them if they can't get into school. So even though it may cost us some money to get these veterans primed up and ready to go to our schools, then we will get that federal GI bill money coming in and hopefully use that for a four year program, which will turn into a lot more than we would have invested into that person. Jeri takes people out of the homeless shelters too, or very low-income and getting them into this program and raising them up in our society so that they are self-sufficient and that alone is priceless. I am very passionate about this and am behind this bill 100%.

Rep. J. Kelsh: This does not support people going to college level classes. It's more like remedial courses to get them ready for college level classes. Is that the theory behind this because they've been out of school for a long time and maybe not ready to go to college.

Lonnie Wangen: Yes, that is the idea behind this. They can even help a veteran to get their GED, which for the most part our current veterans you have to have a high school diploma to get into the military now. With some of our older veterans that wasn't the case. These are refresher courses that will help them be ready to take the actual classes in college. That way when they show up that 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, they aren't totally lost and drop out.

Ch. Nathe: Have you seen the amendment.

Lonnie Wangen: No.

Ch. Nathe: It has a few things in here, like the money running through your office, but adding in there, and their dependents with this program going forward. Are they under the same criteria as the veterans or is there a separate track for them, or how would that be handled.

**Lonnie Wangen:** We haven't discussed the whole program is it would change under the state, but we would open it up because having a classroom with 3 eligible people with 1 teacher being paid or having twice as many in that classroom, it's going to cost the same. Obviously, we would take the veteran first if that is the case. The new GI bill, is written so that the spouse is eligible to take that GI bill from the veteran if the veteran is not going to go to school. They can pass it on to the spouse and we want to help them too, so at least one member of that family can get to college.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**John Jacobsen, ND Veterans Coordinating Council:** Support (see attached #5).

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Steve Volk, Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander for 2012-13:** Support. I also attended Veterans Upward Bound at NDSU in 1978 over the summer period and it got me prepared to go to school down at Wahpeton, at the State School of Science, and the VFW is behind this bill.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support. Testimony in opposition. We will close the hearing.

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
January 30, 2013  
18011

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Nathe:** Let's take a look at HB 1289. These are amendments that were given to us. We made one change to these amendments. This was a program that was patterned after the veterans upward bound program that the federal government had been providing for the past 40 years. The state did not qualify this time, so the funding was pulled. This bill is to take the place of the federal program. It would run under the Dept of Veterans Affairs (see attached #1 for explanation). This is just for the veteran himself.

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for ND:** Correct.

**Rep. Schatz:** I move the amendments.

**Rep. Wall:** Second the motion.

**Ch. Nathe:** Voice vote, motion carried. We now have the bill before us as amended.

**Rep. Schatz:** I move a Do Pass as amended and rereferred to Appropriations.

**Rep. Rohr:** Second the motion.

13 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT

DO PASS AS AMENDED AND REREFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS

CARRIER: Rep. Hunskor

January 30, 2013

1/31/13  
TV

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 1, after "veterans" insert "higher education"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**" with "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**"

Page 1, line 4, after "**VETERANS**" insert "**HIGHER EDUCATION**"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$450,000" with "\$548,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 8, remove "the university of North Dakota and North Dakota"

Page 1, line 9, replace "state university," with "or in the process of enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program exchange agreement with a North Dakota institution,"

Re-number accordingly

Date: 1/30/13

Roll Call Vote #: —

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0595.0100 2

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Do Not Pass  Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Schatz Seconded By Rep. Wall

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mike Nathe			Rep. Bob Hunsakor		
Rep. Mike Schatz			Rep. Jerry Kelsh		
Rep. Joe Heilman			Rep. Corey Mock		
Rep. Brenda Heller					
Rep. Dennis Johnson					
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Lisa Meier					
Rep. Karen Rohr					
Rep. David Rust					
Rep. John Wall					

TOTAL (YES) \_\_\_\_\_ (NO) \_\_\_\_\_ (ABSENT) \_\_\_\_\_

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Voice vote - motion carried.*

Date: 1/30/13

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0595.01002 02000

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Do Not Pass  Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Schatz Seconded By Rep. Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mike Nathe	✓		Rep. Bob Hunsakor	✓	
Rep. Mike Schatz	✓		Rep. Jerry Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Joe Heilman	✓		Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Brenda Heller	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Lisa Meier	✓				
Rep. Karen Rohr	✓				
Rep. David Rust	✓				
Rep. John Wall	✓				

TOTAL (YES) 13 (NO) 0 (ABSENT) 0

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT Rep. Hunsakor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1289 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.**

Page 1, line 1, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 1, after "veterans" insert "higher education"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**" with "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**"

Page 1, line 4, after "**VETERANS**" insert "**HIGHER EDUCATION**"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$450,000" with "\$548,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 8, remove "the university of North Dakota and North Dakota"

Page 1, line 9, replace "state university," with "or in the process of enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program exchange agreement with a North Dakota institution,"

Renumber accordingly

**2013 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1289**

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
2/7/13  
Job 18515

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Meredith Trout*

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for veterans higher education assistance programs.

### Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Rep. Mike Nathe, District 30:** Introduced the bill.

02:25

**Rep. Kempenich:** Did you have discussion about other states?

**Rep. Nathe:** We did. There are other states that are still funded federally. I asked if we lost our funding because we are a red state, and that was not it.

**Rep. Kempenich:** If other states have funding for this, and we move state dollars across state lines to fund other programs, wouldn't they qualify? That's in the amendment

**Rep. Nathe:** It's a continuation of what's already being done with the federal program.

**Chairman Delzer:** If it was federal money before, and now it's state money, the state has a vested interest in taking care of its own individuals. Was it being administered totally by the universities before?

**Rep. Nathe:** Yes, both UND and NDSU.

**Chairman Delzer:** Was the plan to try to hire the same administrators, or set up a whole new plan in the department of veterans' affairs? What kind of background do we have to do that?

**Rep. Nathe:** It would be run through the department of veterans' affairs; we did not ask if there would be any additional FTEs. I understood it that they could just take it over as is.

**Rep. Grande:** You keep referring to the universities, but it says here a ND higher education institution. Can these grants go to any of our universities? Do we need to put language in here to utilize the grant at tribal colleges?

**Rep. Nathe:** The first question would be yes, and the second question should be looked at.

**Rep. Bellew:** Is this for any veteran?

**Rep. Nathe:** Any returning veteran, returning to civilian life. We did not discuss if it was returning from recent deployments only, or any service.

**Chairman Delzer:** How many times could they go through the program, is it limited to one time?

**Rep. Nathe:** Veterans Affairs could probably answer that better.

**Rep. Thoreson:** I have asked some of those questions, we will talk about it when we have discussion on the bill.

**Chairman Delzer:** You went up from the bill, from 450 to 548.

**Rep. Nathe:** Correct. The reason is their current funding level under the federal program was \$273,000 and change for the last 10 years. That's roughly double that for the biennium.

**Chairman Delzer:** Anything further? Thank you. The committee continued on to the next bill.

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
2/12/13  
Job 18845

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

### Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Delzer:** This bill has to do with the \$548,000 for the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Department of Veterans' Affairs gives the money to the veterans' affairs committee instead of the Board of Higher Ed or where it has been residing.

**Rep. Thoreson:** I put in a request, but the person I need to speak to is out of the office for medical reasons this week. The Board of Higher Education put in a request to move it to the Department of Veterans' Affairs saying that it could be better handled through that agency. Higher Ed did not oppose the change.

**Chairman Delzer:** Did you get any definition of how much was actually spent and how it was spent?

**Rep. Thoreson:** I did not receive an answer. Rep. Hunsakor was also inquiring.

**Chairman Delzer:** Is there anybody else we could ask?

**Rep. Thoreson:** The other person is Commissioner Wangen, and I believe he is out of town this week.

**Chairman Delzer:** There should be someone in Higher Ed that would be able to answer.

**Rep. Grande:** It says North Dakota Higher Education Institute, but speaking with members of the Veterans' Affairs area, we have a lot of tribal members, and they are wondering if they will be able to utilize this at the tribal colleges. I think that concern has to be addressed

**Chairman Delzer:** If you read the constitution, we cannot send general fund tax dollars cannot be used for an institution that we do not control. Even the adjacent states may be a problem with turning this from federal money to general fund money.

**Rep. Kempenich:** That was one of my concerns with the adjacent state institutions. This isn't a federal program.

**Chairman Delzer:** This is setting up a state program. There was a bill or two in that were going to give money to tribal colleges, but it's supposed to be an institution that we control. You could make the argument that if it goes to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, they would have control of it then. But if this is just replacing the federal dollars and the program is going to stay the same, I am not sure that cuts it.

**Rep. Holman:** The part I would like to understand is if the money goes to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and then they give the money to the individual, does that get us around the issue?

**Chairman Delzer:** Allen, could you do some research on that for us?

**Allen Knudson, Legislative Council:** I'll check on it.

**Chairman Delzer:** The constitution is quite direct about that the receiving institution must be under our control. In regards to whether or not giving the money to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, does that take that out of play?

**Rep. Skarphol:** I would also think it would be appropriate to check if it is appropriate to circumvent the constitution.

**Rep. Monson:** I have a lot of heartburn with that *located in an adjacent state*, especially when some of the states still get federal funding and others do not. It could be an adjacent state which still has federal funds coming, and here we are, asked to pick up the shortfall in the federal funding. Then they would still get funding from us to go to another state. Could Allen check to see how that would work if we took out that language?

**Chairman Delzer:** If you take that out and we did not add the tribal colleges, that would mean it would be strictly North Dakota higher education institutions.

**Rep. Thoreson:** I'm not certain, but part of this deals with the fact some of these students are part of the tri-college program, where they enroll at NDSU but also have some of the associated colleges or universities on the Minnesota side. I will try to find out about that.

**Chairman Delzer:** We'll hold this bill until we get more information. Any more information we need to gather?

**Rep. Glasheim:** This is to provide assistance to the veterans. We're not allocating any money to an institution. The veterans are getting it. I think we provide money for veterinarians who go out of state because we have no such state thing. We give it to them, not to the institution. Also, we contract with people all over the country. This is a contractual relationship.

**Rep. Nelson:** While we're asking for information, it looks pretty vague as well with *enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution*. What about private institutions, such as the University of Mary and Jamestown College?

**Chairman Delzer:** A lot of it boils down to what Rep. Glassheim said. Allen can research that for us.

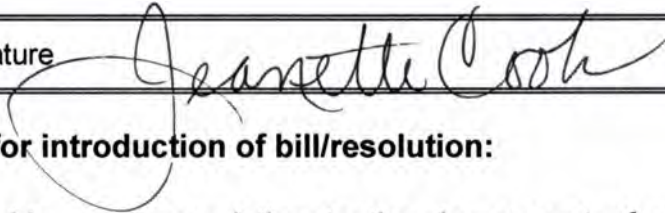
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
2/23/13  
Job # 19415

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation to the department of veterans' affairs for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

### Minutes:

Attachment #1

**Chairman Delzer** brought HB 1289 before the committee.  
He passed out memo from Anita Thomas in Legislative Council, see attachment #1.

**Chairman Delzer:** We questioned if we could put any money to non-North Dakota schools. It looks like the answer is yes, but it is questionable on some of the out-of-state things. We have had discussion that we are already doing that.

**Rep. Thoreson** received an e-mail from Laura Glatt, Department of Higher Education. He read to group. "The Department of Education grant was not renewed. The current grant is housed at NDSU and provides services to veterans to prepare them to enter into Higher Ed. The services currently through this grant are offered at NDSU and UND. The offices do not provide assistance to veterans at other campuses, including private and tribal colleges. Since the participants are pre-college and not currently enrolled as a student in an institution of higher education, these services are not provided to students attending an institution in another state." These are persons that are not actually enrolled in an institution yet; it is getting them ready to go to school.

**Chairman Delzer:** What are the services?

Rep. Thoreson: On the website these were listed: computer training, computer skills, science, math, English, study skills, and history.

**Chairman Delzer:** Are they offered free?

**Rep. Thoreson:** They are offered through the grant. Jerry Vaudrin (?), administrator of the grants, says that they are currently serving 120 persons per year, which is a requirement through the federal grant. He did not specify that there was any additional source of funding other than the federal funds which end on August 31, 2013.



**Chairman Delzer:** Does it say what they used the money for? Was it just to pay her salary?

**Rep. Thoreson:** She is the person there, and there is a person at UND that is a coordinator. I think the funds are used for the salary and also to administer the programs that offer the courses to the veterans.

**Rep. Grande:** With those kinds of numbers, we're looking at about \$5000 per student to help them enroll. The fact that this is strictly for NDSU use, I thought this was for all the universities. I am concerned because I think that the group that is being missed is the veterans coming off of the tribal areas; that is what I have been hearing when speaking with the Veterans' Administration. I would like to see it directed more toward our tribal colleges to make sure we get our Native veterans enrolled in college. It would help them determine their best direction or field. I think that we are missing the boat if this is only for NDSU.

**Chairman Delzer:** It's NDSU and UND.

**Rep. Thoreson:** That is where they are offering it at this time.

**Rep. Williams:** In the past this was done federally. Now, it will be done by the state?

**Rep. Thoreson:** Yes, it has been in place for 40 years in North Dakota and was always federally funded. This time around the grant was not renewed. There is not appeal process.

**Chairman Delzer:** You said it was 5 years. Was that five years at \$548,000?

**Rep. Thoreson:** The amount that we show here would be for a two year period. It seems like a large amount of money.

**Rep. Dosch:** How many of these federal programs are we going to pick up?

**Rep. Skarphol:** Maybe these folks were rejected from getting a grant because it was obvious because they weren't being successful at what they were doing.

**Rep. Skarphol moved a DO NOT PASS on HB 1289.**

**Rep. Dosch seconded the motion.**

**Rep. Thoreson:** I hope we resist this motion. From what I understand it has been very successful and has been a good program. I am not sure why it wasn't funded this time around. I would hope we would continue to support it.

**Rep. Monson:** I was picking up on Rep. Grande's comments and making notes to expand this to all higher education institutions in the state. I was ready to make an amendment to say on line 8: "to veterans enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education in this state." I don't know if the amount of money was correct or if that would even work. It would open it up to all veterans to get a scholarship to go to any of the private or public colleges in the state. That would open it up to all veterans to go to any private or public college.

**Chairman Delzer:** I don't believe this is a scholarship at all.

**Rep. Williams:** Do we know if the federal grant in ND was cut out?

**Rep. Thoreson:** I don't believe that was the case. Very honestly, there were a lot of questions as to why this program was ended in North Dakota because it has shown a good success rate, and yet we lost the funding and new programs were funded in other areas.

**Rep. Bellew:** The VA gives veterans benefits to go to college. If these veterans need assistance getting into college, maybe they shouldn't go to college. Maybe they should go to a technical school.

**Rep. Boe:** Who was receiving the grant? Was it the university or the veteran's administration or who received the grant dollars?

**Rep. Thoreson:** It was received by and housed by higher education. The policy committee had amended this bill to move it into the Department of Veterans' Affairs. I was going to offer a motion to move it back into Higher Education because I think since it through the campuses, they would be better to handle it. From what I understand about the bill, this is a program for veterans that come back from service and need to be reintegrated. It's somewhat remedial, but also the skills of working in the setting of the classroom, working with other students, etc. I am advocating for it, and think it is a positive program. It helps those who have been serving us to get back into the classroom and work with others in that setting.

**Chairman Delzer:** I cannot guess how this was dropped, but I share Rep. Dosch's concerns. Every time we turn around, federal money is stopping on something, and then we pick it up. Are they good programs, maybe? Do we know that it will be detrimental if we drop them? We really don't know. Maybe we should take a two years hiatus on this, and then see if there are people who want it, or are we going out to look for them?

**Rep. Thoreson:** The policy committee looked at this, and thought it was a good policy to continue. I know that we are looking at the fiscal impact. There are a lot of federal programs that we are picking up.

**Chairman Delzer:** I would feel more comfortable if we had a list of where the money actually went and the total outcomes of what the individuals got; if they went to college and how many graduated, and things like that.

**Rep. Boe:** From this memorandum from Anita, it includes everyone in the state. In this bill the program would be opened up and probably see higher utilization throughout the state. I think that what has been done in the past, will not indicate what we will see in the future.

**Rep. Thoreson:** We could see an expansion to others.

**Rep. Grande:** The tribals are not included here, correct?

**Chairman Delzer:** There are two different issues here. A section of this says that the state cannot use taxpayer dollars to any institution that it does not control. This letter states that we can help those people that go to those colleges, but we cannot help the colleges. If the money is just going to administer the program, the people could go out and help at a tribal college, for example. I am questioning how they met the 120 person minimum to meet federal grant requirements. What happened with the 120 people? If we are spending North Dakota money, it is our duty to know what we are spending the money on, and what we are receiving from it.

**Rep. Grande:** Unless we change the language, as mentioned in the last line of the memorandum to "accredited institutions of higher education in the state", it appears to me that there is a grey area that they may not utilize that. If we are going into using state funds, I want to be assured that this money is going to cross the entire state, including the private institutions and tribal colleges.

**Chairman Delzer:** I don't know that we can go there.

**Rep. Pollert:** We have a DO NOT PASS, if that fails, there will be further amendments.

**Chairman Delzer:** I would be uncomfortable including language in the bill to include everyone with state dollars. That would be going too far.

**A roll call vote was taken for a DO NOT PASS on HB 1289.**

**Aye 16 Nay 5 Absent 1**

**The motion carried.**

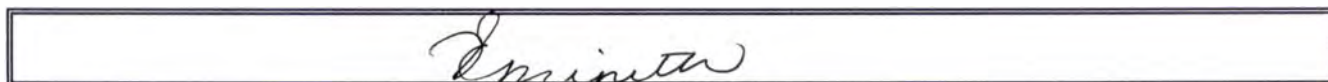
**Chairman Delzer will carry HB 1289.**

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## House Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
February 26, 2013  
19458

Conference Committee



To provide an appropriation to the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs for veteran's higher education assisted program.

### Minutes:



Chairman Delzer: We will open HB 1289 Rep. Skarphol is on the prevailing side

Rep. Skarphol moved to reconsider

Rep. Brandenburg seconded, voice vote carried.

Rep. Skarphol: With further consideration in regard to this program I thought it was appropriate to partially fund it as opposed to fully fund it and put some language in it that would require the institution to match the money that we do in order to have the programs continue. I have amendments to do that and will pass them out.

Chairman Delzer: We should see if we will consider the bill.

Chairman Delzer: All those in favor of reconsideration of HB 1289 Voice vote carries. We have the reconsidered bill before us.

Rep. Skarphol: After further consideration and the utilization of it and the success that we have been told I am in favor of the reconsideration and appropriating it as the amendment says \$274, 0000 to this project to also amend it to where it is taken out of the department of Veterans Affairs and put in it the N.D. University System for oversight and operation because we think every institution should be involved in it if possible. I move amendment 02001.

Chairman Delzer: We have a motion to amend and seconded by Rep. Brandenburg. Is there a naming problem?

Rep. Skarphol: I know that it was amended in the policy committee.

Chairman Delzer: When we reconsidered and amend we are amending what the policy committee brought down to us.

Rep. Thoreson: The federal program is called that; if we continue with us funding it they would name it Veterans Educational Training.  
I don't know that that needs to specifically be in the bill.

Rep. Grande: Does this amendment allow this to be used at tribal colleges?

Chairman Delzer: I would not bet on that or that it would be allowed to be used in any college that the university system doesn't control.

I'd be uncomfortable if we put that in there, but I think we really are stretching ourselves when we say we want tax payer dollars to be used on tribal colleges that we don't control.

Rep. Bellew: This has an ending date of this biennium and they will need to come back and ask for an appropriation in the next biennium?

Chairman Delzer: That's my understanding.

Rep. Thoreson: That's correct.

Rep. Grande: I have an issue with your statement about not being able to issue this money that way. We have issued

We have issued for the last two biennium's money that goes to the tribal colleges in scholarship form or whatever but we have that money allocated.

Chairman Delzer: It has been for scholarships. If you want to put language in here that says this could be used for Native American scholarships you could do that but to say to use it at tribal colleges would be a problem.

Rep. Boe: I'm not comfortable excluding tribal colleges, because they have a huge population of veterans; I would like to see if we were fund a program if that would help those veterans. I don't want to see them excluded by geography.

Rep. Monson: The other day when we were talking about this I thought the wording covered everybody.

Chairman Delzer: Is that what is in the current language of the bill?

Rep. Monson: No, this is what I was working on the other day and I think it would work to do what Rep. Grande said.

Chairman Delzer: Somebody has to be in charge of it. We have a motion to amend HB 1289 with 02001. Voice vote carries

Rep. Grande: If we cannot work out that language here to include the way we are having this discussion; I will move this forward but I ask the bill sponsor work to fix that language in the senate.

Rep. Thoreson: That is duly noted and I will work to try to get any objections or changes done on that side.

House Appropriations Committee  
HB 1289  
February 26, 2013  
Page 3

Chairman Delzer: We have a motion for a do pass as amended from Rep. Skarphol seconded by Rep. Kempenich Motion Carried

Yes 21 No1 absent 0 Rep. Brandenburg

13.0595.02001  
Title.03000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Skarphol  
February 26, 2013

VK  
2/26/13

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, replace "department of veterans' affairs" with "North Dakota university system"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**" with "**NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$548,000" with "\$274,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "department of veterans' affairs" with "North Dakota university system"

Page 1, line 11, after the period insert "A participating institution must provide matching funds from within its existing budget equal to the funds received under this section for the programs at the institution."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/23/13  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:     Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Amended     Adopt Amendment  
                           Rerefer to Appropriations     Reconsider

Motion Made By Skarphol                      Seconded By Dosch

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X		Rep. Streyle	X	
Vice Chairman Kempenich	X		Rep. Thoreson		X
Rep. Bellew	X		Rep. Wieland	X	
Rep. Brandenburg	X				
Rep. Dosch	X				
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe		X
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim		X
Rep. Kreidt	X		Rep. Guggisberg		X
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman		X
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams	X	
Rep. Nelson					
Rep. Pollert	X				
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol	X				

Total    Yes    14                      No    5

Absent    1

Floor Assignment    Delzer

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



Date: 2/26/13  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Skarphol Seconded By Rep. Brandenburg

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer			Rep. Streyle		
Vice Chairman Kempenich			Rep. Thoreson		
Rep. Bellew			Rep. Wieland		
Rep. Brandenburg					
Rep. Dosch					
Rep. Grande			Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken			Rep. Glassheim		
Rep. Kreidt			Rep. Guggisberg		
Rep. Martinson			Rep. Holman		
Rep. Monson			Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson					
Rep. Pollert					
Rep. Sanford					
Rep. Skarphol					

Total Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*voice vote carries*

Date: 2/26/13  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 02001

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Skarphol Seconded By Rep. Brandenburg

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer			Rep. Streyle		
Vice Chairman Kempenich			Rep. Thoreson		
Rep. Bellew			Rep. Wieland		
Rep. Brandenburg					
Rep. Dosch					
Rep. Grande			Rep. Boe		
Rep. Hawken			Rep. Glassheim		
Rep. Kreidt			Rep. Guggisberg		
Rep. Martinson			Rep. Holman		
Rep. Monson			Rep. Williams		
Rep. Nelson					
Rep. Pollert					
Rep. Sanford					
Rep. Skarphol					

Total Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

voice vote carries

Date: 2/26/13  
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289**

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0595.02001

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Skarphol Seconded By Rep. Kempenich

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer		X	Rep. Streyle	X	
Vice Chairman Kempenich	X		Rep. Thoreson	X	
Rep. Bellew	X		Rep. Wieland	X	
Rep. Brandenburg	X				
Rep. Dosch	X				
Rep. Grande	X		Rep. Boe	X	
Rep. Hawken	X		Rep. Glassheim	X	
Rep. Kreidt	X		Rep. Guggisberg	X	
Rep. Martinson	X		Rep. Holman	X	
Rep. Monson	X		Rep. Williams	X	
Rep. Nelson	X				
Rep. Pollert	X				
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Skarphol	X				

Total Yes 21 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Brandenburg

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (21 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1289 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "department of veterans' affairs" with "North Dakota university system"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**" with "**NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**"

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Renumber accordingly

**2013 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1289**

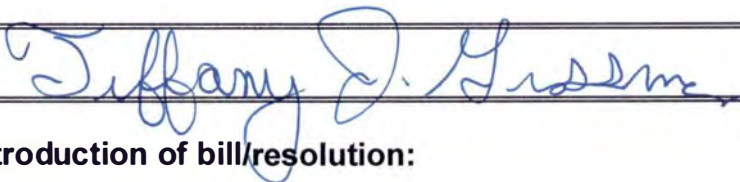
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
3-19-13  
20139

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the North Dakota university system for veterans higher education assistance programs.

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Flakoll** opened the hearing on HB

**Representative Blair Thoreson, District 44:** I am here asking for your support of HB 1289 to save a program in our state. I have a packet of information from Jeri Vaudrin, Project Coordinator for Veteran's Upward Bound Coordinator (Written Testimony #1, attachments 1-6 in Testimony #1) The first section is the testimony highlighting the program and history. There is an attachment 1 which has the funding history back to the year 1990. There was a significant jump in the year 2004. The second attachment is another breakdown. Attachment 3 is a proposed budget for the veteran's education training program. Attachment #4 addresses some questions on the house side why there weren't programs in Western North Dakota. Attachment #5 is more testimony by Veterans. Attachment #6 are letters of support for the program which must be kept on file when you apply for the grant. (7:47)

**Chairman Flakoll:** The Globe University letter submitted it because they are a member of the chamber correct?

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** Correct.

**Senator Heckaman:** The grant was applied for and they didn't receive it??

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** They did not receive the grant. There is a competitive grant process and it wasn't awarded to the program. Once you don't receive the grant, there is no appeals process. When it is done, it is done. If the money goes away so does the program.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** Lines 12 and 13 provide matching funds so now we have a skin in the game type thing?

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** That was an amendment brought forward in the House Appropriations Committee by Rep. Skarpol. This bill received a favorable recommendation from the house education but not in appropriations. It was reconsidered and this was a compromise.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** Do you think if this would pass, it is possible to get the matching funds?

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** I have not visited with the University System to see if there are dollars available for that.

**Chairman Flakoll:** There have been changes in who oversees the program. Would you like it to stay where the Veteran's Affairs run it or would you rather see it in higher education? (Passed out amendment testimony #2)

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** The House Education Committee made the change to the University System. My opinion is whoever has the ability to administer it is fine with me as long as the Veterans are helped. I don't know one or the other would do a better job.

**Chairman Flakoll:** There have been no expressed problems with how it has been run with the current system?

**Rep. Blair Thoreson:** Correct.

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** I wish to testify in support of HB 1289. (Written Testimony #3) Ended at 15:52

**Senator Heckaman:** Who does the funding go to right now?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** The money went directly to NDSU through their sponsored programs. It is my understanding that each state has an institution that sponsors the Veteran's Upward Bound and NDSU was chosen which is why there is a satellite program at UND. They have also done some reach at Minot State.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Does it go to the land grant institution or ROTC program? What is the situation?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** It is based on the institution that applies.

**Chairman Flakoll:** What happens when they start and complete the program?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** It is set up a little more remedial. The students access classes on campus. The students have some specialized classes. A number of students were often older in age. A lot of students had taken time off and wanted to come back so they are older and the remedial courses were important.

**Senator Marcellais:** Is there anything in the state for VOTEC for Veterans?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** I don't know.

**Senator Marcellais:** Is there any intentions of moving this to the Tribal Colleges?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** The program has been restrictive to NDSU. They see this as an opportunity to expand throughout the state.

**Senator Marcellais:** The program has been going on since 1990 so you would think it would be expanded by now.

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** A portion of funds go through the University sponsored programs. The institution isn't receiving the full dollar amount they applied for. I assume there would be more opportunity to have these in the future.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Nothing precludes the other institutions of higher education from applying?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** Correct.

**Senator Heckaman:** How much goes to the veterans themselves?

**Rep. Josh Boschee, District 44:** I am not sure. I understand it is direct support services so the dollars are tied to the students. Based on the amendments, I would encourage movement of this to the Department of Veteran's affairs.

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for North Dakota:** I am here to testify in favor of HB 1289. As far as the grant application process goes, they had a record 300 applicants this time and the grants go for five years. They only gave out 40. We fought for an appeal and it didn't happen. The program as a federal program was a regional area. By switching it to North Dakota we will serve North Dakota. We are planning to expand without going over the federal budget we had in the past. The tribals are included in that. There is a TRIO program set up at NDSU and if this is a grant into the TRIO program, most of the money will stay with the program. If it goes to NDSU, they can take administrative fees out of it. By coming through the Department of Veterans Affairs, I would just be paying the grant through the TRIO program at NDSU or NDUS and that ends our involvement.

**Senator Marcellais:** Could you explain the health and poverty guidelines?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** Since this is a federal program, that is how they determined their guideline. She added their budget and added it on as a state program budget.

**Senator Luick:** Do you know why the House reduced the appropriation?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** When it moves to the House Appropriations, we are not allowed to testify so we couldn't get a good explanation. We stuck with the budget we have had for many years. We haven't added anything.



**Chairman Flakoll:** Are there prohibitions on fundraising abilities?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** Right now we have to go to the emergency commission to spend any of that. If we were to have the ability to accept gifts and grants it would be nice to expend it for this program. NDSU and UND do in-kind matching. UND charges nothing for their office space. NDSU charges so administrative fees but the rest is what they are providing at no cost which comes out to \$317,000 in in-kind overall total contributions for matching funds.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Were there any other applicants from ND?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** No, they were set up as regions. For some reason this one didn't go through.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Do you have demographic data on cities or counties in ND that have participants in them?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** I don't have that with me. A majority of the programs were in Fargo or Grand Forks.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Are some place bound?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** I don't know. This goes to first time education so your parents could not have gone to college. We have some great success stories here. We take low income or homeless people that have veteran benefits but they can't use them because they aren't in college. We get them into a college program. We have a Veteran who was homeless and now he is working on his Doctorate through this program.

**Senator Marcellais:** Is there anything for VOTEC for Veterans in the state?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** There is on the job training available if you have your GI bill. That is a federal program.

**Senator Heckaman:** Would the ND National Guard have funding for this program?

**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs of North Dakota:** I do not know.

**Dave Rice, Department Commander for the Legion:** We endorse and support this bill. I am a product of the Veteran's Upward Bound program. I was reluctant to start school after such a long break so I attended Upward Bound and helped me get up to speed. I would have been at a serious disadvantage.

**John Jacobsen:** I wish to testifying support of HB 1289 (Written Testimony #4)

**Chairman Flakoll closed the hearing on HB 1289**

# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1289

3-20-13

20200

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Tiffany J. Grossman*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the North Dakota university system for veterans higher education assistance programs.

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Flakoll** opened the hearing on HB 1289

**Molly Maurer, Legal Intern:** Passed out Attachment #1 and explained amendment. The only change made allows them to expend.

**Senator Heckaman:** Is it your understanding the \$400,000 will go directly to the veterans?

**Chairman Flakoll:** I believe it goes to the program.

**Senator Heckaman:** I would love to put \$400,000 in this to go to veterans. What part of that money goes to veterans?

**Chairman Flakoll:** It goes to the program.

**Senator Heckaman:** I would like an amendment to make sure it goes to veterans.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** This is a federal program disappearing. The federal requirements have criteria on earnings and other things. They are looking at 10-12 students. This is the cost of the program regardless of the students. The need and want is there.

**Senator Heckaman** I don't want veterans to have to pay

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** It won't be fully funded. I think it is a good idea. Their budget hasn't changed in 20 years. This is going to have someone kick something in. We are funding 80% so that is not unreasonable.

**Senator Heckaman:** My concern is the instruction would be covered. I hope it is in here.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** This isn't fully funded but it seems to me if the program is important, they'll find a way.

**Senator Marcellais:** Some can pay with GI bills. My concern is how do we get to the veterans in the rural areas? I have homeless veterans in my area. I see this funding going to Fargo and Grand Forks but we need the outreach to get to rural areas.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Why didn't the tribal colleges apply?

**Senator Marcellais:** There are no veteran's on their board so they don't watch out for veterans.

**Chairman Flakoll:** I would guess it was economies of scale. If you can only get 12 in a population of 200,000 it would be hard to get enough.

**Senator Marcellais:** Officers are college material but enlisted personnel are more VOTEC.

**Senator Poolman:** In terms of your concerns, it looks as though they are trying to expand into the tribal colleges because two line items are dedicated to tribal colleges so that is a good start. I think I agree with Senator Heckaman's concerns but #2 on the amendment really helps me feel better about it because it gives them to accept gifts and do fundraising.

**Vice Chairman Schaible: Move amendment to engrossed HB 1289**

**Senator Poolman: Second**

**A roll call vote was taken to adopt the amendment to engrossed HB 1289: 6 yeas, 0 neas, 0 absent.**

**Vice Chairman Schaible: Move Do Pass as amended to HB 1289 and re-referred to appropriations**

**Senator Poolman: Second**

**A roll call vote was taken for a Do Pass to engrossed HB 1289: 6 yeas, 0 neas, 0 absent.**

**Vice Chairman Schaible will carry**

March 20, 2013

*JB*  
*3/20/13*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. An eligible veteran must be:
  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
  - b. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state, provided the institution participates in a course exchange agreement with an institution of higher education located in this state.
2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly





**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289, as reengrossed: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1289 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

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  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
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2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly

**2013 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1289**



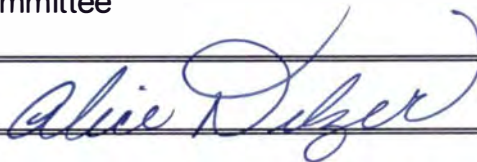
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
03-27-2013  
Job # 20526

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL relating to Veterans' higher education assistance programs

### Minutes:

See attached testimony.

**Chairman Holmberg** called the committee to order on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 8:00 am in regards to HB 1289. Roll call was taken. All committee members were present.

Becky J. Keller- Legislative Council  
Tammy R. Dolan - OMB

**Chairman Holmberg:** There are 4 reiterations of this bill. He explained that the appropriation destination has change a number of times. There is a little difference in the money.

**Representative Thoreson, District 44, Fargo** introduced HB 1289 and asked for their support. There have been several versions of this bill since it has been introduced. The reason for this bill is provided in the **written testimony #1**, by Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator. Along with his testimony he is including the financial information from NDSU regarding this program, the proposed budget, and letters in support of HB 1289. We do a lot for our veterans in our state and we have done this for 40 years. It was disappointing to see the federal funding go away. The money will go to keep this program alive and help veterans in our state. The version with the Senate amendments places a sum of \$400,000 in the Department of Veteran Affairs for providing assistance to the veterans.

**Laura Oster Aaland**, North Dakota State University (NDSU) testified in support of HB 1289. This program has been administrated at NDSU for 40 years. There were 300 applications this last year for 40 awards. That is probably why NDSU didn't get the federal funding. The program is administered through NDSU but it services the whole state. She explained the program and funding (5:30). She had concerns in the funding that they may not be able to serve as wide of an audience. She also spoke of in-kind donations.

**Chairman Holmberg:** If this goes through Veteran Affairs do you anticipate having NDSU handle the money or will they set up their own program?

**Laura Oster Aaland:** I believe there would be a contract between the two entities for NDSU to administer the programs.

**Vice Chairman Bowman:** You are out to recruit to get veterans to go to school. Have you accomplished your goals?

**Laura Oster Aaland:** We have been serving about 120 students per year, which is the cap set by the Federal Government. I don't have the completion rates but they are pretty good completion rates. We believe we can serve more veterans under this new model. The Federal Government limited us to just low income, first generation.

**Vice Chairman Bowman:** Is the GI bill still available to the veterans?

**Laura Oster Aaland:** I believe so but I think the commissioner could better answer that question.

Discussion followed on procedures for this program.

**Chairman Holmberg:** The legislature has been reluctant to pick up those issues that the federal government used to support. Why should the legislature buy into this?

**Laura Oster Aaland:** I think it's a proven program. It is an investment in our veterans.

**Lonnie Wangen,** Commissioner of Veterans Affairs (VA) testified in favor of this bill. The main purpose of this program is not the education part of the veteran; this is for veterans that can't get into the education because they are not ready for college. He encouraged the committee to look at the written testimony and the letters from veterans that are included in Attachment #1. If the money comes through Veteran Affairs and goes to NDSU, there will be no administrative costs.

**Senator Gary Lee:** In the past we had applied for federal grants to continue the program and now you are asking for general fund money to continue the program.

**Lonnie Wangen:** Yes. We would run it primarily as it was in the past but without some federal guidelines and restrictions. We should be able to serve more veterans by changing the restrictions under the state program.

**Vice Chairman Bowman:** If we are going to take over the funding, do we get to set the rules, not the federal government. (17.22)

**Lonnie Wangen:** That is the feeling of Jeri Vaudrin, and the committee of Veteran Affairs. We can administer a little bit different to serve more veterans.

**Senator Kilzer:** What is low income and what is first generation?

**Lonnie Wangen:** First generation means the veteran's parents did not have a college degree. Low income is based on the poverty scale. We could get that exact number for you. By raising that scale a little bit, we can serve all veterans.

**No opposing testimony.**

**Chairman Holmberg** closed the hearing on HB 1289.

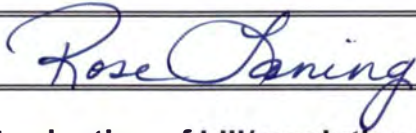
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Senate Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
March 28, 2013  
Job # 20586

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL relating to Veterans' higher education assistance programs

### Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg** called the committee together and brought up HB 1289 and they are looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> engrossment. There was a discussion between the University system and then veterans and another committee put it back into the University system. Now it's back at the veterans. Different policy committees made different changes and the House Appropriations made different changes. The motivation behind all those changes are not our problem.

**Senator Carlisle** moved Do Pass on HB 1289.  
**Senator Wanzek** seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Yea: 11 Nay: 0 Absent: 2

The bill goes back to the Education Committee and Senator Schaible will carry the bill on the floor.

Date: 3-28-13

Roll Call Vote # 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1289

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Adopt Amendment  Do Pass  
 Do Pass as Amended  Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Carlisle Seconded By Wanzek

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Ray Holmberg	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Co-Vice Chairman Bill Bowman	✓		Senator David O'Connell		
Co-Vice Chair Tony Grindberg	✓		Senator Larry Robinson	✓	
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓		Senator John Warner		
Senator Karen Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Robert Erbele	✓				
Senator Terry Wanzek	✓				
Senator Ron Carlisle	✓				
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Erbe Schabile

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289, as reengrossed and amended: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1289, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.**

**2013 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289**

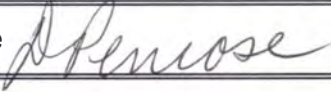
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
April 17, 2013  
21211

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Brandenburg:** We will open the conference committee meeting on HB 1289. All members are present: Rep. Brandenburg, Rep. Grande, Rep. Boe, Sen. Schaible, Sen. Luick, and Sen. Marcellais. We have a quorum. Let's have the Senate explain their amendments to the bill.

**Sen. Schaible:** When we looked at this bill, I notice that the money was reduced. This program is more of a "get ready for education" for veterans. This program was federally funded and discontinued; to continue the process that was already started; the state would have to take this over. It was our understanding that it needed at least \$400,000 to keep the existing program in place. Because this was on a state level, there were some restrictions put on by the federal, and now that the program is not a federal program it would open up this program to more of our veterans. This doesn't mean more cost per student; this would make more funds available to the program. It could lead to more access by the veterans who could use this and with this being a state-run program would increase more aid to more veterans that could use that.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** I noticed that there was a change in the funding. The House version had it going through the NDUS and the Senate put the funding in the Veterans Affairs.

**Sen. Schaible:** Yes. The reason is that we don't consider this as school related per se; it's not tuition, etc. It's more of a transition or a help program to get these veterans ready for college; it's not actually helping them in college. It's getting them prepared, more of a remedial type program that gets them to college level, whether it's back into society, ready to study, being around people, at the level they need to be at in order to succeed. It seemed the most appropriate place to put the funds was with the veteran's affairs dept. That was the same way that the program was run on the federal level as well. It is supplemental; they do use a room(s) at the local colleges where the training is provided and perhaps some materials. With the testimony we had, it seemed to be the better way to do it.

**Rep. Grande:** It used to be run through the University System. I really feel that is a good fit. I do like the nice way that the Senate did lay out the eligibility; I thought that was very well done.



**Rep. Brandenburg:** Yes I noticed that too, the eligible veteran is a good process. I think the discussion in the House centered on the university system. It would be tied with the system they have in place. I think there was some concern about how it was handled through the veteran's affairs dept. and how that would actually get tied together with the NDUS, so that the education would happen.

**Sen. Schaible:** I'm not really concerned which system handles it, as long as it's being handled. It was our understanding in Committee that this was more of a veterans' needs type asset because these aren't your run of the mill college students. Having it with the Veterans Affairs compliments the programs they provide for the veterans. As long as it is getting done, I don't have a problem with who handles the money. It was our understanding that it was a veterans' need item and with the assets of the Veterans Administration that was a better fit.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** The NDUS probably isn't an issue and your language is probably appropriate. I see you made a change to \$400,000 and the House had \$274,000.

**Sen. Schaible:** This was a federal program, the program was cut. If we wanted to continue it, we needed that amount to continue. There are no additional funds available to supplement or match. If we want to continue it, that's the amount that would be needed as I understood it.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** We looked at your eligibility for a veteran, which we'll discuss. We talked about whether the NDUS vs. Veterans Affairs. We also talked about the difference in the appropriation between the House and Senate. Is there anything else we should talk about in this bill?

**Sen. Schaible:** I see no differences. I guess I wasn't really concerned of who is handling it as long as the services are up and running.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** We will close the conference committee. No action was taken.

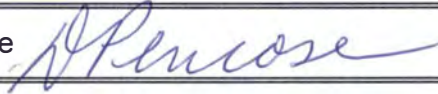
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
April 18, 2013  
21289

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Brandenburg:** We will open the conference committee meeting on HB 1289. All members are present: Rep. Brandenburg, Rep. Grande, Rep. Boe, Sen. Schaible, Sen. Luick, and Sen. Marcellais. We have a quorum. We would like to see this program run under the ND University System.

**Sen. Schaible:** I did some research and want to explain why we would rather have the Veterans Affairs department. I talked to Lonny Wangen, Vet. Affairs director, about this. First of all it was under the TRIO program and was a grant funded program. It's possible to do it under the NDUS or Higher Ed. but if you do it that way, and they did testify on the House committee hearing. With that, NDUS wants larger fees from the money. They want to be able to use the funds for some administrative costs. That was the reasoning. The \$400,000, we thought, was the minimum amount to put into the fund to take care of the program. We want to keep it in the department where there will be a lesser amount of fees charged to the fund. That was why we put it into the Veterans Affairs Dept.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** The House had \$274,000 and the Senate had an amount of \$400,000. We will need another meeting time since we haven't had much of an opportunity to address that number. Can you explain what language you want to use. I think there is some concern with the NDUS and there's also concern with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs.

**Sen. Schaible:** I believe the veterans would like to take care of it. I have no preference as long as it's done. Since this was a federal program that went away, so the administration cost was picked up by someone else. The reason we switched it away from the NDUS was to eliminate that administration cost which is already taken care of in the veterans system already doing that. The goal is to run the program as it was. Also being on a federal program, it's my understanding that because of the federal requirements now we will be offering the services to more veterans through that. I don't think that part of that is that it doesn't matter who manages the account and distributes the money.

**Rep. Grande:** As far as I remember when we went through the testimony on this, the discussion really was that the Univ. system, the person who has been handling this is still there, it's all intact and ready to go. We were just going to infuse that and I

**don't see how that is going to be an issue and should not have really been a hang-up for administrative costs. I don't think it is an issue allowing it to stay the way it is.**

**Ch. Brandenburg: I think we will have to have some discussions on the proper language with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the NDUS, because we're trying to do it right. We want to make sure that the program keeps going. It had federal money, it's gone, we're picking up with state money and we're trying to make sure that we keep it going.**

**Sen. Luick: Are we comfortable with the \$400,000 amount rather than the \$274,000.**

**Rep. Grande: I'm not really ready to move off that number, unless I see a little better justification to that. This was the number we worked towards and felt that it was going to be able to suit the needs at this time.**

**Ch. Brandenburg: I guess that's a discussion that we need to have over in the House.**

**Sen. Luick: We are actually scheduled for 8:00 am on Saturday, April 20, 2013.**

**Ch. Brandenburg: Yes. We need a little more time to digest the changes.**

# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1289  
April 20, 2013  
21353

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Brandenburg:** We will open the conference committee meeting on HB 1289. All members are present: Rep. Brandenburg, Rep. Grande, Rep. Boe, Sen. Schaible, Sen. Luick, and Sen. Marcellais. We have a quorum. Looking at HB 1289. The houses went back and talked. We talked about the language that you had here and the comments that we made that we did like what the Senate had in here referring to .03002. Here is where the House position is. We could accept your language and we would like to go with the university system and \$325,000 for the program.

**Sen. Schaible:** Do you have the .02001 version. So it would be with \$325,000.

**Ch. Brandenburg:** Yes, it would have the NDUS managing the funds and instead of \$400,000, we are willing to go to \$325,000. If you wanted to add in your language that you have for the eligible veteran portion below that; there is 1 and a and b, talking about enrolled in or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in the state, or enrolled at or in the process of enrolling in an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state provided the institution participates and exchange agreement within the institution of higher education, located in the state; and 2) the Dept. of Veterans Affairs may accept, expend gifts, grants and donations for the purpose of providing additional assistance to the eligible veterans. We're saying that we will put in \$325,000 and if the vets can get some grants or additional assistance to put in this fund that would be acceptable.

**Sen. Schaible:** I think that sounds reasonable and I guess some of that additional language on there was for the reason that this was a federal program and there were other requirements in there. This language actually opened it up for more veterans within the state. I think that would be acceptable.

**Rep. Grande:** I think what is important with the language the Senate put in there is that it really adds in the tri-college area, that Concordia and Moorhead State when they are always working with NDSU in the tri-college setting. We certainly want them to be able to use the tech college across the river. Just because it crosses a river shouldn't mean that you can't use it. We're hoping that becomes available then.

**Sen. Schaible:** I move that the Senate recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows: To put back on the Senate amendments in section 1, 1a, 1b and 2.

**Sen. Luick: Second the motion.**

**Ch. Brandenburg: Roll call vote.**

**6 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT      MOTION CARRIED**

**CARRIERS: Rep. Brandenburg & Sen. Schaible**

April 20, 2013

VK  
4/20/13

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page 1150 of the House Journal and page 831 of the Senate Journal and that Reengrossed House Bill No. 1289 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$325,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota university system for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. An eligible veteran must be:
  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
  - b. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state, provided the institution participates in a course exchange agreement with an institution of higher education located in this state.
2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly

# 2013 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Committee: House Education

Bill/Resolution No. 1289 as (re) engrossed

Date: 4/17/13

Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

- Action Taken**
- HOUSE accede to Senate amendments
  - HOUSE accede to Senate amendments and further amend
  - SENATE recede from Senate amendments
  - SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows

House/Senate Amendments on HJ/SJ page(s)     --    

- Unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

((Re) Engrossed) \_\_\_\_\_ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar

Motion Made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives					Yes	No		Senators					Yes	No
Rep. Brandenburg	✓							Sen. Schaible	✓					
Rep. Grande	✓							Sen. Luick	✓					
Rep. Boe	✓							Sen. Marcellais	✓					

Vote Count      Yes: \_\_\_\_\_      No: \_\_\_\_\_      Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

House Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of amendment

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

*No action taken.*

# 2013 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Committee: House Education

Bill/Resolution No. 1289 as (re) engrossed

Date: 4/18/13

Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

- Action Taken**
- HOUSE accede to Senate amendments
  - HOUSE accede to Senate amendments and further amend
  - SENATE recede from Senate amendments
  - SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows

House/Senate Amendments on HJ/SJ page(s)     --    

- Unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

((Re) Engrossed) \_\_\_\_\_ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar

Motion Made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives				Yes	No		Senators				Yes	No
Rep. Brandenburg	✓						Sen. Schaible	✓				
Rep. Grande	✓						Sen. Luick	✓				
Rep. Boe	✓						Sen. Marcellais	✓				

Vote Count      Yes: \_\_\_\_\_      No: \_\_\_\_\_      Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

House Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of amendment

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

*no action taken.*



# 2013 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Committee: House Education

Bill/Resolution No. 1289 as (re) engrossed

Date: 4/20/13

Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken**

- HOUSE accede to Senate amendments
- HOUSE accede to Senate amendments and further amend
- SENATE recede from Senate amendments
- SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows

House/Senate Amendments on HJ/SJ page(s) 1150 - \_\_\_\_\_

Unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

((Re) Engrossed) \_\_\_\_\_ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar

Motion Made by: Sen. Schaible Seconded by: Sen. Luick

Representatives				Yes	No	Senators				Yes	No
Rep. Brandenburg				✓		Sen. Schaible				✓	
Rep. Grande				✓		Sen. Luick				✓	
Rep. Boe				✓		Sen. Marcellais				✓	

Vote Count      Yes: 6      No: 0      Absent: 0

House Carrier Rep. Brandenburg      Senate Carrier Sen. Schaible

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of amendment

LC Number \_\_\_\_\_ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 1289, as reengrossed:** Your conference committee (Sens. Schaible, Luick, Marcellais and Reps. Brandenburg, Grande, Boe) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments as printed on HJ page 1150, adopt amendments as follows, and place HB 1289 on the Seventh order:

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page 1150 of the House Journal and page 831 of the Senate Journal and that Reengrossed House Bill No. 1289 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$325,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota university system for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. An eligible veteran must be:
  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
  - b. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state, provided the institution participates in a course exchange agreement with an institution of higher education located in this state.
2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly

Reengrossed HB 1289 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**2013 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1289**

#1

13.0595.01001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Thoreson  
January 25, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 1, after "veterans" insert "higher education"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**" with "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**"

Page 1, line 4, after "**VETERANS**" insert "**HIGHER EDUCATION**"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$450,000" with "\$548,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 8, after "veterans" insert "and their prior dependents"

Page 1, line 8, remove "the university of North Dakota and North Dakota"

Page 1, line 9, replace "state university," with "or in the process of enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program exchange agreement with a North Dakota institution,"

Renumber accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment changes the appropriation amount from \$450,000 to \$548,000 and provides that the funding may be used to support veterans assistance programs at any North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program agreement with a North Dakota institution.

**North Dakota University System**  
**HB1289 – House Education Committee**  
**1/28/13, John Haller**

Mr. Chair, members of the House Education Committee. Good morning. For the record, my name is John Haller and I am the Interim VCAA for the North Dakota University System. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present information to you today.

House Bill No. 1289 providing an appropriation to the State Board of Higher Education for veterans assistance programs in the sum of \$450,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, has the full support of the North Dakota University System.

Our support, however, comes with two suggested amendments, the first, expanding the bill to include any of the institutions in the North Dakota University System, and second, that the committee consider adding language allowing for the deduction of a service fee to be used to cover the costs associated with the administration of the program. These administrative costs, which typically come under the rubric of indirect costs, are both fixed and variable, involving activities or costs associated with the maintenance of records, computer use, telephone charges, clerical personnel, postage and printing, audit and legal, the disbursement of monies, oversight, monitoring, and risk management.

This suggestion is due to the understaffed nature of the NDUS office and the clear need for additional personnel to assist in the administrative handling of this and other grants administered by the NDUS. Currently, we administer some \$3 million in grants. Under consideration in the new budget is an additional \$45 million for the administration of Challenge Funds, New Program Startup, Deferred Maintenance, and Master Plan and Space Utilization. Without assessing a charge, we simply dilute our other functions in order to cover these additional responsibilities.

As you may be aware, indirect charges for the administration of grants is a standard practice with many federal agencies providing a range of support from 8% at the low end to over 50% on some research grants. We are suggesting that grants administered by the NDUS carry service fee of not more than 8 percent to help cover its costs.

Accordingly we propose the following changes to House Bill No. 1289.

Page 1, lines 8-9, overstrike “the university of North Dakota and North Dakota State university”

Page 1, line 8, after “at,” insert “at institutions and entities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, as determined by the Board. Annually, the Board may deduct a service fee for administering the funds maintained under this section.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

#3a

**Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Upward Bound Project Coordinator**

**House Education Committee**

**Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman**

**January 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Jeri Vaudrin and I am project coordinator of Veterans Upward Bound, also known as VUB, with the main office and classroom located at North Dakota State University. I have been with VUB for seven years.

Veterans Upward Bound is a federally funded grant through the Department of Education and part of the Trio Programs. VUB was created in 1972 to meet the educational needs of veterans from Viet Nam. The concept was to create an atmosphere for veterans on college campuses conducive for their transition back to civilian life. In 1973, there were 68 projects. Today there are 47. This is a five-year competitive grant and while there are usually only 100 or so applications, this year there were approximately 300 applications for these 47 slots.

We have been located at NDSU for 40 years, with a satellite site located at the University of North Dakota. At one time we had a site at Minot State University, located in a dorm. That campus needed additional space and due to the level funding we have received for the last decade, we could not afford store-front space and unfortunately had to close that site.

As opposed to the other 46 areas, we are not based on a target school. We uniquely serve a region, which includes all of North Dakota, and portions of Minnesota and South Dakota.

Veterans Upward Bound serves low income, first generation veterans who potentially could achieve a postsecondary education by receiving basic refresher courses in computer, math, English, lab science, foreign language and history. Under the grant guidelines, two-thirds of the veterans must be both low income/first generation and one-third can be either.

I stand before you today because this time, Veterans Upward Bound was not refunded by the Department of Education and we cannot write for another for five years. In fact, because of the fiscal circumstances at the federal level, we are going to be reduced in our budget an additional 5.9% of funding for the duration of our program, which ends August 31. Our current annual budget is \$273, 279. We have become very creative over the last ten years to see that our veterans are served to the best of our abilities while being mandated to serve more with less.

Because we are the only program of its kind that is located between Billings, MT and St. Paul, MN, it is vital that this program continue. In August, VUB will no longer exist; however I believe it is too valuable to lose and I am requesting a new, better program be implemented by the State. That would be Veterans Educational Training (VET). Under this new program, there would be less restrictions placed on the veterans and open it up include military in the State and their spouses and dependents, as they sacrifice just as much as their military counterparts. We would continue to provide far more than just refresher courses.

I was a child of the 60's and I remember what the Viet Nam war did to the military and society as a whole. Those were dark times, with a lot of skewed attitudes toward the military. The draft was still in effect and anyone over the age of 18 knew they could end up on the front lines. They lived with the fears of the enemy, not knowing where they were or what was surrounding them. They were lucky if they found them by the flash of their weapons, because the jungle was so thick they were virtually invisible. If they were lucky enough to come back alive, there was no fanfare for them. They were cursed at, called names, and spat upon. My first husband was in Viet Nam. If I didn't get letters every day, I was terrified that something had happened. Mail would take weeks to get to me from in-country.

Today, soldiers suffer from the same wounds, the same fears and the heavy burden of responsibility. But there is a difference this time. These soldiers are volunteers. A lot of them join the military so they can get educational benefits. But they also know that they could pay the price of war. They are aware and they are willing to step up, be courageous and do what must be done. But again, there is a difference. They now live with the fear of IED's, which just claimed two of our people in December. They are trained to see their enemy face-to-face, but thinking of them as inanimate objects. They see all the collateral damage that this kind of war brings. They bury it deep inside, but it affects them.



Over the years, we have seen a shift in the kind of needs the veterans present. Shell-shocked has become posttraumatic stress disorder. Concussions have become traumatic brain injuries, levels one, two and three. They remain detached, even when they are surrounded by their own families. The only trust and safety they now know is with their own kind, the military.

In a learning environment, they can't just join a class of 100-200 and sit and take notes. They need to keep their backs to the wall, always scanning the group, uneasy, having difficulty understanding what is required. Getting angry when assignments seem petty and other college students seem pampered and spoiled. This is what we face with the veterans and what we have adapted the program to help with. We work on focus, socialization, integration, trust and team building. We have become educators but also liaisons to faculty and campus administration in assisting them to recognize these symptoms and find appropriate ways to reach, serve and educate them.

We have become a referral hub, working with the VA, Service Member and Family Support (SMFS), local homeless coalitions, food banks, mental health facilities and social agencies. Veterans seem to migrate into two categories; those who want to surround themselves with a network of other veterans and can't immerse themselves in society again, and those who want to just blend in and not self-identify themselves. That doesn't mean they can go back to the way it was prior to deployment. It means there will also be difficulties, but they don't want to be singled out and treated differently from other students or given separate provision.

I have a veteran representative from Job Service who comes several times a month to help them with employment issues in a trusted environment. Military Outreach is on speed dial. Many do not want to identify as veterans because for some, there has developed a deep distrust of the VA, so they seek help through state agencies.

As a person who has seen family in Korea, Viet Nam and the Persian Gulf, I also had the experience of seeing what a dependent sees, what is hidden from the world. The fear, addictions, mental issues, posttraumatic stress, abuse, neglect are all evident. Dependents suffer losses the same way that the military does. But with that hardship, they also have the same pride that accompanies that service as well and the knowledge of what their military member has given.

I am asking for your support to continue this much-needed program. Since 2002, VUB has served 674 veterans. Because of the restrictions of the federal guidelines, that equates to only one-in-three of those who request because of the low income, first generation requirement. I am asking for the program to continue with that restriction removed and to include the spouses and dependents. Those who are low income will pay nothing for the service just as we provide now, while those who can, will be assessed a fee based on a sliding fee scale I am preparing.

Of the 674 students served, 45% attended a postsecondary school and 35% graduated. Under the federal provisions, veterans are only allowed three years to complete a two year program and six years for a four year program. That has proven to be unreasonable as most military have familial and financial responsibilities, disabilities, injuries, addictions and mental health issues. A large share of the college students have been taking five years as it is. We are paying close attention to the special needs of the women, homeless and Native American populations, who struggle with getting services.

By training the homeless, jobless or disadvantaged we can lower the 14% unemployment rate of incoming students that we have tracked in the last decade. Our homeless rate was averaging 3% until last year, when it became 14%. If we can educate them enough to get them into jobs and on an upward track, they can gain self-esteem through job promotions, self-supporting and work toward home ownership and contributing to the state through their taxes.

As a state, we have the opportunity to be a leader in taking care of our military who have put themselves in harm's way for us. There is no guarantee that in five years, any of the federal programs will be in existence. Let's help all military, veterans and dependents who seek an education.

I am seeking to help military who have served in the ND Guard and Reserves as well as veterans and their dependents. Help us help them because they have earned it and they deserve it.

In your packets you will find testimonies from two prior students who attended Veterans Upward Bound. I have included a brochure about Veterans Upward Bound as it stands under the federal guidelines. There is a short VUB Statistics sheet encompassing 2002-2012.

Following that is a Trio Quick Facts sheet, which VUB is a part of. The last attachment is a booklet of some of the students who have attended our classes since 2007 called Faces of VUB. Read their stories and get to know who we serve.

Thank you for your attention and I hope for your support.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**Anthony Muhonen, veteran**

**House Education Committee**

**Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman**

**January 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Anthony Muhonen. I am called Andy by most and i would like to tell you what VUB has done for me.

I relapsed into practicing alcoholism in 1998 after a decade of sobriety. My life became increasingly miserable and chaotic because of my self-destructive behavior. I became homeless in 2005 and my future seemed logical; death by drink. Family members saved me from freezing to death one night and talked me into seeking rehab at the Fargo VA. On May 6th of 2006 I entered SATP on the fourth floor of the Fargo VA. I struggled with employment and life and on the advice of others I enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound.

I met with Jeri Vaudrin to work out a schedule that would help me with my lack of order in my life. I continued to struggle with my Sobriety, but VUB was always there for me to help me gain back my self-respect. I progressed enough so that when I had an opportunity to become employed at the Fargo VA, li only had to ask 4 friends what to do. I took their advice and worked in the Laundry Dept. for the next two years.

As I continued my computer classes at VUB, an opportunity to apply for another job came along. As a direct result of what I learned in my classes I applied for and was awarded a new position at the VA. The people I met in VUB, the staff, and the structure of the program helped me progress enough to test myself in many areas of my life. I am more than 5 yrs. sober and live in sobriety with those around me. Veterans Upward Bound gave me more than I could have imagined when I signed up -- much like my time on Active Duty.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Muhonen

**Testimony in Support of HB 1289**

**Jerome Billups, veteran**

**House Education Committee**

**Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman**

**January 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Jerome Billups and I am proud to write this letter of support for a program which I believe is one of the most outstanding and academically beneficial to Veterans seeking to improve their chances and success in obtaining their academic goals.

I retired from active military service in the summer of 2004 and entered into post-secondary education as an older-than-average student. Veteran's Upward Bound was instrumental in helping me make the transition from soldier to student. The instruction, support and camaraderie I received from this program not only prepared me for my studies, but also was able to guide me in translating my 22 years of military experience into a major area of study that complemented my service experiences.

This program and the staff saved me time, energy and a multitude of heartaches by providing sound counseling and advice in regards to my academic goals and my personal life as well. They were there; they understood the difficulties that

military member often face during the transition period for soldier to civilian to student. They aid in ensuring success, where a lot of us had failed.

The support and guidance I received from VUB strengthened my resolve in ensuring that other veterans are able to benefit from the program as much as I had.

In 2005, I transferred from the VUB program at Minot State and re-entered the program at NDSU, this time as a work-study student under the direction and guidance of Mrs. Jeri Vaudrin; I provided administrative services and referrals for my fellow veterans. I assisted them through their academic endeavors. I was paying it forward with the same mentorship that was provided to me when I entered the program. Currently, I provide computer instruction for veterans entering post-secondary, technical and vocational education courses through programs such as Post/911 GI Bill, Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation Retraining Program, VRAP – Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and SkillBuild North Dakota Retraining Program. VUB Provides an invaluable service in ensuring the success the veterans in these programs will have by attending not only computer classes but English, math, and science instruction as well.

Veterans Upward Bound is a truly remarkable program; I have taken the honor of recommending VUB Program to several of veterans seeking to re-enter post-secondary education. The feedback I have received from these veterans echoes my excitement and pleasure with the program as well.

Yet, there is something missing. Often times as we reach out to the veteran population to ensure that they are able to benefit from similar programs that ensures their success, we often forget about the eligible spouses and dependents that too would benefit from the advantages of being a part of VUB. Under the current rules, eligible spouses and dependents are able to take up certain benefits that the veteran is unable to participate in due to death or a service connected disability. It would be wise to broaden the scope of VUB to include eligible spouses and dependents to ensure their success as well, as a show of respect to the veteran, that their service is recognized should they not able to benefit directly from the entitlement, and the spouses' and dependents' sacrifices so they may seek their educations as well.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to show my support for such a special and deserving program, Veterans Upward Bound.

Respectfully,

Jerome Billups



## Veterans Upward Bound Statistics

2002-2012

Number served: 674

Required to serve yearly: 120

Served 2011/2012: 126

Turned away for not meeting criteria: 2 out of 3  
(2/3 low income & first generation; 1/3 either low income or first generation)

Unemployment rate: 14%

Homeless rate: 3% over last decade; 7% during 2011/2012 fiscal year.

Homeless success rate: 14%

(Moved into gainful employment or postsecondary education; living in housing rather than street/car/shelters)

Statistics on postsecondary attendance: 674 students attending last decade. Of those, 45% attended some postsecondary institution. Of those attending, 35% graduated (or 16% of the 674 graduated over this decade).

NORTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OFFICE OF TRIO PROGRAMS

*Division of Student Affairs*

QUICK FACTS & STRUCTURE

**Office of TRIO Programs Mission Statement**

We promote the educational opportunity of eligible students whose aspirations, participation, and achievement of post-secondary academic goals may be at risk. Services are funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

**TRIO Programs**

**Upward Bound**

Motivating students to be successful in high school and to prepare them for continued success in college.

**Student Support Services**

Increasing the retention and graduation rates of eligible students and foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of students.

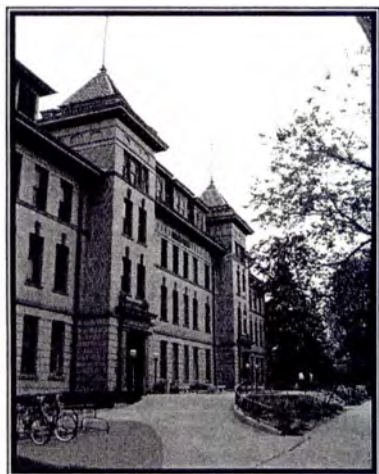
**Veterans Upward Bound**

To generate in veterans the skills and motivation necessary to enter and to succeed in a program of post-secondary education.

**McNair Scholars Program**

Preparing participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

Located at 335 Ceres Hall | For more information, go to [www.ndsu.edu/trio](http://www.ndsu.edu/trio)



Ceres Hall

*Diversity Strategies*

The Federal TRIO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes six outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.



### Student Support Services

Every student knows what it is like to feel left behind when a new subject is tough or a class is so large you feel you can't get your questions answered. **DON'T GET DISCOURAGED—GET HELP.** Student Support Services (SSS) offers one-on-one tutoring and small-group instruction in a variety of course areas. It is designed to help you succeed in your courses or to prepare you for courses in which you intend to enroll. In addition, SSS also provides employment for students who excel in courses that are in demand for tutors.

### Upward Bound

Upward Bound is designed to help students succeed in high school and prepare for continued success in college. It provides students with academic, cultural and social activities designed to build skills, motivation and self-confidence. These are skills necessary for success in school, careers and life. As a performance incentive, a monthly stipend is awarded to students who meet or exceed program expectations. There are also opportunities to gain real-world work experiences through paid work-experiences opportunities. Tutoring services are provided at target school sites.

### Veterans Upward Bound

To every service person who is or is about to be "out of uniform", they are beginning a daring and epic journey to the rest of their life. The decision they make will create their future. For those who wish to continue their education, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is here to help. VUB provides opportunities for military veterans to succeed in pre-college performance and in higher educational pursuits. The goal is to increase the rate that veterans complete their secondary and post-secondary education. Besides basic scholastics, the program offers assistance on academic advising, career guidance, school admission, financial aid applications and information about veteran education benefits.

### McNair Scholars Program

The primary objective of the McNair Scholars Program, named after astronaut Ronald E. McNair, is to prepare qualified undergraduate students for successful participation in graduate education and achievement of the doctorate. Qualified students who have completed their sophomore year who are considering study beyond the baccalaureate degree are invited to submit an application to participate in this program.

### Did You Know?

After his death in the Challenger space shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Program to encourage minority and low-income first generation college students to enroll in graduate studies.

It was Dr. Ronald E. McNair who said "Before you can make a dream come true, you first must have one".

## FUN FACTS

Upward Bound prepares students for college-level work; in fact, four times as many high school students graduate from college who have been involved with Upward Bound as compared to students of similar backgrounds.

Since 1989 thirty-four NDSU McNair Scholar participants have received PH-D's.

NDSU's McNair Program is in the top 10% of 181 McNair Programs in the nation .

Just some of the famous people in TRIO...

A.C. Green, Student Support Services, Oregon State University, NBA basketball player

Angela Bassett, Upward Bound, St. Petersburg Junior College, actress

George Foster, Upward Bound, University of Georgia, professional football player

Viola Davis, Upward Bound and Student Support Services, Rhode Island College, actress

Rev. James L Nadau, STI, Upward Bound, Bowdoin College, Roman Catholic priest

Belinda Reyes, Upward Bound, Bee Co. College, University of Texas, PhD, Judge

John Quinones, Upward Bound, St. Mary's University, Correspondent for ABC News "20/20"

Deuce Lutui, Student Support Services, Snow College, Ephraim, Utah, #76 Arizona Cardinals

Bret Kiesel, Student Support Services, Snow College, Ephraim, Utah, #99 Pittsburg Steelers

Patrick Ewing, Upward Bound, M.I.T., NBA's New York Knicks, Seattle SuperSonics and Orlando Magic

## HISTORY OF TRIO PROGRAMS

The Federal TRIO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes four distinct outreach programs targeted to serve and assist students to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post baccalaureate programs. TRIO also includes a training program for directors and staff of TRIO projects.

The history of TRIO is progressive. It began with *Upward Bound*, which emerged out of the *Economic Opportunity Act of 1964* in response to the administration's War on Poverty. In 1965, *Talent Search*, the second outreach program, was created as part of the *Higher Education Act*. In 1968, *Student Support Services*, which was originally known as *Special Services for Disadvantaged Students*, was

authorized by the *Higher Education Amendments* and became the third in a series of educational opportunity programs. By the late 1960's the term "TRIO" was coined to describe these federal programs.

Over the years, the TRIO Programs have been expanded and improved to provide a wider range of services and to reach more students who need assistance. The *Higher Education Amendments of 1972* added the fourth program to the TRIO group by authorizing the *Educational Opportunity Centers*. The *1976 Education Amendments* authorized the *Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs*, initially known as the *Training Program for Special Programs Staff and Leadership Personnel*. Amendments in 1986 added the sixth program, the *Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate*

*Achievement Program*. Additionally, in 1990, the Department created the *Upward Bound Math/Science* program to address the need for specific instruction in the fields of math and science. The *Upward Bound Math/Science* program is administered under the same regulations as the regular *Upward Bound* program, but it must be applied for separately. The legislative requirements for all six TRIO programs can be found in the *Higher Education Act of 1965, title IV, Part A, Subpart 2*.

North Dakota State University has hosted TRIO programs since 1968 and currently hosts McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services, Veterans Upward Bound Program, and Upward Bound Program.

## HOT TOPICS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Because TRIO Programs are federally funded through the United States Department of Education, TRIO Programs services are at no cost to the students who are eligible for TRIO Programs.

**Student Support Services (SSS)** serves approximately 400 students per year and employs approximately 25 student tutors.

NDSU is one of the 14 original universities chosen in 1989 to host a Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Program. The program was named after astronaut and physicist Ronald E. McNair. NDSU has received funding continuously while celebrating the 20th

year of **McNair** at NDSU in 2009.

**Veterans Upward Bound** has a satellite office that is run out of UND. VUB has one of the largest recruiting areas that includes over 100 counties.

**Upward Bound** participants have the opportunity to spend a summer with us as a 'Bridge' student. As a Bridge participant students attend an on-campus college-level class while receiving useful information and guidance in making important choices during the transition from high school to college. Upward Bound pays for the tuition and books for this class.

### A look ahead...

There are still TRIO grants that are not currently serving on the NDSU campus; Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC), and Upward Bound Math/Science.

### TRIO Programs and Staff

**Michael Harwood**

Assistant Dean Student Life

**Janine Trowbridge**

Office Manager TRIO

**Aida Martinez-Freeman**

Assistant TRIO Director/Project Director Student Support Services (SSS)

**Charles Cherry**

Reading and Study Skills Instructor Student Support Services (SSS)

**Raymond Smith**

Math and Science Instructor Student Support Services (SSS)

**Kris Mickelson**

Assistant TRIO Director/Project Director Upward Bound (UB)

**Sydney Knutson**

Project Coordinator/Upward Bound (UB)

**Anna Sheppard**

Project Coordinator McNair Scholars Program (MSP)

**Jeri Vaudrin**

Project Coordinator/Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

**James Becks**

Site Coordinator, Grand Forks/Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

*"After being absent from school more than 28 years, Veterans Upward Bound helped me grasp and prepare to enter college at a level to ensure my success."*

*- student attending a four-year institution*

*"Veterans Upward Bound helped me on a new career choice. I brushed up on my math, English and writing skills. This made college a little easier to cope with."*

*- student attending a two-year business institution*

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The U.S. Department of Education funds Veterans Upward Bound programs to serve all eligible veterans at no cost. While attending classes, you may be eligible to receive educational benefits such as the GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill, VA Vocational Rehabilitation, and other Veterans Education and Assistance programs.

### WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Contact Veterans Upward Bound at 1-800-570-5719 or any of the following locations for more information:

Fargo-Moorhead  
NDSU Dept. 5380, P.O. Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050  
701-231-9706  
[www.ndsu.edu/trio/veterans\\_upward\\_bound](http://www.ndsu.edu/trio/veterans_upward_bound)

Grand Forks-East Grand Forks  
Memorial Union Rm. 219  
2901 University Avenue Stop 8361  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8361  
701-777-6465



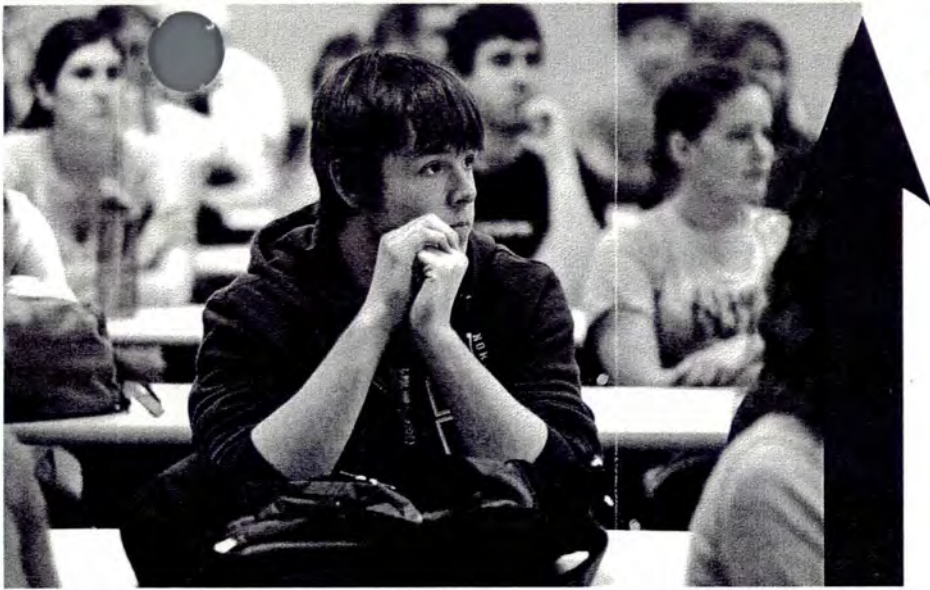
This brochure is published by the Veteran's Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. VUB is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708.

# VETERANS UPWARD BOUND A NEW BEGINNING

serving north dakota,  
minnesota and south dakota

[www.ndsu.edu/trio/veterans\\_upward\\_bound](http://www.ndsu.edu/trio/veterans_upward_bound)



*"Veterans Upward Bound helped me prepare to enter into an academic program by helping me brush up on subjects I was having problems with and helped me acclimate to college life and environment. They have given me continued support and advice on school and in life. I highly recommend participating in the VUB program. The staff is outstanding, supportive and they want vets to excel and succeed. The more a person puts into this program, the better your opportunities for a new career."*

– graduating senior attending four-year institution

# A NEW BEGINNING

Whether you are, or are about to be, "out of uniform," you are on the first steps of a journey to the rest of your life. If your journey begins with formal education, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is here to help you.

## WHAT IS VETERANS UPWARD BOUND?

Veterans Upward Bound is a program of study that will prepare you for a two-year or four-year college. We work to help you succeed in post-secondary education through classes and programs designed to ease the transition to college life. Our classes are on-campus, but also are available online on a case-by-case basis.

### Scholastic refresher program

- Basic mathematics through pre-calculus
- English, literature and composition
- Foreign language
- Lab sciences
- Computer skills

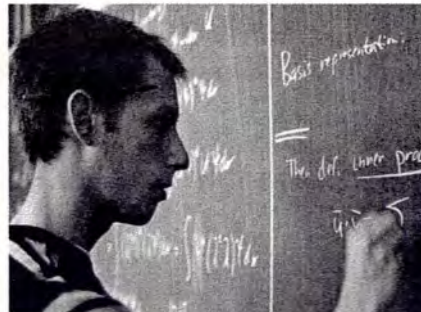
### Academic advising

- Course of study selection at an appropriate college
- College application and financial aid assistance

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS UPWARD BOUND?

Armed forces veterans who:

- Have any type of discharge other than "dishonorable"
- Have more than 180 days active duty service
- Are first generation college students, or meet federal low-income standards
- Are U.S. citizens



# Veterans Upward Bound



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## Faces of VUB

*Office of TRiO Programs  
Division of Student Affairs  
North Dakota State University  
Fargo, North Dakota*

2007-2012







## Definition Of A Veteran...

A veteran — whether active duty, retired, or National Guard or Reserve—is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to *“The United States of America,”* for the amount of *“up to and including my life.”*

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author Unknown



# Veterans Upward Bound Rules of Engagement

Take care of *yourself*



Take care of *each other*



Take care of *this place*

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# Veterans Upward Bound

## SARAH BARNES

Sarah Barnes was born in St. Louis, MO and raised as a single child in Waubun, MN. Her father was a Viet Nam veteran, which prompted her to join the Air Force in the fall of 1997 and train in the field of Communications Signals Intelligence. She remained in service until 2003.

In 2005, Barnes determined she needed to return to school and participated in Veterans Upward Bound at NDSU to acclimate herself to college life and receive assistance with her core classes. She gained confidence and knowledge to continue her education through the program.

She is currently a senior at NDSU, majoring in Criminal Justice. Barnes has set a goal of going on to graduate school following her graduation.

She continues to mentor other veterans at NDSU through her participation as president of the newly re-established Veterans Organization on campus. In addition, she is a VA work study in the certifying officer's office in Registration and Records.

**Update:** Sarah gave birth to her second child and is currently working as a procurement technician for the Veterans Administration in Fargo. She also continues her pursuit of a degree.



# Veterans Upward Bound

## JEROME BILLUPS

I retired from the Air Force in 2003, after 22 years of service. I managed people, programs and resources. While I learned excellent job skills and obtained creditable work experience, it was not enough when it came time to seek employment; I was either over- or under-qualified.

I began working for a large insurance and investment company, stuck in a cubicle. This was not what I imagined life to be after leaving the service.

I needed to get a degree. A call to the Veteran's Administration put me in contact with counselors who assisted me and put me in contact with Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) at Minot State University. I believe this is the best thing I have done since leaving the Air Force.

VUB did more than help me improve my study habits and helping with academic studies. Being an older-than-average student and retired military, I had different adjustment problems to college life. VUB provided networking and interaction with other veterans who had similar life experiences—a support system that worked for me. I had immediate access to the people and resources I needed to be successful.

I transferred to NDSU in 2005 and joined the VUB team here. I transferred not only as a student but as a grandparent raising a grandchild, another unexpected lifestyle change.

I am thankful for the SSS support I receive through TRIO and the VUB program has been nothing but outstanding. The academic guidance counseling I received helped me better manage my time between my academics and providing for my grandchild. I am grateful.

I am pursuing a degree in Natural Resources Management, with a concentration on Communications. I am quite proud of the people and TRIO programs that assist me in obtaining my goals. I hope to continue working with other veterans going back to school, showing them that it can be done. When I graduate, I will give back the chance that was given to me.



# Veterans Upward Bound

## JEROME BILLUPS (CONTINUED)

### Update:

Jerome has completed his Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources and has completed all but his presentation for his Master's Degree. He has been employed by North Dakota Job Service as a Veteran Representative until he completes his presentation, at which time he will begin looking for employment using his Natural Resources degree, preferably in the southeast area of the United States.

# Veterans Upward Bound

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## ROBERTA BUTLER

My name is Roberta Butler, but most people call me Bobbie. I was born in Fergus Falls, MN, and grew up between Fargo and the Lakes area.

At 17, I moved to Darby, MT and attended Trapper Creek Job Corps. I obtained my high school diploma and learned to finish cement. A few months before I graduated, I signed up for the United States Army. When I called home the night I joined, I said, "Dad, I did something stupid." He said, "What did you do, join the Marines?" I said, "No, the Army."



At 18 I went into basic training at Fort Jackson, Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Lee, VA and finished Additional Skills Identifier (ASI) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. My first duty station was Camp Walker, South Korea. Living in Korea was a joyful experience to say the least. From there, I was sent to Ft. Carson, Co. Colorado is a beautiful state!

During my time at Fort Carson, I was deployed to Iraq. That was an eye opener to say the least. Returning home, I have battled and overcome many obstacles. I never thought I would ever be a student at a university, but with the tender, caring encouragement from the Veterans Upward Bound staff, that dream is soon to come true.

Thank you to all from the bottom of my heart.

**Update:** "Bobbie" completed her courses at VUB. Recently married, she is enjoying time at home with her daughter. She plans to continue her pursuit of a degree in the future.

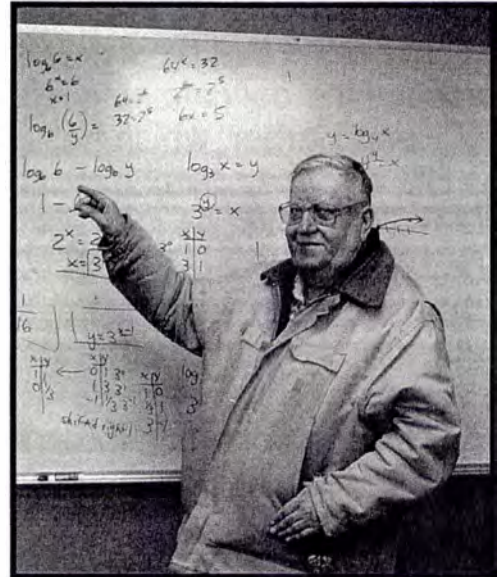


# Veterans Upward Bound

## JOHN BRUMMEL

Tucked away in the corner of the UND Memorial Union's second floor is a small office labeled "Veterans Upward Bound," a tutoring service for vets interested in returning to school. One might find John Brummel sitting in the cubicle around 2 p.m. using MS Paint in a not-so-conventional way.

Coming from a military family, Brummel joined the Air Force in 1968. He served state-side at the Minot Air Force Base during the Vietnam War, working as a security police officer, base detail and file clerk—a reward for some of the rough experience he endured his time in duty.



However, despite the divide in the nation over the conflict, Brummel said most people liked what he did, and he was honorably discharged in 1969 at the age of 21.

After the completion of his time in the service, Brummel returned to his home state of Missouri to attend a junior college, where he majored in history — something he has always had a passion for.

"I'm interested in the military history and any kind of history," Brummel said.

This love of history has followed him throughout his life, as he's transitioned to different areas of the colleges in different areas of the country. At all of them, he has taken history, music and art classes.

Coming to North Dakota to attend UND, Brummel now visits Veterans Upward Bound daily to work on brushing up his computer skills. He also found himself near to his sister, who works as the acting president at White Earth College. Although Brummel is described as a man of few words, he and his sister talk daily on the phone — a pattern that also carries through to his work.

"It's what I do. I go to Veteran's Upward Bound and I use the computer," Brummel said. "Keep at it a little everyday."

# Veterans Upward Bound

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## JOHN BRUMMEL (CONTINUED)

He admits that he still gets excited quite a bit about his work as he describes the delicate navy ships he completes and his most recent images of Pearl Harbor, which he recreated from a magazine cover.

His work has been used in TRiO, a federal program that helps disadvantaged students, as part of their "Sailing to Success" program. He has also had his work displayed in the art galleries. Students can also find some of Brummel's photos and poems in a display case, called "John's Corner," outside of the VUB office at UND.

**Update:** John continues to do his art and has broadened his study at VUB to now include math as well as computer.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## SAM CHRISTLEY

I was born in Ellwood City, PA in 1954. Like most of my family, I joined the military at 17 after dropping out of high school. It was too boring. I never really felt like I was learning that much. Silly me.

After I got out, I joined the Army Reserve. There wasn't any work in PA, so I moved out here where my brother was stationed. I became a member of the local reserve unit for seven years. I decided to go active Army again. I spent time in Washington and Germany, was then medically discharged, and ended up on disability. I moved around some more, finally returning to Grand Forks.

I worked part time but in time, my health was getting to where I wasn't able to do the same work. I knew I needed to get a field that I would be able to work in.

I started Veterans Upward Bound first just for computer, then refreshed my grammar and I got to a point in math where I could do school work. Now I've been working at college, started on networking, but finally decided I really wasn't happy with it and now have moved on to architectural drafting. This is something I really enjoy and hope I'll be the best at it as I was a mechanic before. So here we are, two semesters to go, and I'll have a degree.

I have three children, all girls, one with a boy and two girls, the other with two boy's.

**Update:** Sam was a recipient of Veteran Upward Bound's Certificate of Achievement and received a scholarship to assist him in getting his degree.



# Veterans Upward Bound

## HARRY FEILEN

Harry Feilen is a Veteran who was in the United States Marine Corps for 8 years as a Military Policeman and served in the first gulf war.

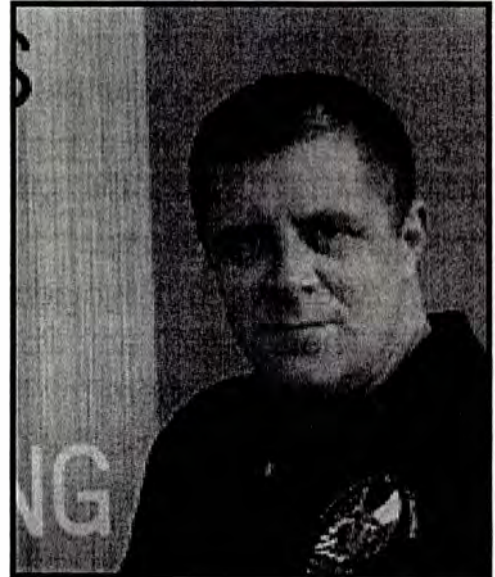
Harry is one of those students that does not wait for someone else to get the job done, he takes the initiative. Once his attention is focused on a project he does not stop until it has been accomplished to an exceptional standard.

He graduated in 1987 from Red River High School here in Grand Forks, ND. He went out into the world with no intentions of returning to school, ever. Twenty-two years later,

Harry started at UND in the spring 2009 semester and has since earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Mary and is 6 classes from completing the core curriculum for a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering here at UND. Harry will be completed with this in May 2013.

He is involved in Power On, which is a volunteer organization who travels to local schools / community events and demonstrates experiments for local K-12 kids, and their parents, to help get them involved in math and sciences. Harry has volunteered his time to build some of the experiments and applied his engineering skills to perfect the demonstrations. He is also involved in VESTS (Volunteer Engineering Students). UND College of Engineering and Mines VESTS is a group of accomplished student volunteers who are enrolled in engineering or geoscience majors who have been selected to serve as representatives of the School of Engineering and Mines at various functions.

Harry was awarded the 2010 Veterans Upward Bound Award of Achievement Excellence for his hard work and dedication. He was also selected by the Mechanical Engineering Chair, Dr. Cavalli, to be featured in the winter 2012 ME newsletter under the student perspective section. Harry was hired during the spring 2010 semester by Dr. Steve Benson as a research



# Veterans Upward Bound

## HARRY FEILEN (CONTINUED)

tech in the Chemical Engineering Department here at UND. Harry's role was to apply Mechanical Engineering theory to Chemical Engineering graduate student projects and to assist them with the fabrication, operation and optimization of their respective experiments, while attending UND as a fulltime student.

In December 2011, Harry was hired by The Institute for Energy Studies as a fulltime engineer and currently works full time while finishing his course work. He gives all of the credit for his successful academic career to his wife, Darla, who has made it possible for him to pursue a higher education. He also credits his 18-year-old son David for his understanding when dad cannot "go out and play" due to home work or other obligations. He has stated this would not be possible without the presence of the people around him and in his life.

During his time at UND, Harry has excelled with his academics. He is currently in his senior year and has taken an average of 16 credit hours per semester and is carrying a total cumulative 3.52 GPA. Once Harry sets his mind on an objective, he gives it 110% to ensure its completion.

Harry is a great example that nothing is impossible if you are willing to work hard to reach your goals.

**Update:** Harry has received his Bachelor's Degree in Management and should complete his second degree in Mechanical Engineering in May, 2013.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## KELLY GRONSKEI

My name is Kelly Gronskei and I'm an Osvet. An Osvet is a person who has served in two or more of our nation's militaries. I served in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.

My history starts before I graduated from high school...my history of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I would like to tell you about how I got started in Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), and what it has done for me up until now.

I was homeless and living in my car when I started VUB. I really don't think the project coordinator knew this. I had already started working to fix myself by writing in a journal. Everything else that was tried wasn't working.

I was a loose cannon and would go off at all the wrong times. Sometimes I still do, but I'm much more controlled and quieter about it and I'm learning how to say, "...in my opinion...". The project coordinator and her crew had more than enough reason to cut me loose, but they didn't. They must have seen something in me at the time that I couldn't.

Because of my post-traumatic stress disorder, I sat in the rear of the class so I could have a full view of everyone in that room. Today, I'm sitting in the middle of it all.

I was really stubborn and wanted to help myself and do things my way. What VUB saw was tenacity and they were hoping I was smart enough to reach out for help when I needed it. I guess I was, because I still have trust issues. I'm actually trembling while I'm writing this letter. I'm getting better though, and want to continue to do so.



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## KELLY GRONSKEI (CONTINUED)

Some of us think that someone like me has only a 50-50 chance; a flip of a coin at making it. I've learned that a coin has more than two sides. My fence in life is the rim of that coin that I'm walking on today. I can see both sides of the pasture. I can also see the past, present and my future. This little maneuver has freed up my mind. Through the VUB program, I'm also learning my place in society and how I fit into it. Because I will always be military, my place is in service.

I've been looking at two roads I like. I've pretty much decided on one for now. There's always time to come back and go down that other one. I even see a place where these two roads may connect up in my future.

Right now, VUB is mine and many other vets' support group. This support, in my opinion, should be extended and available to the children of veterans – past, present and future. I know some children that are reaching out right now. They are part of our family.

It is also my opinion that money and time invested by people to help individuals like me is well spent. I'm not willing to try and place a dollar value on any person's life. This has given me the realization that the VUB program here in Fargo may be more important than some of us understand. Expanding it may be just as important.

Personally, I need the VUB program to continue to learn these ropes. It would also be nice to have the security of being able to stop calling my apartment my "home for now". I would like to call it my "home for a while".

I would like you all to know that I have collected nothing, nor applied for any money from the Chapter 31 (VA Vocational Rehabilitation) program. This program is giving me back myself.

I would like you all to know that I have collected nothing, nor applied for any money from the Chapter 31 (VA Vocational Rehabilitation) program. This program is giving me back myself. I thank the project coordinator so much for this opportunity. This program helps me help myself.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## DAVE HAGBERG

Before I came to Veterans Upward Bound, I was a welder. Welding was not the job for me. I then decided to go to college.

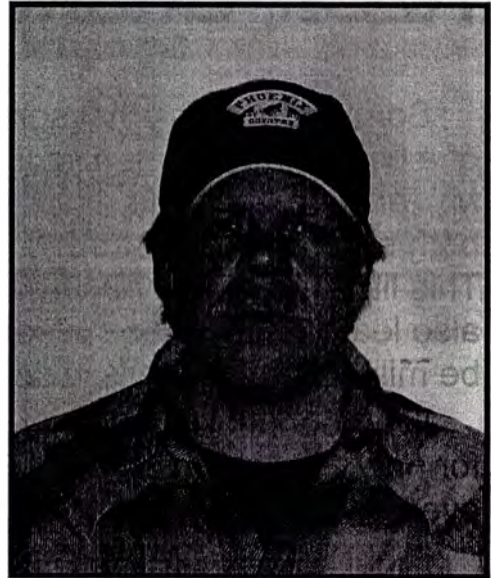
When I first attended Veterans Upward Bound, it was a great plus for me. The program helped me learn how to study, and helped me catch up in subjects like math, English, science and computer skills.

Without the use of this program, I feel I would have been at a real loss when re-entering school again. I feel strongly that the Veterans Upward Bound project helped me to prepare for my academic life at NDSU.

My plan for the future and my major are in the Natural Resources Management area. I would greatly enjoy having a job working with wildlife and plants.

Thanks to the dedication of Veterans Upward Bound project staff, I am on my way. The program continues to give me help and support.

**Update:** Dave graduated with his degree in Natural Resources with emphasis on grasslands. He is currently employed in Utah.





# Veterans Upward Bound

## JOHN JACOBS

John Jacobs looks like an average student with his shaggy hair and casual dress. He does not look like a man just out of the military. Jacobs, a freshmen majoring in electrical engineering, was a Naval Combat Air crewman and flew combat missions over Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and the Philippines, as well as intelligence missions off the coast of China and North Korea.

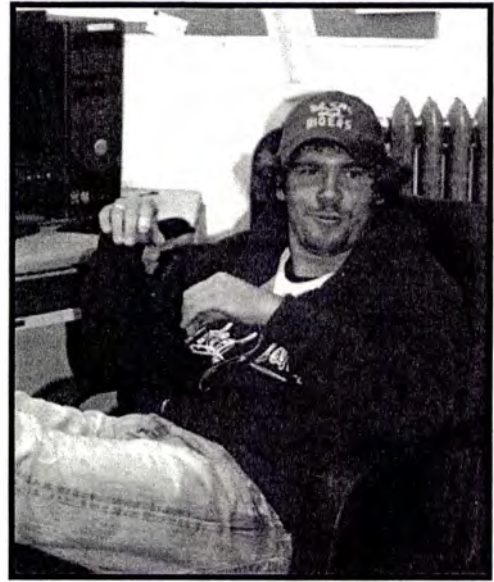
Jacobs joined the military after high school and began his training in 2003. Jacobs was thrilled about the position he was offered in the Navy.

“They told me I would be wearing a jumpsuit and leather jacket. All I could think of was Tom Cruise and I was in,” Jacobs said.

After flight training, Jacobs was put through Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School. SERE School is for all special operations members and those who are going to receive a security clearance at or above top secret.

“Guys with machine guns” chased Jacobs in the Maine wilderness until he was caught as part of his SERE School training. Next, Jacobs experienced a mock prisoner of war camp where he was expected to keep military secrets.

Jacobs was deployed and became a crew member on the P-3C Orion, which was referred to by the crew as “The Tube.” The Tube was equipped with high-tech surveillance equipment used to aid special operations forces. Jacobs said a video feed could be sent from the plane’s cameras to field bases that could use the surveillance information to command their troops. In the case of important missions, the video feed could be sent directly to soldiers with hand-held devices. They could use the video to see areas invisible from their vantage points.



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## JOHN JACOBS (CONTINUED)

Jacobs' most memorable moment of his military career took place while on vacation. Jacobs visited Tonga, an island near Australia that he describes as "near Third World status." Jacobs and a friend were walking home and Jacobs stopped at a food stand while his friend kept walking. Two young girls ran up to Jacobs and asked him to follow them. The girls said Jacobs' friend was hurt. They led Jacobs to his friend, who had fallen on lava rock and cut open his leg. After helping his friend, Jacobs gave the money in his wallet to the girls.

"The girls looked up at me with their big brown eyes, and I was like 'they're in nirvana,'" Jacobs said.

Jacobs said his experience in Tonga "put into perspective how good we have it in the U.S."

Since returning from his deployment, Jacobs said Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) has helped him adjust to school. The organization provides help to veterans who have been away from school. Bruce Steele, the VUB project director, said VUB provides refresher courses in math, English, computer basics and study skills. If the demand is high, VUB will also offer courses in science and foreign language. Steele said the program began in 1972 and has helped thousands of veterans.

VUB's services are free to all veterans who pass an application process. Steele said it is amazing to see veterans who never dreamed of going to college making the dean's list.

**Update:** John has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management.

# Veterans Upward Bound

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## YVETTE LEDERER

I tried to go back into the trucking industry, but discovered that I couldn't because of issues related to my military life and environment following my discharge. I tried going back to school a couple of times but couldn't afford it. I finally had to look at a different way to make changes and realized if I wanted to work again, I had to seriously look at school.

I have a great appreciation for Veterans Upward Bound. Going to school when you're young is much easier than going back 20+ years later! If I had tried to back to college without VUB, it would have a disaster. The program gives you a starting point for the transition of getting back into school.



### **Update:**

Yvette continues to pursue her degree in accounting from Globe University in Moorhead. She continues to contribute to Veterans Upward Bound whenever she can and volunteers time supporting the local Homeless Coalition and Veteran Stand Down events held twice a year at the Fargo Dome.

# Veterans Upward Bound

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## SHARON LEWIS

I entered the United States Navy in December, 1981, as an airman. My first duty station was at China Lake, CA., where I worked as an aviation storekeeper for nine months. My goal was to strike for hospital corpsmen, which I did and that was the beginning of my Navy career as a hospital corpsman.

I completed Hospital Corps School in October, 1983, and went on to Orlando, FL., Bethesda, MD., Fargo, ND., and Washington, DC. Although I didn't go overseas, nor did I get stationed on a ship, I feel that my experience has been world class.

The 20 years that I have experienced with the active and reserve Navy has been invaluable to my life experience. I'm currently in the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) project in hopes for a new career. The Veterans Upward Bound project is helping me to refresh my skills in basic subjects so I can move on and be productive in the workforce again.

**Update:** Sharon is currently attending classes at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## LISA MOWRY

I was born in Angeles City, Philippines. A few years after my family came to America we received our citizenship. At age 18 I joined the US Army as an intelligence analyst. My father always wanted me to go to college; so when I signed up he made sure that I didn't take the sign on bonus instead of the college fund. At that time in my life college wasn't even a thought in my mind but my father wouldn't leave it alone, so I chose the college fund.

While in the Army I met my husband Danny. Shortly after we both were out of the Army we moved to Maryland and found out we were expecting our first son. Unfortunately we were young and didn't think ahead about insurance or savings. Needless to say, living in the most expensive county in Maryland our money was leaving quicker than it was coming in. We knew that we couldn't afford it there anymore and decided to move to Fargo, North Dakota where his parents live in hopes of receiving financial and child care help.

Once the move was complete, we realized something in our lives had to be stable, so I searched for a job. This lasted months because I was either over qualified or under qualified. I knew I couldn't just sit around waiting for something to happen, that's when I considered using my college fund. I called NDSU to set up an appointment so I could start college right away. Neil, the former VA benefits guy sat me down and his first question was "Do you feel you are ready to jump into school right away? Because we have a refresher course for veterans."

That's when he walked me up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Ceres and I began the admission process into the Veteran's Upward Bound Program (VUB). I was able to study English and Math at my own pace and if I had a problem or question there was always someone there to help. I stayed in the VUB program for one semester, and then I had to make a choice of what my



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## LISA MOWRY (CONTINUED)

next step would be. I was scared of college. I played with the idea of going to work instead. But VUB had a different plan for me.

A fellow VUB student and Peggy, the head teacher at VUB held my hand and brought me to Admissions. They allowed me time to do some research, which didn't help my fear of college, in fact it seemed to increase it. Every time they asked about enrollment I avoided the question. With more pushing and encouragement from everyone at VUB I was able to overcome my fear and start the application process for attending school at North Dakota State University.

Now I am a sophomore majoring in Microbiology with minors in Biotechnology, Chemistry and Japanese. College isn't easy and I've had help from other programs that TRIO offers such as tutoring from Student Support Services (SSS). I've received tutoring for Chemistry and Math. Dr. Nandana has helped me through many math classes. He is able to adjust his teaching style for each student he tutors. I know that I would not be where I am today without the aide of the TRIO Programs and the people them.

I know now that I don't have to settle with my life. I plan on going to graduate school in pursuit of a doctorate degree. And I hope that someday I will be working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I hope that these programs continue and are able to help others like me who just didn't know what to do or where to begin to do it.

### **Update:**

Lisa is currently working for Kemp in Minneapolis as a microbiologist. She still plans to continue her master's education in the future.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## NATE NIEMEN

Three years after graduating from high school, Nate Nieman ended his active duty service in the U.S. Army in summer, 2001. A month later, while registering for classes at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, he was referred to the

Veterans Upward Bound program by certifying official Neil Sitz.

He wanted to enter the Human Performance and Fitness Program but felt that he would need some help since he had been out of secondary school for a time.

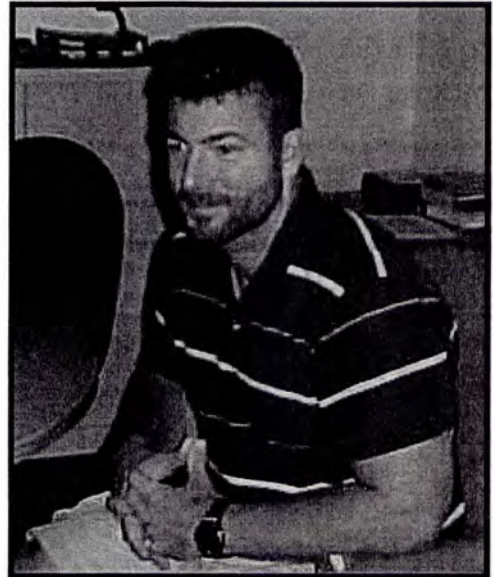
“This is really a good program. They got me up to speed,” Nieman said. “My English and science were good, but I needed help with math.”

Peg Rasch, lead instructor, was math instructor at that time and worked with Nieman to bring his math skills into line with his university classes.

“Peg also told me about the Voc Rehab program, Chapter 31,” he explained. “I had a problem with my shoulder and received 20% disability,” he remembered. “I wouldn’t have known about Voc Rehab or other benefits if it hadn’t been for Peggy. I also found out about using our GI home loan benefit. It was a great experience. I tell everyone I know about the VUB program.”

Rasch had such a good influence on Nieman that he has continued to keep track of her.

Nieman deployed to Iraq at the rank of E4. Within a month, he was promoted to E5/Team Leader, and finally E6 before he returned to the States. Later this fall his commanding officer will be promoting him to the rank of 2LT.



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## NATE NIEMEN (CONTINUED)

Upon his return, he was given his job back, along with the appropriate raises. He also works at Courts Plus, a fitness center in Fargo.

"Everything has worked out well," Nieman said. "I came right back into my job. I've been very lucky. None of this would have been possible if I hadn't had the help of the VUB program."

**Update:** Nate completed his Bachelor's degree in Human Performance and Fitness and received a certification as a Peace Officer.



# Veterans Upward Bound

## AMBER O'GEAY

I am a single mother trying to go to school to provide a better life for my daughter and myself. I do not have any family I can depend on—they are all deceased.

If words could only express what CCAMPIS has done for my daughter and me. When growing up, I had a difficult life, and it was my goal that when I had children I would be able to provide for them what I had only dreamed of when I was a child. But how? was the biggest question. How can I go to school when I can barely afford to provide a roof over our heads now? An NDSU faculty member informed me of a program that would help me with some of financial obligations while attending school. He brought me to the office of Veterans Upward Bound (VUB). Not only did I find out so many different ways that VUB could help me, but this is also where I learned of CCAMPIS. CCAMPIS would help me with child-care costs while attending school, based on my current income.



When finding out that I was accepted for VUB, it brought tears to my eyes. Not only has VUB given me more of an inspiration to go forward, it has also shown me that there really are people out there who want to help. This is a major stress relief, and really is the light at the end of a tunnel that I never thought my daughter or I would see.

Without VUB, I would not be able to follow my dream and I would be stuck in the rut that my own mother so desperately wanted to get our family out of when I was a child. To the VUB program, my daughter and I thank you with all we have for allowing us to chase the moon even if it only allows us to catch a star! Without VUB, the answer to the question, "How can I do this?" would have been, "I can't." And now, because of VUB and the people in it, I know the answer is, "Yes, we can!"

**Update:** Amber is now employed with VA Vocational Rehabilitation as the office manager and plans to get her degree in social work.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## GEORGE PALO

George Palo, a United States Air Force veteran, is now in his third year at the University of North Dakota, working towards a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Before enrolling at the university, George attended the math and English classes offered by the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) for about a year and a half. When asked how the VUB assisted George, he replied, "Veterans Upward Bound reintroduced me to the study habits necessary to be successful in college, while refreshing my knowledge of math and English."

Initially, George was uncertain about his college future; he knew his career aspirations but he had not attended an institution of education since 1987. Length of time outside of school was not the only factor contributing to his lack of confidence; George was also solely responsible for his six-year-old daughter's welfare. Suddenly, time and money became issues.

Fortunately, George had signed for the Montgomery GI Bill when he enlisted in the armed forces. Therefore, while he attended the free courses offered by VUB, he received his monthly allotment from the Veterans Administration. A short time before enrolling at UND, George completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and was awarded a full Federal Pell Grant, which completely paid the cost of tuition.

George has successfully completed two years and is excitedly anticipating his future in Civil Engineering.

**Update:** George completed his degree in Civil Engineering.



# Veterans Upward Bound

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## JOHN TRAUTMAN

John Trautman attended Fargo South High School and graduated in 1995. Prior to entering his senior year John enlisted in the Army reserves and was assigned to Delta Company 367 engineer Battalion. In the summer of 1995 John attended basic and MOS training at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. John graduated on 5 October 1995 as a combat engineer 12 b.



Upon returning to Fargo, John returned to a company in transition and decided to follow an attachment down to Fergus Falls. During summer training job was assigned to OPFOR (opposition force) where he received his first Army Achievement Medal. The unit was completely disbanded in 1996 and John reenlisted in the National Guard. Following a lifelong dream, John enlisted in active duty to go to Germany as a combat engineer.

John was assigned to 16th engineer Battalion C. Co First Armored Division Giessen Germany. While he was stationed in Germany, John train for and attended Army special forces assessment and selection school at Fort Bragg North Carolina. However, a torn shoulder made him a medical drop. Upon returning to Germany, John participated in several training exercises where he received his second Army Achievement Medal for nine successful missions as an AVLB operators. A scissor type bridge launched from on top of a tank. John would receive his third Army Achievement Medal upon the completion of his tour for honorable and meritorious service.

John was relocated to Fort Hood, Texas in January 2000. He was assigned to A co. 91st Engineer Battalion, First Cavalry Division. While assigned to Alpha Company, John participated in several training exercises leading up to a major deployment to NTC (National Training Center) Fort Irwin California. In June of 2000 John attend the promotion Board where he was selected to attend PLDC (Primary Leadership Development

# Veterans Upward Bound

## JOHN TRAUTMAN (CONTINUED)

Course) in August 2000. In February 2001 John was selected for promotion to Sergeant E5 and was given command of his own six man squad including one Humvee and one armored personnel carrier.

June 2, 2001 John was involved in a swimming accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. After several months of hospitalization John was transferred back to his home in Fargo North Dakota. In July of 2002 John began taking classes from the Veterans Upward Bound Program at North Dakota State University in order to prepare him for the rigors of college life. In December



of 2006 John graduated with a Bachelors in Political Science, Bachelors in Criminal Justice and a minor in psychology. In the spring of 2007 John was accepted to attend the University of North Texas in Denton to pursue a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice. John will be graduating in May 2009 and looking forward to pursuing his Ph.D. in criminal justice.

John is a life member of the DAV as well as the VFW. John has also taken the opportunity to participate in the winter ski clinic in Snowmass Colorado in 2002. In 2006 John was a participant in The National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Anchorage, Alaska. He received a Silver medal in the wheelchair slalom and was also presented with The Spirit of Endeavor Award from the British Ex-Serviceman's Wheelchair Association.

**Update:** John completed his Master's degree and has returned to Minnesota. He is considering a doctoral degree in the future.

# Veterans Upward Bound

## ANDY WICHMAN

I was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado and entered active duty in the U.S. Navy in June 1984 and following is a history of my military career:

07 June 1984 - 06 August 1984 - Boot camp

6 August 1984 - 18 October 1984 -Yeoman "A" School

02 November 1984 - 27 May 1988 - COM-HELWINGRES Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego California

23 June 1988 - 09 December 1991 - COOP-MINEUNIT 1101, Seattle, Washington

4 January 1992 - 12 December 1994 - COMNAVRESFOR, New Orleans, Louisiana

19 December 1994 - 05 January 1998 - NAVRESREDCOM REG 16

28 January 1998 - 04 August 2004 - NAVRESCEN Fargo, North Dakota



When I retired in 2004, I worked a couple of places until I found an ad in the newspaper for Veteran's Upward Bound. Veteran's Upward Bound helped point me in a positive direction and put focus on what matters. It has helped me by knowing where I was lacking or needed refreshing on in English and math. It has been almost 25 plus years since going back to school and VUB helped me regain some of the skills that were lost over those years. They helped me through the whole process of what and what not to expect when entering college and all of the paperwork. It made all of the difference in the world. Today I am a junior at Minnesota State University Moorhead and I am working on my first bachelor's degree in teaching. If it had not been for Veteran's Upward Bound, I would probably still wondering what if? It is a great program that works because of the people involved.

**Update:** Andy was the recipient last year of Veteran Upward Bound's Certificate of Achievement and received a scholarship toward completing his degree.

# Veterans Upward Bound

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## JAMES WILLIAMS

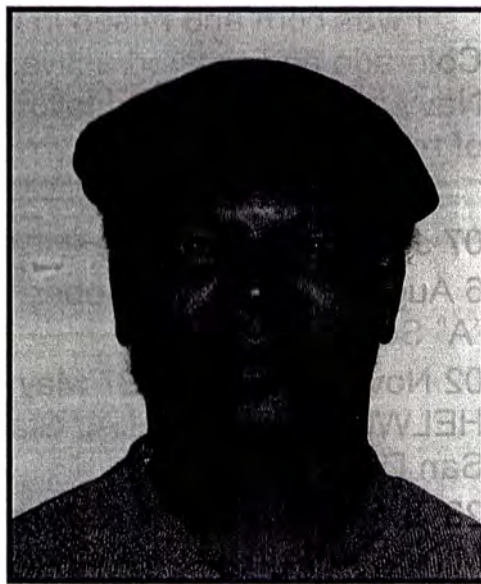
I retired from the United States Air Force in October, 1994. I came to Fargo in August of 1996 to attend Computer Network Engineering training at Network Center, Inc. Afterwards, I worked and traveled for several computer companies.

I returned to Fargo and worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota and SEI in the Fargo area.

I also attended the Veterans Upward Bound project here in 2002, which helped prepare me to go to Minnesota State University Moorhead to finish a B.S. in Liberal Arts degree in health and sociology.

In February, 2006, I became a Veterans Upward Bound skills instructor. I came back to help others to experience the full benefits that the Veterans Upward Bound program has to offer in preparing them to get back into the college lifestyle of study.

**Update:** James left Veterans Upward Bound as an instructor to pursue other interests.



# Veterans Upward Bound

## LORI WINKENWADER

I have been given a wonderful opportunity to be a participant in Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) and followed with the McNair Scholars Program here at NDSU. I would like to take a few moments of your time just to let you know some of the things I have been doing and how thankful I am. In my application letter to the program, I stressed my concerns about learning mechanical engineering to better the environment. This is exactly what I have been doing. I have been learning many different applications concerning research and how important this work is. I could not have done this without my time in Veterans Upward Bound.



Presently, I am working with biobased resins and natural fibers to replace synthetic materials for polymer matrix composites (PMCs). Biobased composites provide an important environmental advantage because renewable resources are utilized instead of petroleum-based material. Unlike conventional glass fibers and synthetic resins, natural fibers and biobased resins are renewable, biodegradable, and abundant. This work is so exciting because natural fibers also exhibit high specific strength, as well as good insulation and sound absorption properties. Another important advantage of this research is that we will be able to use resources from here, right in North Dakota, such as flax, corn, and soybeans.

Recently, I was also given the opportunity to travel to Birmingham, Alabama, to participate in their Composite Convention. At the convention, I

learned that the world of composites is tremendously large and that I have so much more to learn. I am so thankful for the VUB and McNair Scholars program; without this program I would have never been able to experience any of the above research. What I have learned so far has already opened so many doors for me in the future. I also want to add that everyone I work with in the program has been wonderful, helpful, and kind. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to be a participant in the McNair Scholars program.

**Update:** Lori graduated with her Master's Degree.

## NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

My name is John Jacobsen. I am a member of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. I am also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I served in the North Dakota National Guard and the US Army Reserve for a total of 30 years. I retired in 1995 as a Colonel. I served on active duty in 1991 during Operation Desert Shield/Desert storm in the Persian Gulf, stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five veterans' organizations in North Dakota.

American Legion

AMVETS

Disabled American Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee **MUST** concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on ~~SB~~<sup>HB</sup> 1289 is supported by the Veterans Coordinating Council.



*Did not testify, wanted to  
give out testimony.*

HB 1289 Testimony  
Representative Joshua A. Boschee, District 44  
House Education Committee

Chairman Nathe and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask your support of HB 1289, which would provide funding to support the continuation of the Veterans Upward Bound program throughout the state.

I have worked in higher education for the past 10 years at three different institutions. The majority of that time, 8 years, was at North Dakota State University. While working in the Career Center at NDSU, I had the opportunity interact with many of the students that participate in the Veterans Upward Bound program. As a Career Specialist, I was responsible for assisting students in navigating the application and interview process for federal and state jobs. These were positions that were very attractive to military veterans as they received preferences and often had interacted with many federal and state agencies during their military service.

In interacting with these students, I had the opportunity to visit with them about their experiences on campus. Overwhelmingly, these students attributed their ability to continue their education to the services provided through the Veterans Upward Bound program. The program not only allowed them access to a college education, it also provided resources and a one-stop shop for them to address academic, personal and career related concerns so that they could continue to advance their education. The staff have developed academic programs for tutoring of veterans, often by other veterans and support programs for these students and their families. Additionally, the staff are experts in how to support and retain students that are veterans. These staff in turn educate and train faculty, administrators and staff throughout campus on best practices and how their departments can be more effective at supporting and retaining students that are veterans.

While the federal funding for this program has gone away, there are opportunities for the state to support Veterans Upward Bound. With state dollars, there may be more flexibility for expanding the program to other campuses throughout the state. The program at NDSU continues to be recognized nationally as an effective model for how to serve and retain students that are veterans. It is important that we continue to support this program and encourage it to grow so that we do an even better job of serving those that have served us.

I encourage a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1289.

1/30/2013  
#1

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO HB 1289

Page 1, line 1, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 1, after "veterans" insert "higher education"

Page 1, line 4, replace "**STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**" with "**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**"

Page 1, line 4, after "**VETERANS**" insert "**HIGHER EDUCATION**"

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$450,000" with "\$548,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "state board of higher education" with "department of veterans' affairs"

Page 1, line 8, remove "the university of North Dakota and North Dakota"

Page 1, line 9, replace "state university." with "or in the process of enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program exchange agreement with a North Dakota institution."

Re-number accordingly

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**

This amendment changes the appropriation amount from \$450,000 to \$548,000 and provides that the funding may be used to support veterans assistance programs at any North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program agreement with a North Dakota institution.



# North Dakota Legislative Council

STATE CAPITOL, 600 EAST BOULEVARD, BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

#1  
HB 1289  
2/23/13

Jim W. Smith  
Director

Jay E. Buringrud  
Legal Services  
Division Director

Allen H. Knudson  
Legislative Budget  
Analyst & Auditor

Jason J. Steckler  
Administrative Services  
Division Director

John Walstad  
Code Revisor

February 14, 2013

## MEMORANDUM

TO: House Appropriations Committee

FROM: L. Anita Thomas, Counsel 

RE: Engrossed House Bill No. 1289

Engrossed House Bill No. 1289 appropriates \$548,000 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of "supporting programs that provide assistance to veterans enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at a North Dakota higher education institution or an institution located in an adjacent state that has entered into a cooperative course and program exchange agreement with a North Dakota institution . . ."

You asked if state dollars can be used to assist veterans attending private, tribal, or out-of-state institutions.

Article X, Section 18, of the Constitution of North Dakota, prohibits the state and political subdivisions from making "donations to or in aid of any individual, association, or corporation except for reasonable support of the poor . . ." The appropriation in Engrossed House Bill No. 1289 is to a state agency for the benefit of an identifiable group. There appears to be nothing in this language that would cause one to question the constitutionality of this purpose.

The appropriateness of assisting veterans who elect to further their education out of state is a question of policy. By way of comparison, when the Legislative Assembly provided for North Dakota academic scholarships and North Dakota career and technical education scholarships, the students were required to use the scholarships at accredited institutions of higher education in this state. (See North Dakota Century Code Section 15.1-21-02.6.)

You also asked if the phrase "North Dakota higher education institution" includes a tribal college or a private college. There is nothing in the quoted phrase that would limit the application to only public institutions. Normally, if the intent is to reference only the 11 public institutions, a phrase such as "institutions under the control of the state board of higher education" would be used. If the intent is to include both public and private institutions, the preferred phraseology would be "accredited institutions of higher education in this state."

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**Veterans Educational Training**

**Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Testimony #1

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeri Vaudrin and I am project coordinator for Veterans Upward Bound, which is a federally funded grant through the Department of Education and part of TRIO programs. We have been located on the North Dakota State University for 40 years and have a satellite site located at the University of North Dakota. This grant was initiated by the Johnson administration in 1972 for veterans who were low income, first generation returning from the Vietnam conflict who wished to pursue their education. These are basic refresher courses in pre-college level classes such as math, English, science, history and study skills.

Over the years, this program has expanded to include academic and career counseling, socialization skills and veteran outreach. Veterans have more difficulty adapting to large classes than ever before. With the incidences of posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), short term memory is affected, as well as behavior and responses. Suicide rates are increasing at alarming rates. We have lost four since I started seven years ago. These are all issues that we deal with daily and the addition stress when transitioning to college levels. We also work with faculty and staff to recognize potential issues and provide avenues of assistance. We are not just about education anymore.

Through discussions with various members of the Legislature about HB 1289, it is apparent that there are some misperceptions about what our program provides and why we have come to you for support.

First, an explanation of why we are coming to you. This is a competitive grant, with blind reading for selection. For the first time, grant applications were close to 300, more than twice those of previous competitions. This shows the increased need for this program. With so many contending for only 46 available awards, that makes the scoring percentage increments closer than ever before. There was no political agenda involved. If lost, there would be no program like it from Billings to St. Paul.

Second, it has been verbalized that requests for appropriations are inflated; therefore, requested amounts were cut in half by House Appropriations. If you look at Attachment 1, you will find a spreadsheet of funding since 1990 for Veterans Upward Bound. The increases over the years have been nominal with the exception of 2004, when additional funds were allowed when they transitioned our fiscal year end from April to August. Otherwise, the funds have changed marginally, not even allowing for cost of living increases.

In addition, House Appropriations included in their amendment that participating institutions must provide matching funds from within their existing budgets equal to funds appropriated. On Attachment 2, you will see the school contributions that we are currently receiving from both NDSU and UND. Those contributions alone total \$255,771.74. In the column marked "Other", you will find projections of contributions that could potentially be donated at sites around the state to assist in broadening the online program of approximately \$61,875. That would bring the total contributions to \$317,646.74. We already have a commitment with Minot to provide computer space and more will follow.

Attachment 3 is our proposed budget, as compared to our current grant budget. You will see that under the proposal we place before you, we are using the same funding amounts, but we are providing for more students by alleviating the low income, first generation restrictions and assisting more veterans at five additional college sites.

There is a misperception that we have not been providing for the western portion of the state. We developed an online component for individuals who are not near a classroom site. We had such a site in Minot until 2006. In looking at Attachment 4, you

can see we were not granted additional funding to cover the increasing costs of maintaining three classrooms and we were forced to close that site. The creation of the online course is a cost effective substitution for classrooms since funding has not increased.

The next attachment (5) contains testimony from three veterans who participated in our program but were not able to attend today due to work or classes. Each have been able to stabilize their lives through utilization of these services.

The final attachment (6) show letters of support for our program. They include Major General David Sprynczynatyk, U.S. Senator John Hoeven, U.S. Senator Kent Conrad, and other colleges and businesses that recognize the need for this program.

We are asking for your support in an amendment to HB 1289 to return it to its original funding amount and to be implemented by the ND Veterans Affairs Commissioner as we are not just an educational program, but an outreach program as well. Under the Commissioner, there will be no administrative fee. We wish to be fiscally responsible and put every dollar possible into the serving of North Dakota's veterans. Thank you for listening and thank you for your support of this amendment to HB 1289.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**1**

## NDSU TRIO Funding History

PY	McNair Scholars Program			Student Support Services			Upward Bound			Veterans Upward Bound			Child Care Access Means Parents In School			Total		
	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Grants
1990	2	\$115,727	\$9,258	1	\$114,444	\$9,155	2	\$166,335	\$13,307	2	\$104,147	\$8,332				\$500,653	\$40,052	\$540,705
1991	3	\$128,324	\$10,266	2	\$216,715	\$17,337	3	\$246,968	\$19,758	3	\$112,154	\$8,973				\$704,161	\$56,334	\$760,495
1992	1	\$139,569	\$11,166	3	\$231,044	\$18,484	1	\$247,847	\$19,828	1	\$131,240	\$10,499				\$749,700	\$59,977	\$809,677
1993	2	\$139,569	\$11,166	1	\$237,396	\$18,992	2	\$247,847	\$19,828	2	\$140,961	\$11,277				\$765,773	\$61,263	\$827,036
1994	3	\$149,149	\$11,932	2	\$243,806	\$19,504	3	\$254,539	\$20,363	3	\$174,132	\$13,931				\$821,626	\$65,730	\$887,356
1995	1	\$175,926	\$14,074	3	\$251,119	\$20,090	1	\$0	\$0	1	\$203,704	\$16,296				\$630,749	\$50,460	\$681,209
1996	2	\$175,926	\$14,074	4	\$251,119	\$20,090	2	\$0	\$0	2	\$203,704	\$16,296				\$630,749	\$50,460	\$681,209
1997	3	\$182,963	\$14,637	1	\$261,164	\$20,893	3	\$0	\$0	3	\$211,852	\$16,948				\$655,979	\$52,478	\$708,457
1998	4	\$186,622	\$14,930	2	\$271,610	\$21,729	4	\$0	\$0	4	\$216,089	\$17,287				\$674,321	\$53,946	\$728,267
1999	1	\$194,073	\$14,526	3	\$283,401	\$22,672	1	\$186,111	\$14,889	5	\$220,411	\$17,633				\$883,996	\$69,720	\$953,716
2000	2	\$207,247	\$16,580	4	\$288,124	\$23,050	2	\$209,444	\$15,956	1	\$237,949	\$18,236				\$942,764	\$73,822	\$1,016,586
2001	3	\$213,465	\$17,077	1	\$349,425	\$24,202	3	\$199,694	\$15,671	2	\$233,834	\$18,707				\$996,418	\$75,657	\$1,072,075
2002	4	\$233,498	\$13,960	2	\$362,932	\$25,299	4	\$215,245	\$14,779	3	\$240,849	\$19,268				\$1,052,524	\$73,306	\$1,125,830
2003	1	\$227,515	\$14,692	3	\$365,468	\$25,427	1	\$219,763	\$14,861	4	\$245,666	\$19,653				\$1,058,412	\$74,633	\$1,133,045
2004	2	\$227,515	\$14,692	4	\$365,468	\$25,427	2	\$219,763	\$14,861	5	\$307,083	\$24,566				\$1,119,829	\$79,546	\$1,199,375
2005	3	\$227,515	\$14,692	1	\$376,431	\$26,190	3	\$219,763	\$14,861	1	\$245,666	\$19,653	1	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,128,634	\$80,137	\$1,208,771
2006	4	\$227,515	\$14,692	2	\$376,431	\$26,190	4	\$219,763	\$14,861	2	\$245,666	\$19,653	2	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,128,634	\$80,137	\$1,208,771
2007	1	\$238,442	\$15,875	3	\$376,431	\$26,190	1	\$233,597	\$16,403	3	\$253,036	\$20,243	3	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,160,765	\$83,452	\$1,244,217
2008	2	\$238,442	\$15,875	4	\$396,003	\$27,756	2	\$233,597	\$16,403	4	\$253,036	\$20,243	4	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,180,337	\$85,018	\$1,265,355
2009	3	\$238,442	\$15,875	5	\$416,653	\$27,756	3	\$233,597	\$16,403	1	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,141,728	\$80,277	\$1,222,005
2010	4	\$238,442	\$15,875	1	\$407,775	\$28,697	4	\$233,597	\$16,403	2	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,132,850	\$81,218	\$1,214,068
2011	5	\$231,141	\$15,292	2	\$395,246	\$27,695	5	\$225,903	\$16,347	3	\$245,192	\$19,615		\$0	\$0	\$1,097,482	\$78,949	\$1,176,431
2012	1	\$238,442	\$15,875	3	\$395,246	\$27,695	1	\$233,597	\$16,403	4	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,120,321	\$80,216	\$1,200,537
2013	2	\$0	\$0	4	\$0	\$0	2	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2014	3			5			3				\$0	\$0						
2015	4						4				\$0	\$0						
2016	5						5				\$0	\$0						
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,575,469</b>	<b>\$327,081</b>		<b>\$7,233,451</b>	<b>\$530,520</b>		<b>\$4,246,970</b>	<b>\$312,185</b>		<b>\$4,985,479</b>	<b>\$398,038</b>		<b>\$237,036</b>	<b>\$18,964</b>	<b>\$21,278,405</b>	<b>\$1,586,788</b>	<b>\$22,865,193</b>
			<b>\$4,902,550</b>		<b>\$7,763,971</b>			<b>\$4,559,155</b>			<b>\$5,383,517</b>			<b>\$256,000</b>				

Average Indirect= 7.46%



# **ATTACHMENT**

**2**

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS	NDSU	UND	OTHER
Service or Resource	Cost Savings		
Office space on campus for project staff and conference rooms for meetings	Approximately \$33,000 per year total savings over store-front, at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,000 sq. ft. of space.	Approximately \$1,650 per year total savings over store-front, at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 100 sq. ft. of space.	
Use of computer clusters, library resources and classroom	\$52,800 includes classroom and computer cluster 4 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at two sites at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,600 sq. ft. of space.	\$12,375 includes classroom 4 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 750 sq. ft. of space.	\$61,875.00 includes classroom 1 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 750 sq. ft. of space for each site. (Minot, Dickinson, Bismarck, 2 Tribal)
Free bus transportation donated by NDSU through Metro Area Transit System for Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead.	Approximately \$18,000 savings per year.		
Utilizing distribution center at NDSU to distribute materials to 65 county and extension sites.	\$1,040 per year (\$260 per mailing, once a quarter).		
Online office space savings versus additional sites to reach prospective students in target region at locations in Bismarck, Minot, Devils Lake, Dickinson and Williston.	Approximately \$82,500 per year savings over store-front rental at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,000 sq. ft. of space for five sites.		
Classroom startup expenses, including computers (5), instructors (2), materials, and basic office supplies.	Approximately \$10,823.37 (\$100 testing supplies; \$1,348 computer textbooks; \$250 office supplies; \$9,125.37 salary for 2 instructors @ \$12.50 per hour).	Approximately \$10,823.37 (\$100 testing supplies; \$1,348 computer textbooks; \$250 office supplies; \$9,125.37 salary for 2 instructors @ \$12.50 per hour).	
Blackboard service for online component	Approximately \$5,000 compared to cost of space on commercial server.		
Collaboration with university information systems department to provide additional workshops on media presentations.	\$945 (based on equal Skillpath seminar program at \$199 per person or \$189 for four or more; based on 5 attending once a year).		
Cost share of TRIO Office Manager and office assistants	Approximately \$26,815 (considering starting wage of \$32,000 for manager and 35% fringe).		
Total savings	\$230,923.37	\$24,848.37	\$61,875.00
Total Projected Contributions			\$317,646.74

# **ATTACHMENT**

**3**

**HB 1289 Budget Proposal**

	Details	Site	Current VUB Budget		Veterans Educational Training Budget			
			2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015	
<b>Income</b>			n/a	n/a	*	*	*	*
<b>Expenses</b>								
<b>Salaries</b>	TRIO Administrator	Fargo	2,654					
	Director	Fargo	50,732		47,000		48,410	
	Project Coordinator	Fargo	40,673		39,500		40,685	
	Site Coordinator	Grand Forks	34,569		39,500		40,685	
	Office Manager	Fargo	12,136		12,136	138,136	12,500	142,280
	Administrative Office Assistants	Fargo	9,027	149,791	0		0	
	Classroom Instructors 1 @ \$12.50/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Grand Forks	6,042		4,700		4,841	
	Classroom Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Grand Forks	12,083		6,768		6,971	
	Classroom Instructors 3 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Fargo	18,125		10,152		10,457	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Bismarck	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Minot	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Williston	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Tribal	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Tribal	0	36,250	6,768	55,460	6,971	57,124
<b>Benefits</b>				51,001		51,001		51,001
<b>Travel</b>	Blumen Training Web based		0		250		0	
	State travel; recruitment; management 5 online sites		3,334	3,334	7,609	7,859	7,651	7,651
<b>Supplies</b>								
<b>Office</b>	Envelopes, stationary, general paper		1,750		1,750		1,000	
	Record keeping materials; files, tabs, etc.		450		450		450	
	Printer cartridges		500		500		500	
	General consumable supplies; pens, pencils, paperclips, etc.		500		500		500	
	General purpose equipment; chair, shelving, file storage, etc.		400		400		400	
	Equipment; 2 Computer 1 Printer 1 Fax		500		0		0	
	Blumen Database Initial purchase \$2,850		0	4,100	2,850	6,450	0	2,850
<b>Instructional</b>	Tab testing materials		750		1,500		2,500	
	General consumable supplies; board markers, erasers, etc.		250		768		768	
	Instructional books, texts, and guides		750	1,750	1,000	3,268	1,000	4,268
<b>General</b>	Admissions applications and exam fees		60		250		250	
	Administrative and Facility Rental		20,243		0		0	
	Telephone, long distance, and toll calls (\$225/month)		2,400		2,700		2,700	
	Risk management insurance		300		300		300	
	Postage		500		500		500	
	Printing and duplicating		700		1,000		1,000	
	Equipment maintenance and repair		100		100		100	
	Student ID cards		600		750		750	
	Professional publications and memberships		1,100	26,003	305	5,905	305	5,905
<b>Program</b>	Print		250		1,000		100	
<b>Advertising</b>	Radio		250		1,000		100	
	Banner 1 Fargo 1 Grand Forks		0		1,200		0	
	Promotional materials, pens, magnets, etc.		400		1,000		1,000	
	Posters, brochures		150	1,050	1,000	5,200	1,000	2,200
<b>Total</b>				273,279		273,279		273,279

\* Income for the program will be determined based on the 2012 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for a maximum annual income sliding fee scale. We are currently assessing the projected income based on 200 Veterans served during year one and 300 Veterans during year two of the proposed biennium budget.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**4**

*Veterans Upward Bound*  
Office of TRIO Programs – Division of Student Affairs  
P.O. Box 5625,  
Fargo, ND 58105-5625

FARGO – MAIN OFFICE  
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND  
701.231.7313  
Toll Free 1.800.570.5719  
Fax 701.231.9669  
[www.ndsu.nodak.edu/trio](http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/trio)

GRAND FORKS  
at the University of North Dakota  
P.O. Box 8361  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8361  
701.777.6465  
Fax 701.777.6363

MINOT  
at Minot State University  
P.O. Box 203  
Minot, ND 58707  
701.858.3144  
Fax 701.858.3853

April 3, 2006

Senator Byron Dorgan  
312 Federal Building  
Bismarck, ND 58502

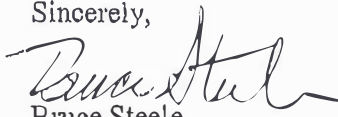
Dear Senator:

I am writing in response to phone conversations from you staff concerning the closing of the Veterans Upward Bound satellite office at Minot State University (MiSU).

Our 2005 – 2009 VUB grant proposal to the U.S. Department of education submitted December 12, 2002 included a request for full funding to all three locations: (1) North Dakota State University, (2) Minot State University, and (3) the University of North Dakota, for the duration of the grant cycle. The grant award amount for the first year of a new September 1, 2005 – August 31, 2009 grant cycle is \$265,319, remaining unchanged over a three-year period. This is \$186,386 less than \$451,705 requested to operate at three North Dakota Universities. Because of the difference in the funding requested compared to the actual amount received, we are unable to serve our veterans at all three locations.

Senator, we deeply appreciate your continuing support of the federal TRIO programs, particularly Veterans Upward Bound. It is because of this support, thousands of North Dakota veterans have had the preparation for their success in higher education over the past three decades. With appropriate funding levels through the U.S. Department of Education, we look forward to the continuing to work with our veterans.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Steele  
Project Director

# **ATTACHMENT**

**5**

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289

**Calie Craddock, NDSU Student and Veteran**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Calie Craddock. I am a student at NDSU as well as a Veteran, deploying with the North Dakota Army National Guard on two different occasions. I am also a Department of Veteran Affairs Student worker, tasked with aiding the University's Certifying Official with the Veteran student body and education benefits. I have also been elected the Commander of the NDSU American Legion Post #400 that is representative of the veteran population at NDSU.

NDSU has a long history of supporting Veterans and service members on campus. With recent changes nationally, programs and benefits are quickly disappearing despite the growth in need. As a VA student worker with the Office of Registration and Records, Veteran's/Military Services program, I have found that a portion of the VA benefited student population struggles with school, earning deficient grades of D's or F's. These students need access to programs that will make a difference in their academic careers, and Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is just that program.

With the upcoming discontinuation of the federal grant, it has been difficult for our office to refer at risk veteran students to VUB due to the limitations put on the program through archaic regulations and the loss of budget. Many of the students of the Veteran population could have and should be able to access this program, not only for the educational assistance it provides but also for the climate, the outreach abilities, and the knowledgeable staff support as well. 40 years of experience helping Veterans and NDSU has made this organization ready and apt to solve issues for Veterans. Let's not reinvent the wheel, but improve on what we already have. The region served goes beyond NDSU, serving the entire state of North Dakota; recognizing the need to serve



Veterans beyond the NDSU campus. Our state, our university, our population has a duty to provide for these Veterans. We cannot revert back to the days of Vietnam when we failed to recognize or help those service members. We must show our Veterans they are not an expendable commodity; but instead a valuable resource in our community that deserves to be fostered and supported.

House Bill 1289 expands VUB beyond the original scope of low income, first generation veterans. Instead, it is now attempting to recognize that many Veterans may be beyond that limited scope and still need its services. This is an important distinction that many other federal and state organizations and benefits have failed to recognize. I come before you as a student of NDSU, as a Veteran, as a member of the community; asking you to remember Veterans, value education, and recognize the short comings in our state. The dollar amount needed in order to better serve the Veteran population of our community is miniscule in comparison of so many things. With this limited budget, I believe the placement of this program is imperative. The ND Veterans Affairs Commissioner is willing to administer the program without administrative fees and would see that all the funds reach the veterans.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is time for North Dakota to step up and help its Veterans, it is time to recognize their service and give them all the support we can. We, as a State, could set an amazing precedence by supporting our Veterans in such a way. These individuals volunteered to give their lives for our country, our state, and our communities; they often come back with wounds, fears, and uncertainties that we are able to address and help heal. We CANNOT regress back to the years after Vietnam. We must support them in every way; let us do so in a positive way through education and outreach. In doing so, we create valuable additions to our community, our commerce, and our future.

Thank you for your attention and time. Please support this initiative.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**VETERANS EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**

**TYLER SANDERS, VETERAN**

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**SENATOR TIM FLAKOLL, CHAIRMAN**

**MARCH 19, 2013**

Dear Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Tyler Sanders. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army, where I served 6 years on active service as a 33W/35T Military Intelligence Systems Integrator/Maintainer/Repairer. During my active duty from 2002-2008, I served a one calendar year deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. My service was ended upon full completion of my contract with an honorable discharge.

Following my exiting term of service, I immediately interviewed and was offered a career with a large technology-based company whom manufactured and supplied parts and workforce for multiple high-impact military systems. While the opportunity and fit for the job was wonderful, due to my training and background with the Army, I was still worried that the highest education I possessed was a high school diploma, even though it was sufficient for this career. This sense of being unfulfilled led me to subsequently resign from that career after only 3 years and continue my education as a full time student using the G.I. Bill.

The reason I had not attended college directly following high school and joined the Army instead was not so much a growing sense of patriotism following the then very recent Twin Towers attack and invasion of Afghanistan. It was mostly because I felt highly unprepared for the undertaking of college. I did not feel I was learned enough to tackle the pressure of that institution and that I would inevitably fail to achieve those goals and be left with an amount of debt and no one to turn to. This fear alone confirmed 100% that entering the military at a time of war was the overall best decision.

This brings me to the wonderful program I have had the pleasure of being a part of since August of 2012, Veteran's Upward Bound. Had I been aware of the VUB program both as a high school graduate and during my time in service, I would have been thrilled to utilize such a luxury.

During my time working with the Veteran's Upward Bound, I have come to realize what a precious commodity it can be if used correctly and in its entirety. When applied to someone, not unlike myself, who can greatly benefit from the instruction given to prepare them for the college lifestyle and material, it can bring about countless opportunities. I have personally bore witness to several veterans who have come up through the program and both continued their education at the next level with high marks, as well as having gone on to be professionally successful with relevant degrees.

In conclusion, I thoroughly consider the Veteran's Upward Bound program, here in North Dakota, to be a wonderful, necessary, and extremely useful tool for our veterans who deserve to have the best chances possible that we can give them to thrive and succeed as productive, hard-working citizens to promote our wonderful state and nation. They have given us everything and deserve no less in return from us. I am excited and happy to be a small part of this community which strives for nothing more than to give veterans everything they need to make a successful career with their college education.

Sincerely and with vast regards,

Tyler Sanders

Testimony for HB 1289

Harry Feilen, Veteran

Veterans Upward Bound

March 19, 2013

My name is Harry Feilen and I am writing this on behalf of the University Of North Dakota Office Of Veterans Upward Bound Program, to stand in support of their program.

I am an eight year veteran of the US Marine Corps. I served for eight months in the Gulf War. I ended active duty service in Dec 1996. I came to North Dakota, and started working looking for the next adventure in my life. I had been in law enforcement for about 12 years and thought I would like to be a prosecutor. In the summer of 2007 I attended the University of Mary to pursue a degree in Management and on to UND Law School. After completing the core curriculum from U-Mary I had a long discussion with lifelong attorney, and close friend of the family, and he asked "Are you stupid", subsequently discouraging from the law field for several reasons, which we discussed. We discussed several fields which I would be suited for and my wife, our friend and I decided to pursue Mechanical Engineering. I started UND in the spring 2009 semester. I had not been in a daily school setting for almost 20 years. I knew I needed some assistance to be successful. I sought out Veterans Upward Bound at UND to help review math and sciences. CHEM 121 was one of my classes and I had heard the failure rate was high for this class. After attending some study sessions with Mr. Frank Jones (VUB) I was better able to understand some of the math and concepts we were discussing in class. I finished CHEM 121 with an "A" and CHEM 122 with a "B" the next semester.

In the spring 2010 semester I was hired by Chemical Engineering as a student employee to apply Mechanical Engineering concepts to Chemical Engineering graduate student's experiments. Dec 2011 I was hire as a full time benefited Engineer by the Institute for Energy Studies at UND. During these employments I held a full time, or nearly full time, class load while working 35 to 45 hours a week. This semester I will finish the core curriculum for Mechanical Engineering at UND with a 3.0 GPA, and starting graduate work in the summer program after making application and acceptance. I did

not have the GI bill or any other assistance to attend college and had to pay for all of this out my own pocket and some grants. VUB was very helpful for me to get my head back into the college game. I think the UND VUB program would be beneficial to several other veterans who are getting out of the military and thinking about attending college. The program did help me and would be worth any investment to continue their dedication to assisting veterans returning to college to further their education.

**Testimony in Support of HB 1289**

**Jerome Billups, veteran**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Jerome Billups and I am proud to write this letter of support for a program which I believe is one of the most outstanding and academically beneficial to Veterans seeking to improve their chances and success in obtaining their academic goals.

I retired from active military service in the summer of 2004 and entered into post-secondary education as an older-than-average student. Veteran's Upward Bound was instrumental in helping me make the transition from soldier to student. The instruction, support and camaraderie I received from this program not only prepared me for my studies, but also was able to guide me in translating my 22 years of military experience into a major area of study that complemented my service experiences.

This program and the staff saved me time, energy and a multitude of heartaches by providing sound counseling and advice in regards to my academic goals and my personal life as well. They were there; they understood the difficulties that military member often face during the transition period for soldier to civilian to student. They aid in ensuring success, where a lot of us had failed.

The support and guidance I received from VUB strengthened my resolve in ensuring that other veterans are able to benefit from the program as much as I had.

In 2005, I transferred from the VUB program at Minot State and re-entered the program at NDSU, this time as a work-study student under the direction and guidance of Mrs. Jeri Vaudrin; I provided administrative services and referrals for my fellow veterans. I assisted them through their academic endeavors. I was paying it forward with the same mentorship that was provided to me when I entered the program. Currently, I provide computer instruction for veterans entering post-secondary, technical and vocational education courses through programs such as Post/911 GI Bill, Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation Retraining Program, VRAP – Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and SkillBuild North Dakota Retraining Program. VUB Provides an invaluable service in ensuring the success the veterans in these programs will have by attending not only computer classes but English, math, and science instruction as well.

Veterans Upward Bound is a truly remarkable program; I have taken the honor of recommending VUB Program to several of veterans seeking to re-enter post-secondary education. The feedback I have received from these veterans echoes my excitement and pleasure with the program as well.

Yet, there is something missing. Often times as we reach out to the veteran population to ensure that they are able to benefit from similar programs that ensures their success, we often forget about the eligible spouses and dependents that too would benefit from the advantages of being a part of VUB.

Under the current rules, eligible spouses and dependents are able to take up certain benefits that the veteran is unable to participate in due to death or a service connected disability. It would be wise to broaden the scope of VUB to include eligible spouses and dependents to ensure their success as well, as a show of respect to the veteran, that their service is recognized should they not be able to benefit directly from the entitlement, and the spouses' and dependents' sacrifices so they may seek their educations as well.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to show my support for such a special and deserving program, Veterans Upward Bound.

Respectfully,

Jerome Billups



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**Anthony Muhonen, veteran**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Anthony Muhonen. I am called Andy by most and i would like to tell you what VUB has done for me.

I relapsed into practicing alcoholism in 1998 after a decade of sobriety. My life became increasingly miserable and chaotic because of my self-destructive behavior. I became homeless in 2005 and my future seemed logical; death by drink. Family members saved me from freezing to death one night and talked me into seeking rehab at the Fargo VA. On May 6th of 2006 I entered SATP on the fourth floor of the Fargo VA. I struggled with employment and life and on the advice of others I enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound.

I met with Jeri Vaudrin to work out a schedule that would help me with my lack of order in my life. I continued to struggle with my Sobriety, but VUB was always there for me to help me gain back my self-respect. I progressed enough so that when I had an opportunity to become employed at the Fargo VA, li only had to ask 4 friends what to do. I took their advice and worked in the Laundry Dept. for the next two years.

As I continued my computer classes at VUB, an opportunity to apply for another job came along. As a direct result of what I learned in my classes I applied for

and was awarded a new position at the VA. The people I met in VUB, the staff, and the structure of the program helped me progress enough to test myself in many areas of my life. I am more than 5 yrs. sober and live in sobriety with those around me. Veterans Upward Bound gave me more than I could have imagined when I signed up -- much like my time on Active Duty.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Muhonen

# **ATTACHMENT**

**6**



**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**

*North Dakota National Guard  
Department of Emergency Services*

*The Honorable Jack Dalrymple  
North Dakota Governor*

*Major General David A. Sprynczynatyk  
The Adjutant General and  
Director of Emergency Services*

June 28, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As The Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard, I can attest to the importance of offering veterans the opportunity to achieve a post-secondary education. I believe the Veterans Upward Bound project plays an essential role in assisting veterans reach that goal. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

David A. Sprynczynatyk  
Major General, ND National Guard  
The Adjutant General

JOHN HOEVEN  
R-ND01 (2009-2012)  
120 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2694  
FAX: (202) 224-7969

hoeven.senate.gov

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

July 13, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood  
Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58106-6050


Dear Director Harwood:

I am writing to express my interest in North Dakota State University's (NDSU) proposal to the Department of Education for the continuation and expansion of the Veterans Upward Bound program. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support they need to develop the skills a post-secondary education requires.

As a strong supporter of the military, I believe the brave men and women in our Armed Services deserve the best support and compensation that we can afford for their dedicated service. Through Veterans Upward Bound, veterans in North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, and northern South Dakota are empowered to make the best choices they can about their education and training, which is so vital for growth and future success in our information-based economy.

I hope the Veterans Upward Bound program at NDSU receives the full and fair consideration it deserves. Please keep me informed of the review process and feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-2551 with any updates or inquiries you may have for me.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator

10:44

KENT CONRAD  
NORTH DAKOTA

website: <http://conrad.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET, CHAIRMAN  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

July 31, 2012

1-800-223-4457

530 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403  
(202) 224-2043

220 EAST ROSSEN AVENUE, ROOM 220  
BISMARCK, ND 58501-3866  
(701) 258-4648

657 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 308  
FARGO, ND 58102-4727  
(701) 232-8030

33 SOUTH 3RD STREET, SUITE B  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201  
(701) 776-9601

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105  
MINOT, ND 58701-3846  
(701) 852-0703

Mr. Michael Harwood  
Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Program  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

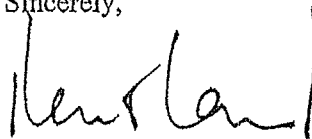
I write to express my strong support of the Veterans Upward Bound Program at North Dakota State University.

There is no question that veterans who seek to better themselves by obtaining a college degree face challenges that are unique from those of the typical student. In order for our veterans to succeed and prosper at institutions of higher learning, they often times need a little extra assistance to prepare them for college or vocational school, choose an appropriate study plan, or learn their material.

That is why the Veterans Upward Bound Program at North Dakota State University is so important. For the past 40 years, this program has helped veterans in North Dakota receive post-secondary degrees. It does so by providing refresher courses in English, math, science, literature, and basic computer skills. Its special focus on low-income, first generation, and disabled veterans helps ensure that veterans can complete their course of study and be prepared to reenter the workforce. This is especially important at a time when veterans across the nation are experiencing higher unemployment rates than their civilian counterparts.

I strongly support North Dakota State University's Veterans Upward Bound Program and hope that it will receive the Department of Education's fullest consideration.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate



**GLOBE UNIVERSITY  
MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

2777 34th Street South  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
Phone: 218-422-1000  
Fax: 218-422-1001  
www.msbcollge.edu

June 27, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As a member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Fargo-West Fargo-Moorhead-Dilworth Chamber of Commerce, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee in Moorhead and as Director of Financial Aid and School Certifying Official for the Minnesota School of Business, I have seen the accomplishments of the Veterans Upward Bound project in assisting veterans accomplish their goals of pursuing a post-secondary education. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

I have the privilege of supporting the Veterans Upward Bound project in each of the organizations mentioned above. Through Military Affairs and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committees I have had the privilege of working with the project coordinators to raise awareness of the program within the military and business communities of Fargo-Moorhead.

As School Certifying Official and Director of Financial Aid at Minnesota School of Business, I have, along with our Director of Admissions Angelique Goulet, worked with the Veterans Upward Bound staff to promote awareness and participation of Veterans Upward Bound by our prospective students. Our campus staff directs prospective students to Veterans Upward Bound, provides booth space at numerous open house events on campus, and displays and distributes Veterans Upward Bound materials to our students.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

Lisa Roesch  
Director of Financial Aid

**SUCCESSFUL FUTURES START HERE!**



**THE CHAMBER**  
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

July 16, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As a member of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, I have seen the need in our community for continued support of young veterans who seek to pursue a post-secondary education. Veterans Upward Bound has proven to be successful at enabling low income, first-generation veterans to connect with refresher courses necessary in attaining their degrees and advancing their careers.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

Craig Whitney, President & CEO  
The Chamber

*Promoting economic growth and prosperity for business and its members through advocacy, education and engagement.*

202 First Avenue North, Moorhead, MN • [www.fmwfchamber.com](http://www.fmwfchamber.com) • 218-233-1100 • fax 218-233-1200 • P.O. Box 2443, Fargo, ND 58108-2443





All of us serving you™

July 16, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As the Chair and a member of The Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber Military Affairs committee, I have seen the accomplishments of the Veterans Upward Bound project in assisting veterans in accomplishing their goals of pursuing a post-secondary education. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

It is of the utmost importance that programs such as Veterans Upward Bound are available to all of our veterans. These men and women have made commitments and sacrifices for our country. Programs such as Veterans Upward Bound allow us to give back to those that have served in our Military.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the NDSU campus.

Sincerely,

Delton Steele  
Regional President, U.S. Bank National Association  
Southeast North Dakota Region

usbank.com



# NORTHLAND

COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

January 30, 2012

Dear Legislators-

The services provided by the Veterans Upward Bound Program in Grand Forks have been instrumental in helping area veterans succeed at continuing their post-secondary education. Veterans Upward Bound staff has provided refresher or remedial assistance to veterans wishing to enroll at Northland Community and Technical College. They have helped seek out veterans in need and give them the skills and confidence they need to continue their education. Our graduates have become employed in technical jobs to meet the workforce needs of the state, as well as liberal arts student who transfer to four year schools.

VUB has also helped organize a community Veterans Service Group so that local organizations serving veterans can share information on activities and resources. Tutoring and mentoring is available and has been valuable to help students enroll, persist, and succeed with their education. They have given veterans the support, information, and contacts they need to be successful as they pursue an education.

I have found James and the Veterans Upward Bound staff dedicated to serving those who served us. It has been my pleasure to work with them and the veterans they have referred to our post-secondary programs. I hope this association can continue to assist veterans in gaining the skills they need to be contributing, working members in our communities.

Pam Schorsch

Academic Advisor/ Veterans Certifying Official

218-793-2402

[pam.schorsch@northlandcollege.edu](mailto:pam.schorsch@northlandcollege.edu)

East Grand Forks Campus  
2022 Central Ave NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
1.800.451.3441

[www.northlandcollege.edu](http://www.northlandcollege.edu)

Thief River Falls Campus  
1101 Highway One East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
1.800.959.6282

*Northland Community & Technical College is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities system and is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.*

March 14, 2013

# 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. An eligible veteran must be:
  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
  - b. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state, provided the institution participates in a course exchange agreement with an institution of higher education located in this state.
2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly

HB 1289 Testimony  
Representative Joshua A. Boschee, District 44  
Senate Education Committee

#3

Chairman Flakoll and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask your support of HB 1289, which would provide funding to support the continuation of the Veterans Upward Bound program throughout the state.

I have worked in higher education for the past 10 years at three different institutions. The majority of that time, 8 years, was at North Dakota State University. While working in the Career Center at NDSU, I had the opportunity interact with many of the students that participate in the Veterans Upward Bound program. As a Career Specialist, I was responsible for assisting students in navigating the application and interview process for federal and state jobs. These were positions that were very attractive to military veterans as they received preferences and often had interacted with many federal and state agencies during their military service.

In interacting with these students, I had the opportunity to visit with them about their experiences on campus. Overwhelmingly, these students attributed their ability to continue their education to the services provided through the Veterans Upward Bound program. The program not only allowed them access to a college education, it also provided resources and a one-stop shop for them to address academic, personal and career related concerns so that they could continue to advance their education. The staff have developed academic programs for tutoring of veterans, often by other veterans and support programs for these students and their families. Additionally, the staff are experts in how to support and retain students that are veterans. These staff in turn educate and train faculty, administrators and staff throughout campus on best practices and how their departments can be more effective at supporting and retaining students that are veterans.

While the federal funding for this program has gone away, there are opportunities for the state to support Veterans Upward Bound. With state dollars, there may be more flexibility for expanding the program to other campuses throughout the state. The program at NDSU continues to be recognized nationally as an effective model for how to serve and retain students that are veterans. It is important that we continue to support this program and encourage it to grow so that we do an even better job of serving those that have served us.

I encourage a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1289.

#4

## NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

My name is John Jacobsen. I am a member of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five veterans' organizations in North Dakota.

American Legion

AMVETS

Disabled American Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee **MUST** concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on HB 1289, as amended, is supported by the Veterans Coordinating Council.

#1

March 19, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide an appropriation for veterans' higher education assistance programs.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION** - There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible veterans, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. An eligible veteran must be:
  - a. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in this state; or
  - b. Enrolled at or in the process of enrolling at an institution of higher education located in an adjacent state, provided the institution participates in a course exchange agreement with an institution of higher education located in this state.
2. The department of veterans' affairs may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of providing additional assistance to eligible veterans."

Renumber accordingly

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**Veterans Educational Training**

**Jeri Vaudrin, Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

HB 1289  
3-27-13

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeri Vaudrin and I am project coordinator for Veterans Upward Bound, which is a federally funded grant through the Department of Education and part of TRIO programs. We have been located on the North Dakota State University for 40 years and have a satellite site located at the University of North Dakota. This grant was initiated by the Johnson administration in 1972 for veterans who were low income, first generation returning from the Vietnam conflict who wished to pursue their education.

These are basic refresher courses in pre-college level classes such as math, English, science, history and study skills.

Over the years, this program has expanded to include academic and career counseling, socialization skills and veteran outreach. Veterans have more difficulty adapting to large classes than ever before. With the incidences of posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), short term memory is affected, as well as behavior and responses. Suicide rates are increasing at alarming rates. We have lost four since I started seven years ago. These are all issues that we deal with daily and the addition stress when transitioning to college levels. We also work with faculty and staff to recognize potential issues and provide avenues of assistance. We are not just about education anymore.

Through discussions with various members of the Legislature about HB 1289, it is apparent that there are some misperceptions about what our program provides and why we have come to you for support.

First, an explanation of why we are coming to you. This is a competitive grant, with blind reading for selection. For the first time, grant applications were close to 300, more than twice those of previous competitions. This shows the increased need for this program. With so many contending for only 46 available awards, that makes the scoring percentage increments closer than ever before. There was no political agenda involved. If lost, there would be no program like it from Billings to St. Paul.

Second, it has been verbalized that requests for appropriations are inflated; therefore, requested amounts were cut in half by House Appropriations. If you look at Attachment 1, you will find a spreadsheet of funding since 1990 for Veterans Upward Bound. The increases over the years have been nominal with the exception of 2004, when additional funds were allowed when they transitioned our fiscal year end from April to August. Otherwise, the funds have changed marginally, not even allowing for cost of living increases.

In addition, House Appropriations included in their amendment that participating institutions must provide matching funds from within their existing budgets equal to funds appropriated. On Attachment 2, you will see the school contributions that we are currently receiving from both NDSU and UND. Those contributions alone total \$255,771.74. In the column marked "Other", you will find projections of contributions that could potentially be donated at sites around the state to assist in broadening the online program of approximately \$61,875. That would bring the total contributions to \$317,646.74. We already have a commitment with Minot to provide computer space and more will follow.

Attachment 3 is our proposed budget, as compared to our current grant budget. You will see that under the proposal we place before you, we are using the same funding amounts, but we are providing for more students by alleviating the low income, first generation restrictions and assisting more veterans at five additional college sites.

There is a misperception that we have not been providing for the western portion of the state. We developed an online component for individuals who are not near a classroom site. We had such a site in Minot until 2006. In looking at Attachment 4, you



can see we were not granted additional funding to cover the increasing costs of maintaining three classrooms and we were forced to close that site. The creation of the online course is a cost effective substitution for classrooms since funding has not increased.

The next attachment (5) contains testimony from three veterans who participated in our program but were not able to attend today due to work or classes. Each have been able to stabilize their lives through utilization of these services.

The final attachment (6) show letters of support for our program. They include Major General David Sprynczynatyk, U.S. Senator John Hoeven, U.S. Senator Kent Conrad, and other colleges and businesses that recognize the need for this program.

We are asking for your support in an amendment to HB 1289 to return it to its original funding amount and to be implemented by the ND Veterans Affairs Commissioner as we are not just an educational program, but an outreach program as well. Under the Commissioner, there will be no administrative fee. We wish to be fiscally responsible and put every dollar possible into the serving of North Dakota's veterans. Thank you for listening and thank you for your support of this amendment to HB 1289.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**1**

## NDSU TRIO Funding History

PY	McNair Scholars Program			Student Support Services			Upward Bound			Veterans Upward Bound			Child Care Access Means Parents In School			Total		
	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Yr	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Grants
1990	2	\$115,727	\$9,258	1	\$114,444	\$9,155	2	\$166,335	\$13,307	2	\$104,147	\$8,332				\$500,653	\$40,052	\$540,705
1991	3	\$128,324	\$10,266	2	\$216,715	\$17,337	3	\$246,968	\$19,758	3	\$112,154	\$8,973				\$704,161	\$56,334	\$760,495
1992	1	\$139,569	\$11,166	3	\$231,044	\$18,484	1	\$247,847	\$19,828	1	\$131,240	\$10,499				\$749,700	\$59,977	\$809,677
1993	2	\$139,569	\$11,166	1	\$237,396	\$18,992	2	\$247,847	\$19,828	2	\$140,961	\$11,277				\$765,773	\$61,263	\$827,036
1994	3	\$149,149	\$11,932	2	\$243,806	\$19,504	3	\$254,539	\$20,363	3	\$174,132	\$13,931				\$821,626	\$65,730	\$887,356
1995	1	\$175,926	\$14,074	3	\$251,119	\$20,090	1	\$0	\$0	1	\$203,704	\$16,296				\$630,749	\$50,460	\$681,209
1996	2	\$175,926	\$14,074	4	\$251,119	\$20,090	2	\$0	\$0	2	\$203,704	\$16,296				\$630,749	\$50,460	\$681,209
1997	3	\$182,963	\$14,637	1	\$261,164	\$20,893	3	\$0	\$0	3	\$211,852	\$16,948				\$655,979	\$52,478	\$708,457
1998	4	\$186,622	\$14,930	2	\$271,610	\$21,729	4	\$0	\$0	4	\$216,089	\$17,287				\$674,321	\$53,946	\$728,267
1999	1	\$194,073	\$14,526	3	\$283,401	\$22,672	1	\$186,111	\$14,889	5	\$220,411	\$17,633				\$883,996	\$69,720	\$953,716
2000	2	\$207,247	\$16,580	4	\$288,124	\$23,050	2	\$209,444	\$15,956	1	\$237,949	\$18,236				\$942,764	\$73,822	\$1,016,586
2001	3	\$213,465	\$17,077	1	\$349,425	\$24,202	3	\$199,694	\$15,671	2	\$233,834	\$18,707				\$996,418	\$75,657	\$1,072,075
2002	4	\$233,498	\$13,960	2	\$362,932	\$25,299	4	\$215,245	\$14,779	3	\$240,849	\$19,268				\$1,052,524	\$73,306	\$1,125,830
2003	1	\$227,515	\$14,692	3	\$365,468	\$25,427	1	\$219,763	\$14,861	4	\$245,666	\$19,653				\$1,058,412	\$74,633	\$1,133,045
2004	2	\$227,515	\$14,692	4	\$365,468	\$25,427	2	\$219,763	\$14,861	5	\$307,083	\$24,566				\$1,119,829	\$79,546	\$1,199,375
2005	3	\$227,515	\$14,692	1	\$376,431	\$26,190	3	\$219,763	\$14,861	1	\$245,666	\$19,653	1	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,128,634	\$80,137	\$1,208,771
2006	4	\$227,515	\$14,692	2	\$376,431	\$26,190	4	\$219,763	\$14,861	2	\$245,666	\$19,653	2	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,128,634	\$80,137	\$1,208,771
2007	1	\$238,442	\$15,875	3	\$376,431	\$26,190	1	\$233,597	\$16,403	3	\$253,036	\$20,243	3	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,160,765	\$83,452	\$1,244,217
2008	2	\$238,442	\$15,875	4	\$396,003	\$27,756	2	\$233,597	\$16,403	4	\$253,036	\$20,243	4	\$59,259	\$4,741	\$1,180,337	\$85,018	\$1,265,355
2009	3	\$238,442	\$15,875	5	\$416,653	\$27,756	3	\$233,597	\$16,403	1	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,141,728	\$80,277	\$1,222,005
2010	4	\$238,442	\$15,875	1	\$407,775	\$28,697	4	\$233,597	\$16,403	2	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,132,850	\$81,218	\$1,214,068
2011	5	\$231,141	\$15,292	2	\$395,246	\$27,695	5	\$225,903	\$16,347	3	\$245,192	\$19,615		\$0	\$0	\$1,097,482	\$78,949	\$1,176,431
2012	1	\$238,442	\$15,875	3	\$395,246	\$27,695	1	\$233,597	\$16,403	4	\$253,036	\$20,243		\$0	\$0	\$1,120,321	\$80,216	\$1,200,537
2013	2	\$0	\$0	4	\$0	\$0	2	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2014	3			5			3				\$0	\$0						
2015	4						4				\$0	\$0						
2016	5						5				\$0	\$0						
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,575,469</b>	<b>\$327,081</b>		<b>\$7,233,451</b>	<b>\$530,520</b>		<b>\$4,246,970</b>	<b>\$312,185</b>		<b>\$4,985,479</b>	<b>\$398,038</b>		<b>\$237,036</b>	<b>\$18,964</b>	<b>\$21,278,405</b>	<b>\$1,586,788</b>	<b>\$22,865,193</b>
		<b>\$4,902,550</b>			<b>\$7,763,971</b>			<b>\$4,559,155</b>			<b>\$5,383,517</b>			<b>\$256,000</b>				

Average Indirect= 7.46%

# **ATTACHMENT**

**2**

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS	NDSU	UND	OTHER
Service or Resource	Cost Savings		
Office space on campus for project staff and conference rooms for meetings	Approximately \$33,000 per year total savings over store-front, at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,000 sq. ft. of space.	Approximately \$1,650 per year total savings over store-front, at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 100 sq. ft. of space.	
Use of computer clusters, library resources and classroom	\$52,800 includes classroom and computer cluster 4 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at two sites at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,600 sq. ft. of space.	\$12,375 includes classroom 4 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 750 sq. ft. of space.	\$61,875.00 includes classroom 1 days/ three semesters per year; unlimited library resources at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 750 sq. ft. of space for each site. (Minot, Dickinson, Bismarck, 2 Tribal)
Free bus transportation donated by NDSU through Metro Area Transit System for Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead.	Approximately \$18,000 savings per year.		
Utilizing distribution center at NDSU to distribute materials to 65 county and extension sites.	\$1,040 per year (\$260 per mailing, once a quarter).		
Online office space savings versus additional sites to reach prospective students in target region at locations in Bismarck, Minot, Devils Lake, Dickinson and Williston.	Approximately \$82,500 per year savings over store-front rental at a rental rate of \$15 per sq. ft. office plus \$1.50 per sq. ft. utilities for 1,000 sq. ft. of space for five sites.		
Classroom startup expenses, including computers (5), instructors (2), materials, and basic office supplies.	Approximately \$10,823.37 (\$100 testing supplies; \$1,348 computer textbooks; \$250 office supplies; \$9,125.37 salary for 2 instructors @ \$12.50 per hour).	Approximately \$10,823.37 (\$100 testing supplies; \$1,348 computer textbooks; \$250 office supplies; \$9,125.37 salary for 2 instructors @ \$12.50 per hour).	
Blackboard service for online component	Approximately \$5,000 compared to cost of space on commercial server.		
Collaboration with university information systems department to provide additional workshops on media presentations.	\$945 (based on equal Skillpath seminar program at \$199 per person or \$189 for four or more; based on 5 attending once a year).		
Cost share of TRIO Office Manager and office assistants	Approximately \$26,815 (considering starting wage of \$32,000 for manager and 35% fringe).		
<b>Total savings</b>	\$230,923.37	\$24,848.37	\$61,875.00
<b>Total Projected Contributions</b>			\$317,646.74

# **ATTACHMENT**

**3**

*HB 1289 Budget Proposal*

	Details	Site	Current YUB Budget		Veterans Educational Training Budget			
			2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015	
<b>Income</b>			n/a	n/a	*	*	*	*
<b>Expenses</b>								
<b>Salaries</b>	TRIO Administrator	Fargo	2,654					
	Director	Fargo	50,732		47,000		48,410	
	Project Coordinator	Fargo	40,673		39,500		40,685	
	Site Coordinator	Grand Forks	34,569		39,500		40,685	
	Office Manager	Fargo	12,136		12,136	138,136	12,500	142,280
	Administrative Office Assistants	Fargo	9,027	149,791	0		0	
	Classroom Instructors 1 @ \$12.50/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Grand Forks	6,042		4,700		4,841	
	Classroom Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Grand Forks	12,083		6,768		6,971	
	Classroom Instructors 3 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Fargo	18,125		10,152		10,457	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Bismarck	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Minot	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Williston	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Tribal	0		6,768		6,971	
	Online Instructors 2 @ \$9/hr 8 hrs/wk 47 wks	Tribal	0	36,250	6,768	55,460	6,971	57,124
<b>Benefits</b>				51,001		51,001		51,001
<b>Travel</b>	Blumen Training Web based		0		250		0	
	State travel; recruitment; management 5 online sites		3,334	3,334	7,609	7,859	7,651	7,651
<b>Supplies</b>								
<b>Office</b>	Envelopes, stationary, general paper		1,750		1,750		1,000	
	Record keeping materials; files, tabs, etc.		450		450		450	
	Printer cartridges		500		500		500	
	General consumable supplies; pens, pencils, paperclips, etc.		500		500		500	
	General purpose equipment; chair, shelving, file storage, etc.		400		400		400	
	Equipment; 2 Computer 1 Printer 1 Fax		500		0		0	
	Blumen Database Initial purchase \$2,850		0	4,100	2,850	6,450	0	2,850
<b>Instructional</b>	Table testing materials		750		1,500		2,500	
	General consumable supplies; board markers, erasers, etc.		250		768		768	
	Instructional books, texts, and guides		750	1,750	1,000	3,268	1,000	4,268
<b>General</b>	Admissions applications and exam fees		60		250		250	
	Administrative and Facility Rental		20,243		0		0	
	Telephone, long distance, and toll calls (\$225/month)		2,400		2,700		2,700	
	Risk management insurance		300		300		300	
	Postage		500		500		500	
	Printing and duplicating		700		1,000		1,000	
	Equipment maintenance and repair		100		100		100	
	Student ID cards		600		750		750	
	Professional publications and memberships		1,100	26,003	305	5,905	305	5,905
<b>Program</b>	Print		250		1,000		100	
<b>Advertising</b>	Radio		250		1,000		100	
	Banner 1 Fargo 1 Grand Forks		0		1,200		0	
	Promotional materials, pens, magnets, etc.		400		1,000		1,000	
	Posters, brochures		150	1,050	1,000	5,200	1,000	2,200
<b>Total</b>			<u>273,279</u>		<u>273,279</u>		<u>273,279</u>	

\* Income for the program will be determined based on the 2012 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for a maximum annual income sliding fee scale. We are currently assessing the projected income based on 200 Veterans served during year one and 300 Veterans during year two of the proposed biennium budget.

# **ATTACHMENT**

**4**



*Veterans Upward Bound*

*Office of TRIO Programs – Division of Student Affairs  
P.O. Box 5625,  
Fargo, ND 58105-5625*

FARGO – MAIN OFFICE  
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND  
701.231.7313  
Toll Free 1.800.570.5719  
Fax 701.231.9669  
[www.ndsu.nodak.edu/trio](http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/trio)

GRAND FORKS  
at the University of North Dakota  
P.O. Box 8361  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8361  
701.777.6465  
Fax 701.777.6363

MINOT  
at Minot State University  
P.O. Box 203  
Minot, ND 58707  
701.858.3144  
Fax 701.858.3853

April 3, 2006

Senator Byron Dorgan  
312 Federal Building  
Bismarck, ND 58502

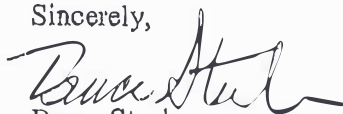
Dear Senator:

I am writing in response to phone conversations from you staff concerning the closing of the Veterans Upward Bound satellite office at Minot State University (MiSU).

Our 2005 – 2009 VUB grant proposal to the U.S. Department of education submitted December 12, 2002 included a request for full funding to all three locations: (1) North Dakota State University, (2) Minot State University, and (3) the University of North Dakota, for the duration of the grant cycle. The grant award amount for the first year of a new September 1, 2005 – August 31, 2009 grant cycle is \$265,319, remaining unchanged over a three-year period. This is \$186,386 less than \$451,705 requested to operate at three North Dakota Universities. Because of the difference in the funding requested compared to the actual amount received, we are unable to serve our veterans at all three locations.

Senator, we deeply appreciate your continuing support of the federal TRIO programs, particularly Veterans Upward Bound. It is because of this support, thousands of North Dakota veterans have had the preparation for their success in higher education over the past three decades. With appropriate funding levels through the U.S. Department of Education, we look forward to the continuing to work with our veterans.

Sincerely,



Bruce Steele  
Project Director

# **ATTACHMENT**

**5**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**Calie Craddock, NDSU Student and Veteran**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Calie Craddock. I am a student at NDSU as well as a Veteran, deploying with the North Dakota Army National Guard on two different occasions. I am also a Department of Veteran Affairs Student worker, tasked with aiding the University's Certifying Official with the Veteran student body and education benefits. I have also been elected the Commander of the NDSU American Legion Post #400 that is representative of the veteran population at NDSU.

NDSU has a long history of supporting Veterans and service members on campus. With recent changes nationally, programs and benefits are quickly disappearing despite the growth in need. As a VA student worker with the Office of Registration and Records, Veteran's/Military Services program, I have found that a portion of the VA benefited student population struggles with school, earning deficient grades of D's or F's. These students need access to programs that will make a difference in their academic careers, and Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is just that program.

With the upcoming discontinuation of the federal grant, it has been difficult for our office to refer at risk veteran students to VUB due to the limitations put on the program through archaic regulations and the loss of budget. Many of the students of the Veteran population could have and should be able to access this program, not only for the educational assistance it provides but also for the climate, the outreach abilities, and the knowledgeable staff support as well. 40 years of experience helping Veterans and NDSU has made this organization ready and apt to solve issues for Veterans. Let's not reinvent the wheel, but improve on what we already have. The region served goes beyond NDSU, serving the entire state of North Dakota; recognizing the need to serve

Veterans beyond the NDSU campus. Our state, our university, our population has a duty to provide for these Veterans. We cannot revert back to the days of Vietnam when we failed to recognize or help those service members. We must show our Veterans they are not an expendable commodity; but instead a valuable resource in our community that deserves to be fostered and supported.

House Bill 1289 expands VUB beyond the original scope of low income, first generation veterans. Instead, it is now attempting to recognize that many Veterans may be beyond that limited scope and still need its services. This is an important distinction that many other federal and state organizations and benefits have failed to recognize. I come before you as a student of NDSU, as a Veteran, as a member of the community; asking you to remember Veterans, value education, and recognize the short comings in our state. The dollar amount needed in order to better serve the Veteran population of our community is miniscule in comparison of so many things. With this limited budget, I believe the placement of this program is imperative. The ND Veterans Affairs Commissioner is willing to administer the program without administrative fees and would see that all the funds reach the veterans.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is time for North Dakota to step up and help its Veterans, it is time to recognize their service and give them all the support we can. We, as a State, could set an amazing precedence by supporting our Veterans in such a way. These individuals volunteered to give their lives for our country, our state, and our communities; they often come back with wounds, fears, and uncertainties that we are able to address and help heal. We CANNOT regress back to the years after Vietnam. We must support them in every way; let us do so in a positive way through education and outreach. In doing so, we create valuable additions to our community, our commerce, and our future.

Thank you for your attention and time. Please support this initiative.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289**

**VETERANS EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**

**TYLER SANDERS, VETERAN**

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**SENATOR TIM FLAKOLL, CHAIRMAN**

**MARCH 19, 2013**

Dear Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Tyler Sanders. I am a veteran of the U.S. Army, where I served 6 years on active service as a 33W/35T Military Intelligence Systems Integrator/Maintainer/Repairer. During my active duty from 2002-2008, I served a one calendar year deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. My service was ended upon full completion of my contract with an honorable discharge.

Following my exiting term of service, I immediately interviewed and was offered a career with a large technology-based company whom manufactured and supplied parts and workforce for multiple high-impact military systems. While the opportunity and fit for the job was wonderful, due to my training and background with the Army, I was still worried that the highest education I possessed was a high school diploma, even though it was sufficient for this career. This sense of being unfulfilled led me to subsequently resign from that career after only 3 years and continue my education as a full time student using the G.I. Bill.

The reason I had not attended college directly following high school and joined the Army instead was not so much a growing sense of patriotism following the then very recent Twin Towers attack and invasion of Afghanistan. It was mostly because I felt highly unprepared for the undertaking of college. I did not feel I was learned enough to tackle the pressure of that institution and that I would inevitably fail to achieve those goals and be left with an amount of debt and no one to turn to. This fear alone confirmed 100% that entering the military at a time of war was the overall best decision.

This brings me to the wonderful program I have had the pleasure of being a part of since August of 2012, Veteran's Upward Bound. Had I been aware of the VUB program both as a high school graduate and during my time in service, I would have been thrilled to utilize such a luxury.

During my time working with the Veteran's Upward Bound, I have come to realize what a precious commodity it can be if used correctly and in its entirety. When applied to someone, not unlike myself, who can greatly benefit from the instruction given to prepare them for the college lifestyle and material, it can bring about countless opportunities. I have personally bore witness to several veterans who have come up through the program and both continued their education at the next level with high marks, as well as having gone on to be professionally successful with relevant degrees.

In conclusion, I thoroughly consider the Veteran's Upward Bound program, here in North Dakota, to be a wonderful, necessary, and extremely useful tool for our veterans who deserve to have the best chances possible that we can give them to thrive and succeed as productive, hard-working citizens to promote our wonderful state and nation. They have given us everything and deserve no less in return from us. I am excited and happy to be a small part of this community which strives for nothing more than to give veterans everything they need to make a successful career with their college education.

Sincerely and with vast regards,

Tyler Sanders

Testimony for HB 1289

Harry Feilen, Veteran

Veterans Upward Bound

March 19, 2013

My name is Harry Feilen and I am writing this on behalf of the University Of North Dakota Office Of Veterans Upward Bound Program, to stand in support of their program.

I am an eight year veteran of the US Marine Corps. I served for eight months in the Gulf War. I ended active duty service in Dec 1996. I came to North Dakota, and started working looking for the next adventure in my life. I had been in law enforcement for about 12 years and thought I would like to be a prosecutor. In the summer of 2007 I attended the University of Mary to pursue a degree in Management and on to UND Law School. After completing the core curriculum from U-Mary I had a long discussion with lifelong attorney, and close friend of the family, and he asked "Are you stupid", subsequently discouraging from the law field for several reasons, which we discussed. We discussed several fields which I would be suited for and my wife, our friend and I decided to pursue Mechanical Engineering. I started UND in the spring 2009 semester. I had not been in a daily school setting for almost 20 years. I knew I needed some assistance to be successful. I sought out Veterans Upward Bound at UND to help review math and sciences. CHEM 121 was one of my classes and I had heard the failure rate was high for this class. After attending some study sessions with Mr. Frank Jones (VUB) I was better able to understand some of the math and concepts we were discussing in class. I finished CHEM 121 with an "A" and CHEM 122 with a "B" the next semester.

In the spring 2010 semester I was hired by Chemical Engineering as a student employee to apply Mechanical Engineering concepts to Chemical Engineering graduate student's experiments. Dec 2011 I was hire as a full time benefited Engineer by the Institute for Energy Studies at UND. During these employments I held a full time, or nearly full time, class load while working 35 to 45 hours a week. This semester I will finish the core curriculum for Mechanical Engineering at UND with a 3.0 GPA, and starting graduate work in the summer program after making application and acceptance. I did

not have the GI bill or any other assistance to attend college and had to pay for all of this out my own pocket and some grants. VUB was very helpful for me to get my head back into the college game. I think the UND VUB program would be beneficial to several other veterans who are getting out of the military and thinking about attending college. The program did help me and would be worth any investment to continue their dedication to assisting veterans returning to college to further their education.



## Testimony in Support of HB 1289

Jerome Billups, veteran

Senate Education Committee

Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman

March 19, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Jerome Billups and I am proud to write this letter of support for a program which I believe is one of the most outstanding and academically beneficial to Veterans seeking to improve their chances and success in obtaining their academic goals.

I retired from active military service in the summer of 2004 and entered into post-secondary education as an older-than-average student. Veteran's Upward Bound was instrumental in helping me make the transition from soldier to student. The instruction, support and camaraderie I received from this program not only prepared me for my studies, but also was able to guide me in translating my 22 years of military experience into a major area of study that complemented my service experiences.

This program and the staff saved me time, energy and a multitude of heartaches by providing sound counseling and advice in regards to my academic goals and my personal life as well. They were there; they understood the difficulties that military member often face during the transition period for soldier to civilian to student. They aid in ensuring success, where a lot of us had failed.

The support and guidance I received from VUB strengthened my resolve in ensuring that other veterans are able to benefit from the program as much as I had.

In 2005, I transferred from the VUB program at Minot State and re-entered the program at NDSU, this time as a work-study student under the direction and guidance of Mrs. Jeri Vaudrin; I provided administrative services and referrals for my fellow veterans. I assisted them through their academic endeavors. I was paying it forward with the same mentorship that was provided to me when I entered the program. Currently, I provide computer instruction for veterans entering post-secondary, technical and vocational education courses through programs such as Post/911 GI Bill, Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation Retraining Program, VRAP – Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and SkillBuild North Dakota Retraining Program. VUB Provides an invaluable service in ensuring the success the veterans in these programs will have by attending not only computer classes but English, math, and science instruction as well.

Veterans Upward Bound is a truly remarkable program; I have taken the honor of recommending VUB Program to several of veterans seeking to re-enter post-secondary education. The feedback I have received from these veterans echoes my excitement and pleasure with the program as well.

Yet, there is something missing. Often times as we reach out to the veteran population to ensure that they are able to benefit from similar programs that ensures their success, we often forget about the eligible spouses and dependents that too would benefit from the advantages of being a part of VUB.

Under the current rules, eligible spouses and dependents are able to take up certain benefits that the veteran is unable to participate in due to death or a service connected disability. It would be wise to broaden the scope of VUB to include eligible spouses and dependents to ensure their success as well, as a show of respect to the veteran, that their service is recognized should they not be able to benefit directly from the entitlement, and the spouses' and dependents' sacrifices so they may seek their educations as well.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to show my support for such a special and deserving program, Veterans Upward Bound.

Respectfully,

Jerome Billups

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1289

**Anthony Muhonen, veteran**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Senator Tim Flakoll, Chairman**

**March 19, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Anthony Muhonen. I am called Andy by most and i would like to tell you what VUB has done for me.

I relapsed into practicing alcoholism in 1998 after a decade of sobriety. My life became increasingly miserable and chaotic because of my self-destructive behavior. I became homeless in 2005 and my future seemed logical; death by drink. Family members saved me from freezing to death one night and talked me into seeking rehab at the Fargo VA. On May 6th of 2006 I entered SATP on the fourth floor of the Fargo VA. I struggled with employment and life and on the advice of others I enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound.

I met with Jeri Vaudrin to work out a schedule that would help me with my lack of order in my life. I continued to struggle with my Sobriety, but VUB was always there for me to help me gain back my self-respect. I progressed enough so that when I had an opportunity to become employed at the Fargo VA, li only had to ask 4 friends what to do. I took their advice and worked in the Laundry Dept. for the next two years.

As I continued my computer classes at VUB, an opportunity to apply for another job came along. As a direct result of what I learned in my classes I applied for

and was awarded a new position at the VA. The people I met in VUB, the staff, and the structure of the program helped me progress enough to test myself in many areas of my life. I am more than 5 yrs. sober and live in sobriety with those around me. Veterans Upward Bound gave me more than I could have imagined when I signed up -- much like my time on Active Duty.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Muhonen

# **ATTACHMENT**

**6**



**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
*North Dakota National Guard*  
*Department of Emergency Services*

*The Honorable Jack Detrynple*  
*North Dakota Governor*

*Major General David A. Sprynczynatyk*  
*The Adjutant General and*  
*Director of Emergency Services*

June 28, 2012

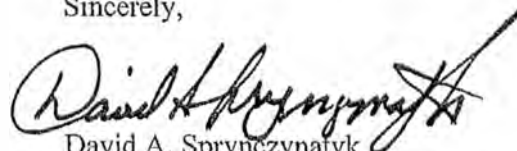
Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As The Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard, I can attest to the importance of offering veterans the opportunity to achieve a post-secondary education. I believe the Veterans Upward Bound project plays an essential role in assisting veterans reach that goal. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

  
David A. Sprynczynatyk  
Major General, ND National Guard  
The Adjutant General

JOHN HOEVEN  
SENATOR  
120 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
PHONE: (202) 224-2551  
FAX: (202) 224-7969  
hoeven@senate.gov

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood  
Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58106-6050

Dear Director Harwood:

I am writing to express my interest in North Dakota State University's (NDSU) proposal to the Department of Education for the continuation and expansion of the Veterans Upward Bound program. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support they need to develop the skills a post-secondary education requires.

As a strong supporter of the military, I believe the brave men and women in our Armed Services deserve the best support and compensation that we can afford for their dedicated service. Through Veterans Upward Bound, veterans in North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, and northern South Dakota are empowered to make the best choices they can about their education and training, which is so vital for growth and future success in our information-based economy.

I hope the Veterans Upward Bound program at NDSU receives the full and fair consideration it deserves. Please keep me informed of the review process and feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-2551 with any updates or inquiries you may have for me.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator

10:44



KENT CONRAD  
NORTH DAKOTA

website: <http://conrad.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:  
BUDGET, CHAIRMAN  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

July 31, 2012

1-800-223-4467

530 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403  
(202) 224-2043

220 EAST ROSSEY AVENUE, ROOM 228  
BISMARCK, ND 58501-3866  
(701) 258-4646

657 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 306  
FARGO, ND 58102-4727  
(701) 232-8030

33 SOUTH 3RD STREET, SUITE B  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201  
(701) 776-9601

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105  
MINOT, ND 58701-3846  
(701) 852-0703

Mr. Michael Harwood  
Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Program  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

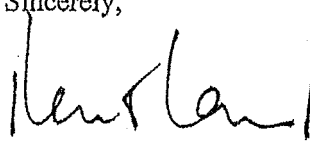
I write to express my strong support of the Veterans Upward Bound Program at North Dakota State University.

There is no question that veterans who seek to better themselves by obtaining a college degree face challenges that are unique from those of the typical student. In order for our veterans to succeed and prosper at institutions of higher learning, they often times need a little extra assistance to prepare them for college or vocational school, choose an appropriate study plan, or learn their material.

That is why the Veterans Upward Bound Program at North Dakota State University is so important. For the past 40 years, this program has helped veterans in North Dakota receive post-secondary degrees. It does so by providing refresher courses in English, math, science, literature, and basic computer skills. Its special focus on low-income, first generation, and disabled veterans helps ensure that veterans can complete their course of study and be prepared to reenter the workforce. This is especially important at a time when veterans across the nation are experiencing higher unemployment rates than their civilian counterparts.

I strongly support North Dakota State University's Veterans Upward Bound Program and hope that it will receive the Department of Education's fullest consideration.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
United States Senate



**GLOBE UNIVERSITY  
MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

2777 34th Street South  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
Phone: 218-422-1000  
Fax: 218-422-1001  
www.msbcollge.edu

June 27, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As a member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Fargo-West Fargo-Moorhead-Dilworth Chamber of Commerce, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee in Moorhead and as Director of Financial Aid and School Certifying Official for the Minnesota School of Business, I have seen the accomplishments of the Veterans Upward Bound project in assisting veterans accomplish their goals of pursuing a post-secondary education. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

I have the privilege of supporting the Veterans Upward Bound project in each of the organizations mentioned above. Through Military Affairs and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committees I have had the privilege of working with the project coordinators to raise awareness of the program within the military and business communities of Fargo-Moorhead.

As School Certifying Official and Director of Financial Aid at Minnesota School of Business, I have, along with our Director of Admissions Angelique Goulet, worked with the Veterans Upward Bound staff to promote awareness and participation of Veterans Upward Bound by our prospective students. Our campus staff directs prospective students to Veterans Upward Bound, provides booth space at numerous open house events on campus, and displays and distributes Veterans Upward Bound materials to our students.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

Lisa Roesch  
Director of Financial Aid

**SUCCESSFUL FUTURES START HERE!**



**THE CHAMBER**  
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

July 16, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As a member of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, I have seen the need in our community for continued support of young veterans who seek to pursue a post-secondary education. Veterans Upward Bound has proven to be successful at enabling low income, first-generation veterans to connect with refresher courses necessary in attaining their degrees and advancing their careers.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the campus.

Sincerely,

Craig Whitney, President & CEO  
The Chamber



All of us serving you™

July 16, 2012

Mr. Michael Harwood, Interim Director  
Veterans Upward Bound Project  
North Dakota State University  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, North Dakota 58106-6050

Dear Mr. Harwood:

This letter is written in support of the proposal to continue and expand the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University. As the Chair and a member of The Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber Military Affairs committee, I have seen the accomplishments of the Veterans Upward Bound project in assisting veterans in accomplishing their goals of pursuing a post-secondary education. Through this program, low income, first-generation veterans have the support to help them with the refresher courses so necessary in attaining their degrees.

It is of the utmost importance that programs such as Veterans Upward Bound are available to all of our veterans. These men and women have made commitments and sacrifices for our country. Programs such as Veterans Upward Bound allow us to give back to those that have served in our Military.

I strongly support the Veterans Upward Bound project at North Dakota State University and appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of endorsement for the continuance of the program on the NDSU campus.

Sincerely,

Delton Steele  
Regional President, U.S. Bank National Association  
Southeast North Dakota Region



# NORTHLAND

COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

January 30, 2012

Dear Legislators-

The services provided by the Veterans Upward Bound Program in Grand Forks have been instrumental in helping area veterans succeed at continuing their post-secondary education. Veterans Upward Bound staff has provided refresher or remedial assistance to veterans wishing to enroll at Northland Community and Technical College. They have helped seek out veterans in need and give them the skills and confidence they need to continue their education. Our graduates have become employed in technical jobs to meet the workforce needs of the state, as well as liberal arts student who transfer to four year schools.

VUB has also helped organize a community Veterans Service Group so that local organizations serving veterans can share information on activities and resources. Tutoring and mentoring is available and has been valuable to help students enroll, persist, and succeed with their education. They have given veterans the support, information, and contacts they need to be successful as they pursue an education.

I have found James and the Veterans Upward Bound staff dedicated to serving those who served us. It has been my pleasure to work with them and the veterans they have referred to our post-secondary programs. I hope this association can continue to assist veterans in gaining the skills they need to be contributing, working members in our communities.

Pam Schorsch

Academic Advisor/ Veterans Certifying Official

218-793-2402

pam.schorsch@northlandcollege.edu

East Grand Forks Campus  
2022 Central Ave NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
1.800.451.3441

[www.northlandcollege.edu](http://www.northlandcollege.edu)

Thief River Falls Campus  
1101 Highway One East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
1.800.959.6282

*Northland Community & Technical College is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities system and  
is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.*