

(DRAFT) WACRAO Military Connected Services Conference Agenda

Madison College-Goodman South Campus, 2429 Perry Street, Madison, WI 53713

June 11th 6-8pm-Preconference networking opportunity: Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, 123 E Doty St., Madison, WI - This casual networking opportunity provides attendees a chance to meet and connect before the conference begins. (Attendees are responsible for their own expenses.)

# Thursday, June 12, 2025

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| 7:00-8:00 AM | **Continental Breakfast -Community Room** | | |
| 8:15-9:00 AM | **System Meetings-** **Updates and Announcements**  UW Colleges- Community Room –Moderator: Dennis Rhodes  WTCS Colleges- Room 214 -Moderators: Brandon Trujillo & Colleen Larsen  WAICU Colleges- Room 228 - Moderator: Debra Barrett | | |
| 9:00-9:15 AM | **Welcome**- Dr Keyimani Alfond, Associate Vice President | Student Access and Success, Madison College | | |
| 9:15-10:00 AM | **Keynote Large Group** – **Federal Legislative Update-:** Learn about pending federal legislation that will impact VA education benefits.  Presenter: Dr Jan Del Signore –Legislative Director for NAVPA, National Association of Veteran Program Administrators- MSGT, USAF, Retired  Associate Vice Chancellor of Military Affairs Keiser University | | |
| 10:05-11:00 AM | **Large Group Sesson- WDVA 101& Updates –** Overview of benefits and support that is offered by Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs.  Presenter: Joseph Hoey, Assistant Deputy Secretary WDVA  Overview of all benefits offered by WDVA except WIGI Bill and VORP. Discussion will cover: Veterans Property Tax Credit, Grant Programs, Veteran Homes, Housing and Recovery Program, support to County Veterans Service Offices, Program to Honor and Memorialize Veterans. | | |
| **Breakout Sessions** | | | |
| **SCO Focused Track** | | **Professional Development Track** | |
| 11:05-12:00 PM | **Apprenticeships and VA Benefits Panel-**  Moderator- Brandon Trujillo, WTCS  Panel: Sebastian Walters, Veterans Program Specialist-Senor, SAA | 11:05-12:00 PM | **Supporting Students on Campus Mental Health and Case Management**  Moderator: Colleen Larsen, WTCS & Stephen Pepper, Moraine Park Technical College  Panel: Katelyn Coleman - VHAMAD Suicide Prevention Team  Lori Feuerstein- Waukesha County Technical College  Angela Schmidt- Moraine Park Technical College |
| 12:00-12:45 PM | **Lunch- Provided – Nacho Bar** | | |
| 1:00-1:45 PM | **Large Group Session – Wisconsin Legislators Panel – WING DMA**-  Moderator: Joe Rasmussen, Director University Veteran Services, UW Madison  Panel: | | |
|  | **Breakout Sessions** | | |
| 2:00-2:55 PM | **WI State Approving Agency (SAA)**  Presenters:  Larry Graves, Education Consultant SAA  Andrew Martin, Education Consultant SAA | 2:00-2:55 PM | **Mentor Connect -** Madison College  Presenter: Janine Wilson-Rise Director, Madison College |
| 3:00- 3:55 PM | **VA Debt Management and Institutional Debt issues- Virtual**  Presenter: Nicole Haselberger, Assistant Chief, Education and External Relations VA Debt Management | 3:00-3:55 PM | **Healthcare for Heros/CPL Initiatives**  Presenters:  Joan Whitman, Healthcare for Heros  Dustin Schultz- Veteran Specialist, Western Technical College |
| 4:00- 4:45 PM | **Large Group Session – SCO Best Practices Panel**  Moderators: Elizabeth Serwe-Moraine Park Technical College & Jackie Leon-Western Technical College  Panel:  Mike Panaro- U.W. Madison  Debra Barrett- Marian University  Jackie Sacco-UW Parkside  Kathy Steffan- Northwoods Technical College | | |
| **Networking Event-** **5:00-7:00 pm** -Pyle Center Rooftop Terrace, 702 Langdon St., Madison, W  Details: An official conference networking event covered by conference fees.  Enjoy appetizers and connect with colleagues in a relaxed setting. | | | |

# Friday, June 13, 2025

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| 7:00-9:00 AM | **Continental Breakfast** | | |
| 8:00-8:15 AM | **Welcome-WACRAO Veteran Committee Chair** -Deb Barrett Associate Registrar & Veteran Certifying Official, PDSO for International Students Office of the Registrar  Marian University | | |
| 8:15-9:00 AM | **Keynote- Large Group – Focus Forward Fellowship**- Sheryl L Shipley, PhD, Sr. Education and Employment Specialist  Military Family Research Institute- Purdue University  Women are the fastest-growing group in the U.S. veteran population, yet their service is often underrecognized. Women veterans face unique challenges during and after military service, including identity transitions, access to resources, and a sense of isolation in predominantly male veteran communities.  The Focus Forward Fellowship is a national program designed specifically for women student veterans. It provides identity exploration, leadership development, and communication training—equipping participants with tools to thrive academically and professionally. Most importantly, the Fellowship fosters a strong sense of belonging and connection among women veterans, helping them form supportive networks that last beyond the program. | | |
| **Breakout Sessions** | | | |
| **SCO FOCUSED TRACK** | | **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK** | |
| 9:05-10:00 AM | **VORP Overview and Partnering Opportunities-**  Presenter: Calvin Stammer, Program Supervisor (North) | 9:05-10:00 AM | **USA Jobs and other employment resources for military connected students**  Presenter: Timothy M Donahue, HireherosUSA |
| 10:05-10:55 AM | **Federal Tuition Assistance, (**ArmyIgnited/AIPortal) how do they apply, how is processed, what are the rules and timeline.  Presenter: Jolen Anders- USARMY NG WIARNG | 10:05-10:55 AM | **Folds of Honor Scholarship-**  Presenter: Bart Garey  Outreach Committee Chair  Folds of Honor, Wisconsin Chapter |
| 11:00-11:30 AM | **Wrap up- Giveaway!** | | |
| 12:00 PM | **Army Birthday Celebration at the Capital- Optional for Attendees**  Wisconsin’s America 250 Commission is sponsoring cake cutting celebrations at the State Capitol for the 250th Anniversary of the Army on 6/13, The Commission is also planning a big, combined celebration on Saturday June 14th at the Veterans Museum. | | |
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