

April 12, 2019

Welcome to LBCC Benton Center, for our event to Celebrate Woman Veteran Stories.

Today, we gather inside a community resource, the Benton Center that meets the needs of all ages, and I have to say, a staff works here that has been very strong in supporting me as Veteran Resource Coordinator at LBCC. As I introduce people today, if you would like, I would ask you to share how your life is military related, to name and honor this aspect of our culture and identity at LBCC.

My grandfather, Bill Conser, was MP, 10 years Army, I did not know him. He was medically discharged and he died when my mother was a child, 12 years before I was born. His civilian career included being elected Constable in Thurston County, WA as well as reporting photographer for the Daily Olympian.

Jeff Davis, Director

Toni Morrison, Coordinator

Kate Grienswic, Learning Center

Daniel, Learning Center

Gwen, helped me set up IANI

The IANI is a project established by collaboration, at ODVA, Portland Art Museum, and Portland State University. Elizabeth Estabrooks travels around the state and the nation displaying these photos and making the woman Veteran experience more visible. Thank you for supporting this movement to honor the service of woman Veterans by joining us here today!

Working with ODVA funds at LBCC, since January 2018, I have been part of a movement to establish relationships between college staff and community of Veteran services providers, as well as to learn the stories and struggles and accomplishments of student Veterans.

I have also learned that LBCC staff, faculty, and students serve in active duty as well as in their families, they are strongly military affiliated.

Additionally, I have become woven into the community of Veterans Services Providers, and this is how I met Wendy Morris, as a regular attendance to the Linn-Benton Vet Net gives us chance to meet professional peers. Wendy has a new position as Veteran Service Officer in Benton County. This is an essential role in our community, and I hope you will support her and her office in establishing rapport with Benton County residents to establish access to VA benefits, healthcare and education benefits as well as burial benefits. The VSO is our glue that sticks all our local programs for Veterans together. I invite you to hear from Wendy, as she shares stories of her service experience and how it informs her career path and her work today! Thank you, Wendy!

Introduce Partners:

SSVF, Scott McKee

Benton County VSO office, Cheryl

US DOL, Tonja Pardo

Jeff Wise, Outreach for Military Helpline, Lines for Life

Becki Goslow, Benton County Veterans Memorial

SSG Jamel Mercado, Recruiting and Retention NCO, Oregon Army National Guard

Alex Johnson II, Albany City Council, Ward 2

Franklin Roberts, LBCC Science, Engineering and Math Dean

Ben Price, OED, Job seeker support

Jerry Flores, OED, DVOP

Corey Habiger, OED Rescare

Community Outreach Incorporated staff and two women, Army Veteran staying in shelter here in Corvallis

Willie Elfering, OSU Veterans Program

Pat Johnson, Johnson and Associates, Corvallis Copy

Many guests are here today, so I would like to give everyone a chance to share their stories, and with so many, it is difficult to choose who speaks first! I will introduce:

- 1. Student Veteran, Teri Bartlow**
- 2. Student Veteran, Erik Foster**
- 3. Steven Olson, ASOSU Veteran Liaison**

Activity planned:

This activity was planned for any clients or students, but the room was filled with more professionals eager to develop cohort support and learn about each other's military stories, and just see the brother and sisters. I think people were not sure what to expect at our event, and I was prepared to be practical and develop work for students seeking work, but was glad to hear from our cohort of Veteran providers about how the military experience shapes their careers.

We have two rooms,

BC 105

BC 225

Teri and Wendy will be in BC 105

Erik will be in BC 225

In these two rooms I invite you to establish a working environment under their leadership. They have prepared to share their stories and with their work in LBCC Advising Department, they have skills that will help you develop your resumes and personal statements.

Will support you in small working groups after you have heard their personal statements and instruction on how to get started. Cory has a great software to get started on filling out your resume.

For the work of building a personal statement, I encourage you to work from the question, how does my military experience shape my personal and career identity now? With photos, I encourage you to build a collage that will result in our ability to print and display the

LBCC Veteran community events in future, possibly for events such as welcome day, September 18, 2019.