



Community Achievement and Student Empowerment (CASE) was created to provide relevant, accessible and supportive services and advocacy to empower students and advance underrepresented communities. As a part of divisional restructuring, effective July 1, 2022, the programs and services offered by CASE have shifted to departmental areas. Staff will continue to create collaborative pathways to excellence for students through campus partnerships and support the University's retention efforts. This document is the last highlights report for CASE. Future data can be found in highlights for the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement and the Office of Student Support and Empowerment.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

CONNECTIONS PROGRAM:

CONNECTIONS is an initiative to assist first-year students who identify as a student of color (African-American, Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, Native American, multiracial) or a first-generation student with their transition to Clemson University. Through our program, students will have opportunities for transformation related to personal development, academic engagement, culture and diversity, support networks and involvement.

To support a larger mentee class in 2021-22, the CONNECTIONS program adjusted to a family model to support the success of first-year students. A senior peer mentor, three mentors and 15-16 mentees comprised each family group. Families met several times per semester to dialogue about the five CONNECTIONS pillars and held monthly social events and an end-of-the-year field day to build and maintain a sense of community.



CONNECTIONS Cohort 2021-22

All **77** mentees completed ED1970 in the fall to assist with their transition to college and all **10** of the new mentors, out of the **20** total mentors, completed EDSA3900 in the fall, which focused on student development, leadership and helping skills.



100%

of all first-year mentees lived in a Living Learning Community (LLC) (**85.7%** of the CONNECTIONS cohort lived in the CONNECTIONS LLC with others living in partner LLCs)

Awards

Christian Butler
Mentee of the Year

Auriy Tinch
Mentor of the Year

Camryn Hubbard
Senior Peer Mentor of the Year

CONNECTIONS Cohort 2020-21



91.2%

first year to second year
retention rate

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

2021-22 was a rebuilding year for the delegated student organizations supported by the enrichment programs team. Brother2Brother and Sister2Sister utilized 2021-22 to recruit new members, focus on the leadership development of their officers and provide a space for building community for existing members. Each organization has developed a schedule of programs for 2022-23 and will focus on outreach and engagement in the new year.

MILITARY AND VETERAN ENGAGEMENT (MVE)

NATIONAL AWARDS AND RANKINGS:

Clemson University ranked No. 43 (up from No. 45) and highest across state of South Carolina *Best Colleges for Veterans* by *U.S. News & World Report*

Clemson University advances to Military Friendly School: Silver Award. Clemson was also named a 2020, 2021 and 2022 Military Friendly Employer, making it the only institution of higher education selected for both designations multiple years in a row — a distinction in keeping with its long and rich military heritage
MilitaryFriendly.com | Read more at: bit.ly/cumilitaryfriend

Clemson earns No. 8 on the 2022 list of Military Friendly Brand organizations
MilitaryFriendly.com

Clemson University recognized on Best of the Best Schools 2022 for the fifth consecutive year
U.S. Veterans Magazine

Clemson University recognized as a College of Distinction for 2022-23 Military Support
CollegesofDistinction.com

Matthew Morris, Navy veteran, wins an annual honor bestowed upon student veterans who are making a positive difference at their school and in their community (one of 33 national winners)
G.I. Jobs 2022 Student Veteran Leadership Award (SVLA)

FALL 2021 AND SPRING 2022 STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

1,053

Average military-connected students enrolled (veterans and dependents), a **10%** increase from the year prior

365

Average veterans enrolled each semester

756

Students using VA Educational Benefits

GRADUATION:

66

Student veterans graduated

20

Student graduates recognized during the Veterans Hail and Farewell Graduation Event

GREEN ZONE TRAINING:

86

Students, staff and faculty participated

6

Total Green Zone Training Team members/ambassadors in FY22 comprised of **three** staff and **three** students

REBRANDING OF VETERANS CENTER:

MVE intentionally rebranded “The Veterans Center” to “Military and Veteran Engagement Resource Center.” This shift to inclusive language and signage ensures the growing number of military dependents understand MVE and the physical space serves and supports them as well as Clemson’s student veterans.

ADDITIONAL MVE PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES:

24

Attendees for Fall 2021 Veteran Orientation

41

Attendees for Spring 2022 Military Orientation

10

Students participated in the VA Work Study Program:



63%

Average open rate over FY22 for Paws and Stripes Newsletter

- Student Veteran Peer Connection Program
- MVE Advising: Military-specific advising to ensure student success
- MVE Resource Center: Dedicated space for veterans and military-connected students

ADDITIONAL MVE PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES:

MVE maintains relationships with Clemson Corps and Financial Aid to support student veterans with scholarships. While MVE does not select scholarship recipients, it identifies eligible student veterans.

\$440,470

In Veteran Scholarship Endowment (per Clemson Corps financial update)

\$51,806

In Clemson veteran scholarships awarded to enrolled student veterans