



The Office of Student Support and Empowerment (OSSE) offers a myriad of services to support Clemson students that honor their identities, well-being and experiences. Our critical service areas of Military and Veteran Engagement (MVE) and Interpersonal Violence Response (IVR) have core functions of holistic support and creation of agency to provide resources that support students' success and empowerment where individuals are valued.

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE (IVR)

Interpersonal Violence Response serves students who identify as primary or secondary survivors of interpersonal violence by providing support, advocacy and facilitating connections to on- and off-campus resources. During its second year, IVR has noted an increase in requests specific to meeting accompaniment, safety planning and use of the Oak Room.

"My response coordinator was amazing! She is one of the best resources I've encountered on campus and so caring about me as an individual."

— Clemson Student

"My response coordinator was kind and extremely validating! She was thoughtful of what I wanted and took every emotion into account."

— Clemson Student

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:



IVR collaborated with Clemson Libraries and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to publish domestic violence and sexual violence resource guides during the respective awareness months. Resource guides include media, research journals, safety tips and related campus and community resources available to the university community.



IVR launched its Instagram page as an additional platform to share information and increase its reach and engagement with the campus community. In less than a year, the account has already gained **159** followers.



IVR collaborated with campus partners to create an Interpersonal Violence Support button on the my.Clemson app. This page includes contact information for campus, community and national resources related to interpersonal violence.



In continued efforts to engage in best practices and provide quality support, Response Coordinators completed the NOVA Campus Advocacy Training (NCAT). NCAT is a 30 hour advanced training academy focused on building participants' knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to sexual assault, stalking and interpersonal violence in higher education.

OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING:

IVR continued efforts to raise awareness and contribute to ongoing discourse surrounding various forms of interpersonal violence by hosting outreach events including panel discussions with interpersonal violence prevention and response professionals, self-defense classes, interactive tabling events and distributing message buttons.

THE OAK ROOM:

In FY23, students began using The Oak Room — a safe space for student survivors to decompress, study or engage in self-care activities (some of which IVR already provided). Students do not have to actively receive Interpersonal Violence Response services to use the space and can request access by emailing Imatran@clemsn.edu or beknem@clemsn.edu.

MILITARY AND VETERAN ENGAGEMENT (MVE)

The transition to civilian life — particularly in higher education — can be difficult for veterans, military spouses and dependents. Military and Veteran Engagement serves in a supporting role for this unique population. Through the Military and Veteran Resource Center located in Vickery Hall, students develop key campus connections and are introduced to resources available to aid their respective journeys.

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION:

440

Veterans, an **8.4%** increase from Fall 2021

680

Military family members, a **4.1%** increase from Fall 2021

1,120

Total military students, a **5.8%** increase from Fall 2021



3.9%

of total Clemson students enrolled are military students (**1,120**)

983

Students using VA Education Benefits (VA.gov), a **23%** increase from FY22

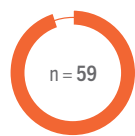
104

Service members and veterans graduated

28

Students recognized during Service Member and Veteran Graduation events

MILITARY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:



95.2%

of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed their interactions with MVE were positive



88.7%

of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed their interactions with MVE were helpful

“MVE has seriously helped me out at Clemson. I literally would not be a student here if it were not for the great work of all the staff there!”

— *Clemson Student*

GREEN ZONE TRAINING:

101

Staff, faculty and/or graduate assistants attended Green Zone Training, an **15%** increase from FY22

7

Green Zone team members and ambassadors (four staff and three students)



100%

of attendees strongly agreed or agreed they understood how they can support student veterans at Clemson as a result of attending Green Zone Training



98.8%

of attendees strongly agreed or agreed they were familiar with on- and off-campus veteran resources as a result of attending Green Zone Training

MILITARY STUDENT SUPPORT:

- New Assistant Director position created and hired
- Upstate Warrior Solution partner on-site three days per week
- Student Veterans Association (SVA) designated as Delegated Student Organization
- Established the Military Student Leadership Award (given to **nine** students along with \$500) to recognize students who:
 - Build community to overcome challenges that veterans and military-connected students face
 - Align the strength of group members to ensure equal and full participation for veterans and military-connected students in the Clemson student experience
 - Take action to create positive change on a group level

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS:

- **15** students using VA Benefits participated in VA work study program
- **47** students attended Military Onboarding Orientation
- **39** families attended MVE session at Ready, Set, Roar!
- **28** attendees certified through MVE hosted Mental Health First Aid training
- **34** campus and community partners held **11** major events organized by MVE during Military Appreciation Week
- **87** student veteran volunteers participated in **six** Military Appreciation Day athletic events
- **1,200+** students and stakeholders received monthly Paws and Stripes newsletter

RECOGNITION:

College of Distinction for 2023-24 Military Support — One of three in S.C.

Military Friendly: Silver Award — Second consecutive year
MilitaryFriendly.com

2023 Military Friendly® Employer — Fourth consecutive year
with a Gold designation for 2023 (Given to less than ten percent of applicants)

Ranked **No. 46** in Best Colleges for Veterans — Highest across S.C.
U.S. News & World Report

Best of the Best Top Veteran-Friendly Schools 2023
U.S. Veterans Magazine

Joined South Carolina Veteran Coalition