



VETERANS UPWARD BOUND GUARDIAN



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VETERANS UPWARD BOUND
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**BRIEFING
FROM THE TOP**

*By Julia O'Dell—
NAVUBPP President*

NAVUBPP Friends:

As I reflect on NAVUBPP activities over the last few months I definitely feel like "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." OK - maybe the TRIO grant writing competition is not as epic as the French Revolution, but there are times when I sure think it comes close. The results of the VUB competition were finally released the end of August. We are all saddened to learn that several of our existing projects, some of which had extensive records of successfully providing educational services to veterans, had lost their funding. We will truly miss our colleagues and will continue to fight for reinstatement of their grants.

As I write this article, we still are not certain about the identity of a couple of the newly funded projects. What we do know is that 44 VUB projects were funded, 11 of which are new projects. That means that 25% of the currently funded projects are new. I look forward to meeting all of the new VUB staff over the coming year. If you attend TRIO trainings or state/regional conferences and run into one of our new colleagues, please give them a hearty "welcome" to VUB.

Policy Seminar. Why should Veterans Upward Bound Directors attend the Policy Seminar? Advocating for the educational needs of veterans, specifically the disadvantaged veterans that we serve, simply WILL NOT happen if we don't do it. On March 9-11, 2008, COE will host the annual Policy Seminar. This is an opportunity for us, as members of the TRIO Community, to participate in planned visits to our Congressional Representatives in DC. It is also an opportunity for the VUB community to stand as a group and

advocate for issues that are important to us. It's important for us to attend! I know that it can be challenging to come up with funding for this trip because this is not something that you can use your grant funds to pay for. Start talking to your institution to see about getting funds from them to attend. You might also check with your state and regional associations to see if they provide grants for travel to Policy Seminar. Please let me know if you will be able to attend.

NAVUBPP Conference. Linda Williams-Cockrell, our Conference Chair, has been working hard on arrangements for our annual conference, which is now less than six months away!!! We will be at the Sheraton Oklahoma City on March 19-22, 2008. As always, there will be wonderful opportunities for professional development, sharing frustrations, and learning from each other. And remember, the NAVUBPP conference is not only for VUB Directors!

Advisors, academic personnel, and recruiters will also benefit from sharing ideas with other VUB staff members in similar positions. Please make this conference a success by planning to attend. Look for more information soon.

If you are interested in helping put this conference together, you can email Linda at lwh9394@louisiana.edu.

Volunteers Needed. As we get closer to the conference you will also be asked to think about serving on one of NAVUBPP's committees or running for a position on the NAVUBPP Board. In 2008 we will hold elections for our Vice-President, Treasurer, public Relations Officer, and Parliamentarian. We will also be choosing the location for our 2010 NAVUBPP conference (2008 will be in Oklahoma City and 2009 will be in S. Padre Island, TX). One of the things that we will be doing differently this year is the way that we go about choosing the location for our next conference. The NAVUBPP Board has

NAVUBPP UPDATES LOGO

NAVUBPP is moving forward with an emphasis on development activities to bring in donations to the organization. The organization felt that we had to spruce up our image so after overhauling the web site the organization has now improved the organization's logo. A strong attempt was made to keep the traditional components of the original logo but to update the art and to color the logo similar to the lapel pin.

Credit for the change goes to David Angle, an alumni and current staff of the Bowling Green, KY, VUB program. Randy Wilson, Public Relations Officer on the NAVUBPP Board of Directors, consulted on the design.

Different formats will be placed on the NAVUBPP website: <http://www.veteransupwardbound.org> on the page that highlights the Board of Directors. Just look at the bottom of that page for a link.



VUB PARTICIPANTS IN THE DON CHILDS MEMORIAL RUN in GERING NE

Submitted by Chris Wolf

The Don Childs Memorial Run in Gering, NE is a kickoff to the traditional weekend celebration of Oregon Trail Days. It is five days of celebration that include parades, quilt, art & car shows, food and craft booths, not to be out done by the Championship Chili Cook-offs!

But for one Veterans Upward Bound participant and five Upward Bound participants from Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE, this weekend started off a little differently. An Iraq war veteran himself, Oscar Valdez wanted to do something in memory of the fallen soldiers from Western Nebraska. Valdez spent six weeks as a team leader for the WNCC Summer Upward Bound program and encouraged many of the teen participants to run with him in the mornings. "As I would arrive for work, it was not unusual to see this group of runners heading back to the dorms after a morning run," said Chris Wolf, VUB Adviser. But this was more than just a run, it had a purpose.



As the runners stood at the starting line, these six runners sported t-shirts especially made to represent their purpose. On the back were the names of eight area fallen soldiers, and one area National Guard Captain who was killed in a motorcycle accident. On the front of the shirts, the phrase "Home of the Free, Because of the Brave" was there for all to see. "The kids were very

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VUB PARTICIPANTS IN THE DON CHILDS MEMORIAL RUN in GERING NE

excited to have the opportunity to run in the race, and for the reasons they ran," said Phil Darley, Upward Bound Assistant Program Director. "Some of them knew the families represented on the back of the shirts. They felt very inspired and a sense of accomplishment, as many of them were not long distance runners. Being involved and running as a team led by Oscar, the excited reaction from the crowds was very positive for this group of Upward Bound students."

The crowd exploded into applause as Valdez accompanied each of the teen runners across the finish line, proudly carrying the American flag high in the air. "For me it was a combination of emotions," said Chris Wolf, VUB Adviser. "I was proud to see one of our veterans in such a great leadership role, and as a Gold Star Mom, I was honored that my son's name was included on the list." Upward Bound students who ran were Andrew Barrios, Edwin Enriquez, Chris Jackson, Ryan Scott, and Jessica Lore.

VETERAN RECEIVES TWO YEAR SCHOLARSHIP TO WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Submitted by Marcia Stuckey

James Zitterkopf entered the United States Air Force immediately after graduation from Gering High School in 2001. His first assignment was as an Aerial Gunner and Air Rescue crewmember. He completed Wilderness Survival, Combat Survival, SEAR Survival Escape and Resistance Training, Advanced Resistance Training, Water Survival, Combat Parachutist, Basic Aircrew Aerial Gunner program, and, MH-60 Combat Qualification courses with honors.

After completion of all his training James was assigned to the 41 Rescue Squadron Moody AFBGA, with United States Special Operations command. He flew missions in Iraq (Baghdad International Airport) and in Kabul Afghanistan.

James is proud of his service and described in detail all of the specialist training he received to be a helicopter gunner in both Afghanistan and Iraq. "I flew in 103 hours of primary combat time, 55 combat sorties against hostile forces which led directly to the rescue of 22 Allied Collation forces and Iraqi nationals and numerous Iraqi civilians." For his efforts he was awarded the Air Force

Air Medal for performing combat missions resulting in lives saved and successful missions. While assigned James participated in training the Bulgarian, Romanian, Turkish, Croatian, Spanish, German, Polish, Uzbek, Finish, Algerian and Canadian Air Forces Search and Rescue Programs.

James is currently a member of the Veterans Upward Bound program at WNCC and was recently awarded the first two-year full tuition scholarship available to a member of VUB. Dr. Eileen Ely, President of WNCC awarded James this scholarship on behalf of the college. WNCC will continue to award one scholarship each year to a deserving veteran who has demonstrated a commitment to his/her success in their selected program of study and James, as the first recipient, is an outstanding example of the caliber of individuals who dedicate themselves to their military career and subsequently to their educational pursuits. James intends to complete his Associates Degree in Forestry/Wildlife Conservation and then transfer to a four year university to complete his Bachelors in the same degree.

PAT AULT LEAVES WKU VUB AFTER 5 YEARS

Submitted by Randy Wilson

Pat Ault has resigned from Veterans Upward Bound at Western Kentucky University after several years of great service to NAVUBPP. Julia O'Dell has already found a volunteer to replace Pat.

Bill Oliver from the **University of Arkansas** has agreed to accept the position Pat left in distributing labels.

Pat will be missed by both the project and NAVUBPP as she goes on to bigger challenges at the University in The Faculty Center For Excellence in Teaching.



NEW STAFF MEMBER AT ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Chris Chalko

The newest addition to the Roosevelt Veterans Upward Bound staff is Michelle Smith. A Chicago native and Army vet, she has worked in adult education for over a decade.

Michelle began her teaching career as a math instructor for GED Test Preparation courses at Olive Harvey City College in Chicago. A year later, she moved to the Pre-Credit program. This department provided remediation for new students pursuing degrees from the college. Michelle continued to teach math, but added reading and writing courses to her instructional load. In addition to putting in classroom time, she also held the position as acting Coordinator for the Pre-Credit department.

Prior to being activated for Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-91, Michelle completed the Russian course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. This intensive one year program helped Michelle rediscover her love for languages. She also completed an intensive language course at the Pushkin Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. After 20 years of on and off classes, she completed the B. A. degree in Russian Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

As a lifelong learner, Michelle has been active in seeking ways to assist adults achieve their academic goals. In 1992, she began an educational fund with her block club to reward all students from K-12 and beyond, including vocational and post-graduate studies. Later from 2001 until 2004, she volunteered as the instructor and coordinator of the adult education program for Englewood Cares Outreach, a Chicago-area not-for-profit organization. In addition to teaching vocational and general education courses, she began instructing ESL classes to an international student body in a private school.

"I understand the difficulty of getting an education, especially as we become a bit more mature. Disappointments, either financial or personal, or sometimes physical, can make you want to stop. But I have learned a couple of things. Persistence is the key and it always works out when you follow your passion. I did not start out expecting to be in education nor did I ever consider that I would LOVE teaching as much as I do; but it is, by far, the BEST career I could have ever asked for! The gift is truly in the giving."

NAVUBPP ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2007

The following Veterans are the recipients of the 2007 NAVUBPP Scholarships. This year, due to good fortune and membership contributions, NAVUBPP exceeded the usual five \$500 scholarships.

KENNETH DERRY

Colorado State University—Pueblo



Mr. Derry is a Criminal Justice major with a 3.83 GPA based on 83 hours completed.

Kenneth Derry was recently nominated as a TRIO Achiever for 2007. Besides this honor he is a scholarship winner, a honor graduate, and holds an office in Student Government. He has attended school on the GI Bill but that support is due to run out before he graduates.

When Kenneth left the military he was surprised that he could not get a job and after 7 months of unemployment he came to VUB. He utilized the program's services and worked 3 years for the VUB program as well.

In his essay he speaks of a "safe zone for veterans" that the VUB office provides where veterans can come and feel at home and free to talk about their military views.

He suggests that not only will this scholarship assist him in staying in school to realize his dream but will assist other veterans that he will come in contact with as a work study in the VUB program.

KENNETH DEWITT

University of Pennsylvania



Mr. DeWitt is a Liberal Arts-English major with a 3.5 GPA based on 12 hours completed.

Kenneth is a member of Student Support Services and is on the academic honors list.

Kenneth went from being an employee of the City of Philadelphia to a divorced single dad. Later he lived with a sister and became disabled, depressed and dependent on alcohol. He depended on food stamps and public assistance and Social Security Disability.

He learned of VUB and entered the program to find encouragement and positive feedback. He has been alcohol free ever since and became an honor student as he realized his dream was possible and he did not have to depend on public programs to survive.

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He receives some grants and other assistance but still needs more to pay for all his educational bills That is where the NAVUBPP Scholarship will benefit this VUB alumni.

RICHARD GONYEA

University of Tennessee—Knoxville



Mr. Gonyea is a Computer Engineering major with a 3.92 GPA based on 35 hours completed.

Richard has been on the Dean's List three semesters and volunteers with the Fire Department and Toys for Tots.

He credits VUB with giving him much needed confidence. Until coming to VUB he had toyed with the idea of attending school but backed out several times. He states in his essay that VUB is still very supportive and continues to bolster his confidence.

Richard's wife works so he can attend school but her job does not even provide insurance so he must pay for insurance out of his school aid. With such financial difficulties the NAVUBPP Scholarship would not only be an honor but a necessary resource to help him pay education bills.

He stated that he does not believe he would be successful without the assistance of VUB.

SUSAN MARTIN

East Tennessee State University



Ms. Martin is a Criminal Justice-Sociology major with a 3.59 GPA based on 68 hours completed.

Susan is a member of the Volunteer Rescue Squad, is very active at school in providing tutoring and working with an Honor Society, holds a place on the Dean's List, is in a non-traditional Adult Honor Society and was a team leader on a web paged design project.

When she was discharged she believed all she could be was a wife and a mother for the rest of her life. After three marriages and 4 children she says her dream is now becoming a reality.

She credits VUB for helping her develop and maintain self-esteem and in helping determine her career path.

As a single mother and full-time college student she is unable to work outside the home so she depends on assistance and needs more help in paying for the bills. The NAVUBPP Scholarship will contribute to that much needed assistance.

She is now a Junior and plans to help victims of

Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes and of any form of physical, sexual or mental abuse.

ALEJANDRO ROCHA

TELECU

Combat Trackers Scholarship



Mr. Rocha is a Criminal Justice major with a 3.0 GPA based on 15 units completed.

Alejandro is a baseball coach. In addition, he is very supportive of VUB earning a perfect attendance award, becoming a liaison between VUB and PCC and leading VUB campus tours.

This three tour veteran of Iraq found VUB a few months after getting out of the military and credits the program with opening the door to education for him. VUB inspired him to go to school, assisted him with his academic skills and developed his confidence. Without VUB he feels his chances were slim of surviving and he would most likely re-enlist in the military. But because of VUB he is a committed student.

He says he had to take baby steps to get where he is. He said hi father and VUB are his strongest role models.

RACE STORK

Western Kentucky University



Mr. Stork is a Nursing (BSN) major with a 3.93 GPA based on 120 hours completed.

Race is a VUB Alumni of the year. He is a soccer and little league coach. He is the president of the KY Association of Nursing Students. Race also has an Associates Degree with High Distinction and has held a spot on the Dean's List.

In his essay Race said that VUB has always been there for him. He started VUB back in the 1990's and earned an Associate Degree in 1997 and credits staff members with helping him make decisions but not making them for him.

In 2002 he returned to school to get an engineering degree but had to leave because of college, employment and fatherhood.

Never giving up, he came back to VUB in 2005 when the factory where he worked moved its operations to Mexico and now he has nearly completed requirements for his BSN.

He credits VUB for keeping tabs on him and continuing to encourage him.

Upon graduation he hopes to become a nurse at a military installation where he can help veterans.

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OSCAR VALDEZ

Western Nebraska Community College
Submitted by Marsha Stuckey



Mr. Valdez is a Criminal Justice major with a 3.32 GPA based on 51 hours completed. He received 16 hours of CLEP credit for Spanish Language.

Oscar has been selected into Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

He is a youth sponsor for several local churches, Peer-to-Peer Counselor for the Army National Guard and youth mentor for the Panhandle Community Services. Oscar is a single parent with one son. He works part-time while he attends school and depends on financial assistance to remain in school and support his son. He stated that without VUB he would be unable to attend school.

Oscar is enrolled in an internship with the Scottsbluff County Sheriff's office this semester and due to his heroic efforts to rescue an eighteen year old female from a car submerged on its top in a irrigation ditch, has been awarded the "John E. Hanley" award for exceptional service. He is the first intern to ever receive this nomination and Jim Lawson, Scottsbluff County Sheriff had this to say about Oscar's efforts. "It has been brought to my attention that upon your arrival, you were told that a young female was trapped inside the submerged vehicle. Without hesitation, you immediately followed Sergeant Troy Brown into the water and were joined by Deputy Sheriff Kris Still. I have been told by members of the public as well as our own department that you, Sergeant Brown and Deputy Still made numerous attempts to locate and free the trapped woman, but to no avail.

In addition, you stayed in the water upon the arrival of emergency rescue personnel and assisted until the body was recovered. According to independent sources, you performed admirably and were considered a valuable asset to other public safety personnel on the scene."

Sheriff Lawson also noted that the water was murky, cold and moving very fast and of course the accident happened at night and the victim was trapped in rapidly moving water eight feet deep in an upside down vehicle.

Oscar will be recognized on a plaque that hangs in the County Court House. He is a fine example of the veterans who we strive to support by our NAVUBPP scholarships and we applaud his demonstration of all those qualities that are so admired in our servicemen/women - strength, courage and honor.

He states that his family is supportive of his educational goals but he depends on financial assistance

and the NAVUBPP Scholarship will be a great asset as he meets his financial responsibilities to remain in school.

VUB VETERAN KERRI ARNOLD IS THE NEW SECRETARY AT WESTERN NEBRASKA

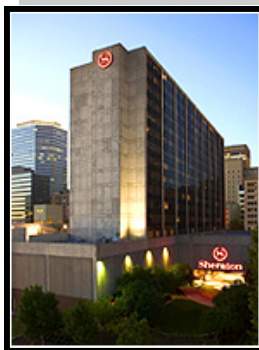
Submitted by Chris Wolf

The Veterans Upward Bound at Western Nebraska Community College, in Scottsbluff, NE welcomes Kerri Arnold as the new VUB secretary. Kerri recently graduated from Western Nebraska Community College with an Associate's Degree in Secondary Education.



She is a veteran, spending six years active duty service in the United States Navy. Kerri adds a unique perspective in her new position, having been a VUB participant, and assisting in the office as a work study student. She is furthering her academic career as a full time student currently attending online classes at Chadron State College in order to receive a Bachelor's Degree. "Working for the VUB program allows me the time to work around my school schedule, as well as being a single parent and spending time with my 5 year old daughter and family", says Kerri. "There is a great rapport with the staff as well as the veterans. I couldn't have asked for a better place to work."

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE NAVUBPP CONFERENCE IN THE SPRING of 2008



The 2008 National NAVUBPP conference will be March 19-22, 2008 at the Sheraton in Oklahoma City. Once the membership is contacted on the listserv and given a specific URL for registration they may register. The cut-off date to register for a hotel room is February 14, 2008.

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND FUNDING RESULTS

In the most recent past funding cycle Veterans Upward Bound had 45 programs funded nationally. The new funding cycle has been less generous and we now have 44 programs funded.

We are proud to announce the continued funding of 33 programs from the last cycle

Existing Projects that have been re-funded

1. Arizona State University
2. Aspira Inc. de Puerto Rico
3. Austin Peay State University
4. Colorado State University - Pueblo
5. Connors State College
6. Cuyahoga Community College
7. Davis & Elkins College
8. Delgado Community College
9. East Central University
10. East Tennessee State University
11. Gadsden State Community College
12. Metropolitan State College of Denver
13. Minneapolis College
14. Montana State University - Northern
15. North Dakota State University
16. Roosevelt University
17. Seminole State College
18. Southeastern Louisiana University
19. TELACU Education Foundation
20. Truckee Meadows Community College
21. University of Arkansas
22. University of Kansas
23. University of Louisiana at Lafayette
24. University of Massachusetts at Boston
25. University of Pennsylvania
26. University of Tennessee
27. University of Texas - Brownsville
28. University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
29. Vincennes University - Indianapolis
30. Wayne State University
31. Weber State University
32. Western Kentucky University
33. Western Nebraska Community College

We are very happy to welcome newly funded programs and offer our assistance to each of them to make sure they get a sound start on serving veterans.

New Projects

34. Trident Technical College, SC

35. LaGuardia Community College, NY
36. Cincinnati State Tech. and Community College, OH
37. Wichita State University, KS
38. Anoka Ramsey Community College, MN
39. Pensacola Junior College, FL
40. N. Alabama Center for Educational Excellence, AL
41. Pulaski Technical College, Arkansas
42. Haskell Indian Nations University, KS
43. Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, WY
44. Guam Community College

And, we are saddened to have to bid farewell to six programs and we wish their participants and staff good luck in their future without Veterans Upward Bound.

Existing Projects that have not been re-funded

1. Bluefield State College
2. Delaware State University
3. Humboldt State College
4. Miami-Dade College
5. University of the District of Columbia
6. Yavapai College

MINNEAPOLIS TO OPEN ITS VETS' WELCOME CENTER

Submitted by Joy Wise

The Minneapolis Community and Technical College VUB program is planning the opening of its new Veterans Welcome Center on October 9th. Dignitaries from the education, political and veterans' communities will be invited to the celebration.

The concept of Welcome Centers was initiated in the fall of 2006 by Governor Pawlenty and the Minnesota State Legislature to welcome returning OIF and OEF vets back to the state and to all state college campuses. The MCTC Center will provide military veterans and their families with a warm environment where they can obtain information on school and veterans' services, referrals to pertinent agencies, support and interaction with other veterans, and do homework in a comfortable study area. The center will be open to all veterans on campus and will be supervised by Steve Wozniak, VUB assistant director, and staffed by veterans who are work-study students at the college.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF OSCAR VALDEZ

Submitted by Marcia Stuckey

Oscar Valdez is currently a full-time student at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. When he first entered WNCC and Veterans Upward Bound he tested into Basic Math and Basic Reading. He still has College Algebra ahead of him, but going from only developmental classes to being named to Who's Who in American Junior Colleges this last year is a big leap, one most of us would be unable to make. Oscar plans to graduate from WNCC in the spring of 2008 and continue his education at a four-year college majoring in Criminal Justice.

Along with his studies, Oscar runs competitively. He completed the Oregon Trail 5K run this summer carrying the American flag aloft all the way. He is a member of the Nebraska National All Guard Marathon Team. While in the Guard he received the Homeland Defense Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and was nominated this year for the Sergeant of the Year Award for the Nebraska National Guard.

Oscar works part-time for the Scottsbluff Public Schools as their Special Education and Handicapped Transporter. He is a youth sponsor for several local churches, has been a peer-to-peer counselor for the Army National Guard and is a youth mentor for Panhandle Community Services. Oscar was a Team Leader for the Upward Bound summer program this year and also drives the college bus for athletes as they compete across the region. How he finds time to do all of this, no one knows. But Oscar can do it all and carry a smile on his face the entire time, while the rest of us would drop out from exhaustion. He openly expresses his thankfulness for everything VUB has done for him and we will be very glad to see him graduate from WNCC in the spring of 2008.

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BRIEFING FROM THE TOP

formed an Ad-Hoc 'Conference Site Selection Committee'. This committee will be responsible for developing options for the location of the 2010 conference. Anybody who is interested in serving on this new committee should email me at jodell@ku.edu.

Thanks. As I end this I want to thank a couple of people. I'm sure you are aware that Barry Brodsky has had to step down as NAVUBPP Vice-President. Barry

provided insight and determination and I very much appreciate his efforts in getting us ready to present our position as we launched into reauthorization season. Barry was also instrumental in our continuing battle to gain more funding for more VUB projects. I would be remiss if I did not also send a 'thank you' out to Leroy Chavez for agreeing to fill the remainder of Barry's term. Leroy was willing to step up to the plate once again and is one of our hardest workers.

Julia

BLACK HILLS AREA VETERANS UPWARD BOUND RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY AT WESTERN DAKOTA TECH.

Submitted by Rich Rhoda

Staff members from the Black Hills area Veterans Upward Program (VUB) attended and manned a table at the Western Dakota Tech (WDT) Newcomers Orientation/Career Fair on September 5th, 2007. In attendance



was (right) Rick Rhode, the Black Hills area VUB Program Advisor, (left) Cathy Payne, the VUB Basic Writing Course Instructor and (center) Dwight Holt, the VUB VA Work Study. The purpose of this event was to give new WDT students an opportunity to meet with the various service related agencies and organizations from Rapid City as well a networking with potential employers. The event is held at the beginning of each Fall and Spring semesters, and as usual was very well attended. Cathy, Dwight and Rick met and welcomed numerous Veterans to the WDT program as well as briefed them on the opportunities and benefits of participating in the Veterans Upward Bound program.

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