



CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL, HOUSING AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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- Champlain spends \$818,130 annually to support veteran and military service members pursuing their education at Champlain. This includes \$568k in institutional scholarships and \$250k to support our portion of the Yellow Ribbon program.
- This past semester, Champlain announced that we would extend our truEd pricing to include members of the National Guard, their spouses and adult children. This means National Guard members and their families are able to pursue a degree at Champlain College for just \$167 per credit, instead of the standard \$641 per credit – that's 75% less than our standard CPS tuition rate.
- We believe extending this pricing, on top of our long-standing history of providing scholarships to veterans, demonstrates Champlain's commitment to the National Guard.
- Even before our new pricing structure went into effect this semester, we were seeing steady increases each year in enrollments from National Guard members.
- We've grown from 1 student in 2010 to now having 17 at the undergraduate level and an additional 7 National Guard members enrolled at the graduate level this semester.
- At the heart of this matter is choice – choice for the National Guard members to select programs and educational opportunities that work for them and their families.
- We believe benefits should include a provision, in some shape or form, for Guard members to have access to the full range of educational opportunities available here in Vermont.
- Sometimes students' choices are made based on academic program offerings. Our one traditional age National Guard student is enrolled in Computer Game Programming. We are the only college in the state to offer this program.
- Other times student choice is made on mode of delivery or for convenience – in these cases our line programs are terrific options for Guard members. The VSC do offer online education, but their current suite of offerings pale in comparison to Champlain's 40+ degree programs fully available online – work we've been offering since the early 1990s.
- We recognize the VTNG's need to develop an effective recruitment tool. Positioning benefits alongside those of neighboring states make good sense. As does continuing to provide our Guard members with access to the full range of educational opportunities within the State.

- Champlain's outstanding career statistics demonstrate the quality of education that students receive at Champlain. For example: 96% of the May 2015 graduating class reported career success – with 93% finding employment and 3% going on to graduate school within a 12 months of graduation.
- Our track record of relevant programs, career success and critical skill development is an attractive option for many National Guard students. We would like to be able to help Guard members leverage the power of a Champlain education, in addition to the options available through the VSC.
- Therefore we are asking that you consider supporting Guard member's choice to pursue education at Vermont's private institutions, like Champlain, by not limiting educational benefits only to the University of Vermont or Vermont State Colleges.