

A legacy of veteran success Arizona State University



Pat Tillman's legacy

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center at Arizona State University is proud to have Pat Tillman as our namesake, and we strive to live up to the values that guided him. Pat's enthusiasm for everything he did inspires the work we do at the veterans center. Like Pat, we share a passion for excellence, a passion for leadership and a passion for honor. And most of all, we are passionate about supporting military-connected students as they pursue their goals.

The student, athlete and patriot

A dedicated ASU student, Pat was awarded the Clyde B. Smith Academic Award in 1996 and 1997, and named the Sporting News Honda Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1997 and the Sun Angel Student Athlete of the Year in 1998. He earned a BS in marketing and graduated summa cum laude in three and a half years. While playing for the Arizona Cardinals, Pat pursued a master's degree in history from ASU. He continued to pursue knowledge throughout his life, reading voraciously and engaging in debate to develop and share new ideas.

At his high school in San Jose, California, Pat switched from playing baseball to football, despite his smaller size. He excelled on the high school field, and his talent earned him a scholarship to play for ASU. He continued to excel in the sport at the university as a linebacker, leading the Sun Devils to the 1997 Rose Bowl after an undefeated season. He earned three consecutive selections to the Pac-10 All-Academic Football Team, a first-team Academic All-American honor, and the NCAA's Post-Graduate

Scholarship for academic and athletic excellence. The Arizona Cardinals selected Pat in the seventh round of the 1998 NFL draft.

In 2002, moved by the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States, Pat walked away from a \$3.6 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the U.S. Army. On the evening of April 22, 2004, Pat's unit was ambushed as it traveled through eastern Afghanistan, leading to his tragic and untimely death.

Following his death, his family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation. Created to honor Pat's legacy by inspiring others to create their own, the foundation invests in military veterans and their spouses through academic scholarships — building a diverse community of leaders committed to serving others.

To read more about Pat's story, visit veterans.asu.edu.

Content sourced from the Pat Tillman Foundation and Biography.com



A 7.5-foot bronze statue of Pat Tillman, created by ASU alumna Jeff Carol Davenport, stands outside the Tillman Tunnel, which leads players onto Frank Kush Field at Sun Devil Stadium.

Greetings from the Pat Tillman Veterans Center at ASU

I'd like to personally thank you for taking the time to learn more about Pat Tillman's legacy, the veterans center, and the military-connected learners and student veterans who we support.

The goal of this publication is to share some of our many student success stories, as well as lay out a vision for how we can evolve and continue supporting our growing population of military-affiliated students.

Whether you are considering applying to ASU or have a passion for supporting current military members, veterans and their families, **we're eager to connect, and look forward to meeting you.**

Sincerely,



Shawn Banzhaf
Executive Director
Pat Tillman Veterans Center





Student veterans enjoy a lighthearted moment in a Tempe campus classroom.

Serving the students who served us — the history of the Pat Tillman Veterans Center

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center opened at Arizona State University in August 2011, with the first office located in the Memorial Union on the Tempe campus. At that time, the center served just under 2,000 student veterans and military-connected learners with success-oriented programs and VA benefits processing services. Since then, the population of supported students has grown to more than 10,500, with more than 2,800 on ASU's metro Phoenix area campuses and nearly 7,500 attending online.



Positioning students for success

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center now has four additional offices located at the Downtown Phoenix, Polytechnic and West campuses, and at Sun Devil Stadium. Each center lives up to the legacy of our namesake, Pat Tillman, by serving a unique group of student veterans and military-connected learners. The center's mission is to ensure the success of students throughout their academic experience at ASU and beyond.

A military-connected staff

The veterans center staff is comprised of veterans, current military personnel, dependent family members, and others connected to the military or veteran experience. We've gone through the transition from the military, and many of our team members have walked the same path current student veterans and military-connected learners are now traveling. This enables the veterans center staff to build a strong support framework, resulting in more than 12,000 military-affiliated student graduates since 2011.

Success story

Amanda T.

Current student veteran

U.S. Army

Master's in social work

Soon after starting at ASU, Amanda knew that it was the right school for her. "I am more than happy because I have been able to grow and have so much support from the school." That support begins at the Pat Tillman Veterans Center. "The veterans center truly embodies everything that Pat Tillman valued and there isn't another place like it." And for Amanda, that starts with the people who work at the veterans center. "We have some amazing veteran advocates here that are willing to help in whatever way they can." To student veterans just starting their ASU experience, Amanda offers this wisdom: "Take the time to remember why you are doing what you're doing. Write it down on a piece of paper and tuck it away in a drawer. When things get hard, pull it out and don't give up."





Success story

L. Gleason

Current student veteran

U.S. Air Force

Doctorate in anthropology

Along with its great anthropology program, one of the things Gleason likes most about ASU is that there is always something to do: football games, shows at ASU Gammage, the gym and especially the Pat Tillman Veterans Center Veteran Voices speaker series. "I always learn something from their speaker series, and I have had awesome interactions with other student veterans and the PTVC staff." Gleason says it's the community spirit that the veterans center fosters that makes it such a special place. "Their work recognizes my past experiences as a veteran and makes me feel like part of a community." For new students, Gleason shares this advice: "Structure can be important, so talk to an academic advisor and make a plan to complete your degree."

Success story

Wanda Wright

Recent student veteran graduate

U.S. Air Force; Arizona Air National Guard

Master of Education in educational leadership (2017)

Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Wanda has been dedicated to military service her entire career, joining the Arizona Air National Guard after leaving active duty with the U.S. Air Force, and currently serving as director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. Years after earning her bachelor's degree at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Wanda decided to further her education by enrolling at ASU and earning her master's in educational leadership in 2017. She remains connected to ASU and the Pat Tillman Veterans Center, having been instrumental in the development of the veterans center's Treks for Vets program. She was also the keynote speaker at the Veterans Honor Stole Ceremony in 2017. To student veterans just starting their academic experience, Wanda says, "Stick with it. It can be difficult to manage all that life throws at you, but you have to make your schooling a priority and finish."





Success story

Chris Cadeau

Recent student veteran graduate

U.S. Marines

BA in sports journalism (2018)

Director of Public Relations and
Broadcasting, Kalamazoo Wings

A veteran advocate once said to Chris, "If you come [to ASU], I promise everything is going to be OK." So he did. And it was. In fact, it was more than OK. Chris found his home at ASU and the Pat Tillman Veterans Center. "The veterans center gave me the sense of purpose I had been missing since I left the service. I now have lifelong friends who are completely invested in my future and family." Chris says the veterans center helped him to not only become a better student, but a better husband and father, too. "The entire student veteran is important at the Pat Tillman Veterans Center." Chris shares this advice for new student veterans: "Use the veterans center as a way to open the door to your future, but don't use it to close the door on the rest of the ASU world. That means jump into your degree path with the students and faculty in that specialty and allow them to guide you toward your dreams."

Success story

Javier A.

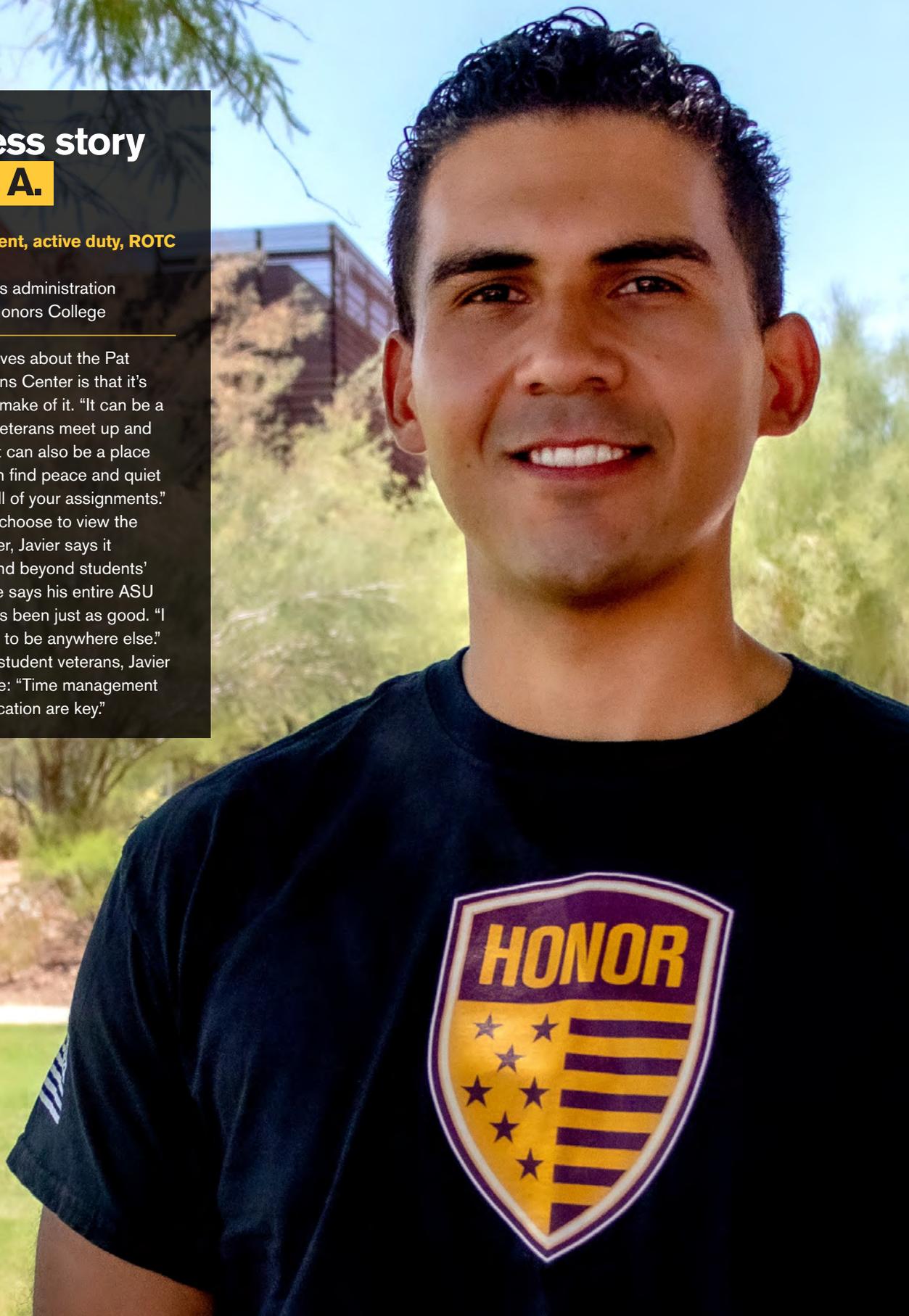
Current student, active duty, ROTC

U.S. Marines

BA in business administration

Barrett, The Honors College

What Javier loves about the Pat Tillman Veterans Center is that it's whatever you make of it. "It can be a place where veterans meet up and network, but it can also be a place where you can find peace and quiet to complete all of your assignments." However you choose to view the veterans center, Javier says it goes above and beyond students' needs. And he says his entire ASU experience has been just as good. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else." For incoming student veterans, Javier has this advice: "Time management and communication are key."





Success story **HyeJung P.**

Current student veteran

U.S. Army Reserves

PhD in psychology

MA in psychology (2019)

Tillman Scholar

HyeJung says she loves that the Pat Tillman Veterans Center offers opportunities for her to get to know other student veterans and veteran-friendly employers. “The support I receive is so personal and tailored to my needs that I sometimes wonder if the Pat Tillman Veterans Center exists just for me.” HyeJung says many student veterans feel out of place during their first semester at college, but the veterans center is a space for all student veterans to come together and find social support and camaraderie. Her advice to students just beginning their journey: “The battle buddy system works in college as well. This person can be another veteran, a classmate or a student from a club you joined.”

Success story

George S.

Recent dependent student graduate

BA in sports business (2022)
Gold Star family member

Having a parent who served in the U.S. Army, George attended ASU on military dependent benefits. After starting at the university, he made lots of friends and connections, and had plenty of new experiences. The Pat Tillman Veterans Center was the one place on campus where he felt he could be himself. "I could exit the school vibes and just relax and be me." He said the veterans center helped him with finances and life in general. George's plans after graduating included moving to Charlotte or Indianapolis to work in marketing for NASCAR or Indycar. His advice to those just starting at ASU: "Don't be scared to interact with people."





Success story Maria E.

Recent student veteran graduate

U.S. Navy
BSE in mechanical engineering
systems (2022)

First-generation college student Maria earned her degree in the STEM field, and the Pat Tillman Veterans Center was behind her every step of the way. “The team at the veterans center helped me from my transition into the university, to the resources and support I needed to prepare myself for the industry.” As a nontraditional student, she said knowing the veterans center was behind her was crucial to her success. She also appreciates how they keep student veterans connected. “Take full advantage of the clubs and programs offered on your campus. For me, this created a strong network of peers who guided me to opportunities that helped me to become successful beyond the classroom.”

Keeping students connected through events

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center offers events and information sessions throughout the year to keep students connected and informed.



Welcome events

This seminar-style orientation introduces student veterans and dependents to valuable benefits information, the enrollment process, and resources and support offered by the veterans center and ASU.

Veterans Honor Stole Ceremony

In partnership with the ASU Alumni Association, this special convocation ceremony recognizes student veterans who have earned their degrees.

veterans.asu.edu/veterans-honor-stole-ceremony



Salute to Service

Salute to Service is a series of events held during the first two weeks of November to honor all who serve or have served. Events include a football game, concert and blood drive.

veterans.asu.edu/salute-service

ASU Veterans Ball

Inspired by the tradition and pageantry of the military ball, several ASU student veteran clubs host the ASU Veterans Ball, an honoring of past service and a celebration of the new mission at ASU that student veterans are embarking on.

ASU Family Weekend

Usually held during Salute to Service, ASU Family Weekend is an opportunity for students to invite their families to campus to take part in fun and educational activities, and celebrate Sun Devil pride and tradition.

eoss.asu.edu/family/get-involved/family-weekend

Pat's Run

This annual 4.2-mile run honors the life and legacy of Pat Tillman, while raising funds for the Pat Tillman Foundation's Tillman Scholars program.

pattillmanfoundation.org/pats-run

Building community for military-connected students

ASU offers an abundance of programs that support student veterans and their dependents with academics, VA benefits, professional development and emotional well-being.

Academics and professional development

Tillman TIME

To prepare student veterans for a career after graduation, this program connects students with employers, provides mentoring and internship opportunities, and offers possible employment after graduation.

Veterans Scholar Program

A joint venture between ASU's Public Service Academy and the Pat Tillman Veterans Center, this program helps student veterans gain skills and confidence to become leaders in the civilian world and their careers.

Veterans Writing Circle

This partnership between ASU's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, the Office for Veteran Military Academic Engagement and the Pat Tillman Veterans Center offers student veterans a space to write together.

Tutoring program

The Student Veteran Tutoring Team offers extra academic support for veterans.

VA benefits

VetSuccess on Campus

Sponsored by the Veterans Benefits Administration, this program places a vocational rehabilitation counselor on campus to offer support to veteran students and their eligible family members. The counselor offers assistance with such matters as helping find the right career, information on VA benefits, locating community resources and more.

VA work-study program

The veterans center offers VA work-study positions at all campus locations for qualified students. They'll help fellow veterans and dependents while gaining professional experience for their resume.

Rally Point

Students can get information, ask questions and participate in discussions about GI Bill® education benefits at these interactive webinars.

ASU 42

Veteran Academic Success class: ASU 42 Online Orientation

In this one-week virtual program for veteran and military-affiliated students enrolled in online classes, students explore academic, veteran and career resources; discover the value of a university degree; discuss academic integrity; explore the tools used in online courses; and craft a plan to balance work, school and life.

LIA 294

Student Success for Veterans

Designed for veterans taking courses on campus, Student Success for Veterans fosters connections between student veterans while they learn about various academic and student support resources offered by ASU, the state of Arizona and the Department of Veteran Affairs.



“Overall, **LIA 294** has been an amazing experience and taught me more about myself than I would have ever guessed, and **I can continue to grow as an individual both mentally and physically because of it!**”

Lorenzo A.

U.S. Marine Corps
BS in community health

Wellness

Veteran Support Circle

This weekly program offers student veterans a safe environment to build camaraderie and connections with other student veterans through shared experiences of service.

Family Matters program

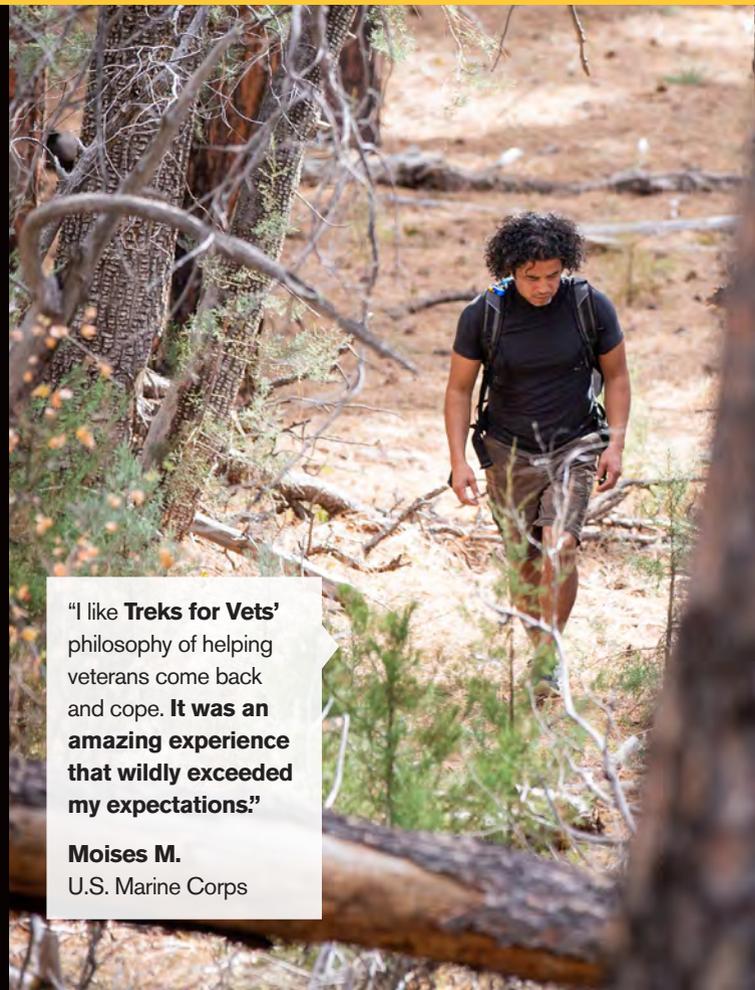
This program for veteran dependent students covers VA education benefits. Students receive guidance on processing their paperwork and learn about residency status, housing and the Yellow Ribbon program. Additionally, students learn about ASU resources and meet fellow veteran dependent students.

Veteran Voices

At this monthly event, a panel of ASU students, faculty, staff and alumni share their experience of serving in the military and continuing their service at ASU. Panel topics include the military experience for minority groups, being a military member and a parent, and more.

Treks for Vets

This four-day journey into the Arizona wilderness enables student veterans to recharge, reimagine, reinvigorate and reconnect with fellow veterans, with a goal of finding support and staying on track to graduation.



“I like **Treks for Vets'** philosophy of helping veterans come back and cope. **It was an amazing experience that wildly exceeded my expectations!**”

Moises M.

U.S. Marine Corps

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center Vision 2030

The Pat Tillman Veterans Center has been continuously growing and supporting more veteran and military-connected students since it was founded in 2011. But we're not standing still. **Vision 2030 will take us to another level, and we need motivated stakeholders to help realize these goals.**

The **Veteran and Military Institute for Professional Excellence** will transform and enhance ASU's role as a national leader in supporting active-duty servicemembers and veterans and their families.

Funding

To initiate the Veteran and Military Institute of Professional Excellence, our goal is a \$25M endowment. The Center for Consulting and Training Services will then secure a continuous revenue stream, as well as offer opportunities for sponsorship such as naming the institute and each center.



Pat Tillman Veterans Center: The veterans center offers full-service support for current students on every campus including academic and financial aid advising, GI Bill® and DoD Tuition Assistance support, success advocacy, and more.

Center for Academic Innovation and Analytics: In collaboration with ASU colleges, schools and other academic divisions, this center's responsibilities will include research and publications, retention studies, and acting as a data repository.

Center for Transition and Employment Services: This office will serve recent graduates or students about to graduate by offering support with transitioning to a career through upskilling courses, specialized academic recruiting and other programs.

The institute will be comprised of five centers.

Center for Development and Community Engagement: Focusing on internal and external partnerships, this center will be involved in securing sponsorships and philanthropy, creating grants and scholarships, holding community events, advocating for policy, and more.

Center for Consulting and Training Services: This business unit will support veteran services including VA compliance auditing, workflow analysis and educational seminars, and it will act as a storefront for Pat Tillman Veterans Center merchandise.



“Somewhere inside, we hear a voice. It leads us in the direction of the person we wish to become. But it is up to us whether or not to follow.”

— Pat Tillman

Helping veterans pay for college

Veterans and military-affiliated students have a wide range of scholarships and programs to help them pay for college.

veterans.asu.edu/scholarships



Why give?

Whether by serving in the military or serving their family while a loved one was deployed, the military-connected and student veteran population has given so much — now it's our turn to give back.

When you donate to the Pat Tillman Veterans Center, you're investing in the future of our military-affiliated students by funding programs and services devoted exclusively to helping them succeed in college.

veterans.asu.edu/give

ASU Veterans Education Fund

The ASU Veterans Education Fund was established to offer scholarships to multiple students through the gifts of anonymous donors. The contributors are committed to the success of veterans at ASU and across the nation.

Family First Military Veterans Scholarship

This scholarship is for undergraduate students at ASU who are Chapter 35 benefits-eligible dependents of military veterans. The award is selected and administered by the ASU Foundation.



"My degree program went online during the pandemic, and my BAH was significantly less each month, which caused a huge financial hardship. Winning the Veterans Education Fund scholarship reduced stress, helped close the financial gap and allowed me to focus more on my coursework. Thank you to the Pat Tillman Veterans Center and to those who generously donate to the VEF. **It truly made an impact during my last year at ASU!**"

Gwendolyn M.

Recent student veteran graduate
Army National Guard veteran
BS in nonprofit leadership and management (2022)



Downtown Phoenix campus
University Center Building,
room 130



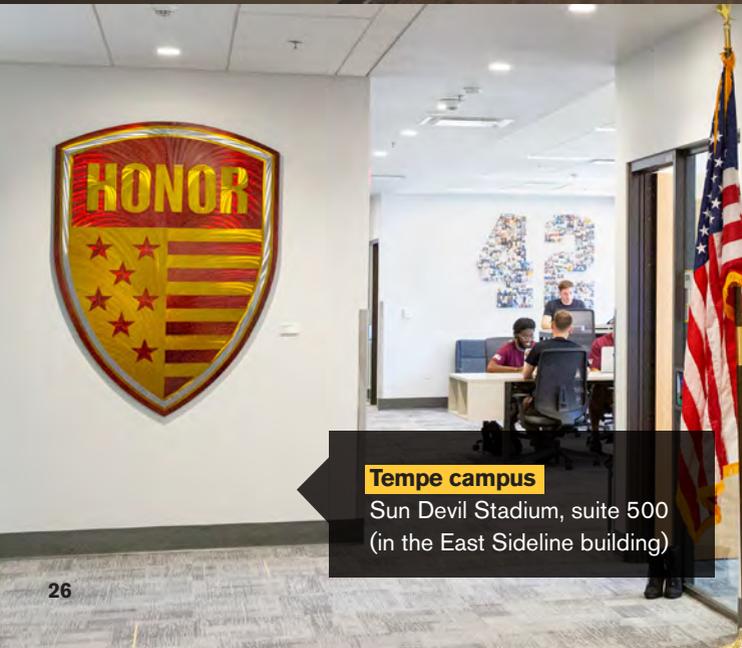
Polytechnic campus
Administration Building,
suite 110



Tempe campus
Memorial Union, lower level,
room 75



West campus
University Center Building,
room 101



Tempe campus
Sun Devil Stadium, suite 500
(in the East Sideline building)



Thank you for supporting the mission of the Pat Tillman Veterans Center and all of the outstanding veteran and military-connected students we serve.

Year after year, ASU tops the lists
in areas that matter:

#1 in innovation

ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford – U.S. News & World Report, 2016–2023

#1 in sustainability

ASU ahead of UCLA and Yale – Sierra Club, 2021

#1 in global impact

ASU ahead of MIT and NYU – Times Higher Education, 2020–2022

No. 1 in the U.S. for innovation and global impact. No. 1 in North America for sustainability.

Learn to thrive

#FutureSunDevil

Meet other prospective Sun Devils on our social media channels.



@futuresundevils



@ASU

"GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
More information about education benefits offered by the VA is available at the official
U.S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

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