Veteran Student Life at the University of Maryland
Mission & Overview

**Mission of VSL:** To enhance the mind, body, and soul of the veteran from the transition into the UMD community and beyond.

**Overview:**
- Selected as a U.S. Department of Education Grant Recipient to become a Center of Excellence for Veteran Success
- UMD has a history of being a veteran centric campus
  - Memorial Chapel to Veterans Football Game & Reception
Enhancing the Mind

Scholarships:
• During the 2012-2013 academic year, UMD distributed $67,500 in scholarships to veterans and family members

P.A.V.E.:
• UMD has engaged in a Memorandum of Understanding to become an expanded site for Peer Advisors for Veteran Education program

Faculty/Staff Education:
• Presentations to faculty and staff
• Faculty/Staff guide
• Creation of a film in order to help educate faculty & staff
Enhancing Body

**Connecting to outside organization:**
- Connecting veterans with organizations such as Team River Runner & Team Red, White, & Blue
- Alex Nielson, UMD veteran, guided first blind veteran kayaker through Grand Canyon

**Increasing participation in on campus activities:**
- Fundraiser using “Boot Camp” style PT workouts to raise money for homeless veterans
- Heavier recruiting for intramural sports
- Outdoor recreation/high ropes course
- Heavy interest in developing teams for Tough Mudder, etc.
Enhancing Soul

Connecting with outside organizations:
• Connecting veterans to organizations such as Veterans Writing Project, Mission Continues, & Story Corps

Community Service:
• Working to develop signature veteran community service activity for both veterans and general student community

Memorial Chapel:
• Inclusive veteran events such as 9/11 reflection & Veterans Day service