



VETERAN'S LOUNGE

IN WARNER HALL

SUNY COBLESKILL HAS RECENTLY APPROVED AND ESTABLISHED WARNER HALL ROOM 105 AS THE NEW VETERAN'S LOUNGE FOR THE CAMPUS.

Thanks to the efforts of the campus administration, Student Veteran's Association, and members of the Campus Facilities and Space Committee, SUNY Cobleskill now has a designated space for veterans. The Office of Veteran's Affairs is seeking additional support to help enhance this space for our student veterans.

SUNY Cobleskill currently enrolls approximately 70 student veterans. SUNY Cobleskill has been recognized as a "military friendly school", by the company Military Friendly Schools, for the third consecutive year. This prestigious status is awarded to just 15% of colleges across the country.

Establishing a dedicated veterans' lounge on campus helps showcase a strong commitment by the College that we value student veterans and may have a strong positive impact on student veteran recruitment. The lounge provides a venue where student veterans may congregate, provide peer-to-peer support (both academically and socially) and provide a space for various veterans' services (such as the VA work study program). The transition from Military to College Life for student veterans can be a difficult road and the lounge can be a great resource in assisting with that transition.

Lounge Description:

Warner Hall Room 105 is located on the main floor, just 50 yards from the café and contains three rooms. The main office area will be utilized as the "lounge" where student veterans can sit in comfortable furniture, have full access to WiFi, drink coffee (a military mainstay) and/or watch TV. The other two offices will be composed of a small computer lab and VA work study office. SUNY Cobleskill ITS is providing 4-6 new computers that will contain a full suite of software that student veterans can utilize for academic studies, projects, etc. The VA Office provides a venue for student work studies and professional staff to provide services to student veterans (peer to peer support, VA benefit advisement, etc.).

Staff:

- Matt LaLonde, Director of Judicial and Veteran Affairs

Current Amenities:

- Phone has been supplied by the Residential Life Office
- Furniture – Facilities Management has a sofa, love seat and coffee tables.
- Computers – ITS is providing 4-6 computers with new computer tables for the computer lab. ITS has also furnished the VA Office with a computer and computer desk.
- Lois Goblet, Chief Advancement Officer has committed to providing a commemorative flag case an anonymously donated American flag.

Giving Opportunities:

- Television –a 42" (or larger) flat screen
- Coffee Station (coffee maker, coffee mugs, etc.).
- Decorations (Branch Flags, memorabilia, display cases for Alumni veteran photos, etc.)
- Display case (Large wall mounted case displayed in hall/lobby area outside lounge)
- Furniture – The lounge still has space for a conference/coffee table (oval to support small meetings), single seated chairs (any type).

SUNY Cobleskill has taken great strides in enhancing the services and resources available for veterans on campus, including the following:

- Establishment of a the Veteran Affairs Office and Director of Veteran Affairs position
- Student Veteran Support Team
- Student Veteran Association (Student Club and chapter member of Student Veterans of America)
- Veteran's Memorial Plaza
- SUNY Cobleskill VA website – cobleskill.edu/veterans (a resource for veterans, faculty and staff)
- Veteran Affairs Work Study program – 8 student staff positions exclusively for student veterans
- Established new membership with many recognized military and veteran agencies that provide benefits to student veterans (programs, scholarships and much more)