



# THE CITADEL

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VETERAN STUDENT  
SUCCESS CENTER



## The Veterans Voice

*February 2023*

*Veteran Student Success Center (VSSC) Newsletter*

## Upcoming Events

### **Financial Aid & Scholarship Info Night**

February 8, 2023, from 6 pm to 8 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Join VSSC and Financial Aid staff for a virtual Q&A session where we will answer questions related to financial aid and scholarships. Everyone who signs up will receive a PDF containing over 20 scholarship opportunities! To register click [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### **Lunch and Learn: Alumni Association**

March 9, 2023, from 12 pm to 2 pm

VSSC

Join representatives from the Alumni Association for a lunch to learn more about the organization and how you can become a member! Lunch will be provided, please RSVP by clicking [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## Citadel Students Cheer on the Rays!



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<sup>1</sup><https://forms.office.com/r/B6bkbdbwKG>

<sup>2</sup><https://forms.office.com/r/9kNaGgFXWb>



Veteran and Active Duty students had the opportunity to cheer on the South Carolina Stingrays earlier this month as they took on the Florida Everblades! We had over 60 attendees representing the Veteran Student Success Center (VSSC) including students, their families, and friends. A BIG thank you to the Stingrays for providing us with tickets in honor of their military appreciation game. While our Rays didn't bring home the W, fun was had by all who participated.

We'd also like to highlight Barbara Hill, a Citadel Veteran student, who was recognized by the South Carolina Stingrays as the week's Hometown Hero at a following game. Barbara is an amazing representative of our Veteran students, and we are so glad she was honored.

Did you know?



Veteran students attending The Citadel have access to join the Palmetto Pathfinder Program.

The **Palmetto Pathfinder Program** is a **South Carolina Veteran peer-support program** that provides personal support for transitioning Veterans by connecting them to relevant resources and services in their community and assist them in accomplishing their personal and professional goals and thrive after military service.

To apply for the program click here.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup><https://scdva.syncid.com/auth/?repath=https://www.tfaforms.com/5000603>

## Students Focus on Wellness



This past month, Veteran and Active Duty students heard two presentations on health and wellness as part of the Veteran Student Success Center's monthly programming. The first presentation was from Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program coordinator Charles West, who spoke about mental health and practicing self-care not just when you feel burnt out but regularly. Mr. West is available to all Veteran and Active Duty throughout the week free of charge to discuss any mental health or stress-related issues. Feel free to reach out to him at David.West@Va.Gov.

The second presentation was provided by MUSC Health and Wellness Institute<sup>4</sup> registered dietician Alaine Mills. Ms. Mills provided an amazing presentation on creating healthy habits and discussed not only healthy eating but also tips related to supplements, healthy food swaps, and more. Her presentation can be downloaded here<sup>5</sup>. The MUSC Health and Wellness Institute provides numerous services to anyone wishing to participate. They do not take insurance, but all Veterans receive a discount on services using the code "military."

<sup>4</sup><https://muschealth.org/medical-services/health-and-wellness-institute>

<sup>5</sup><https://go.citadel.edu/veterans/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/Nutrition-Presentation-Citadel.pdf>

## We want to hear from you...

Over the past several years The Citadel Veteran Student Success Center (VSSC) has worked to ensure that Veteran and Active Duty students attending The Citadel have the tools and resources they need in order to succeed. We have expanded programs and services, and annually certify over 500 students across campus for their VA Educational Benefits.

In the summer of 2022, VSSC was awarded a grant by the Department of Education in order to continue to build upon our success and meet the evolving needs of our student population. We see this grant as a resource in order to implement innovative programs and improve the services provided to Veteran and Active Duty students.

As we strategize and plan for the next decade of programming, we'd like your feedback to ensure we are not only exceeding your expectations but can share with our stakeholders the needs of our students directly from you.

*The survey is completely anonymous, and all data received will be aggregated to provide our team and stakeholders with important information related to your needs and our student population demographics.*

*The survey should take roughly 15 minutes and will be available until Friday, February 3, 2023.*

Thank you in advance for your assistance in ensuring the next generation of Veteran and Active Duty students attending The Citadel receive the services and programs they need in order to succeed!

Take the survey now.<sup>6</sup>

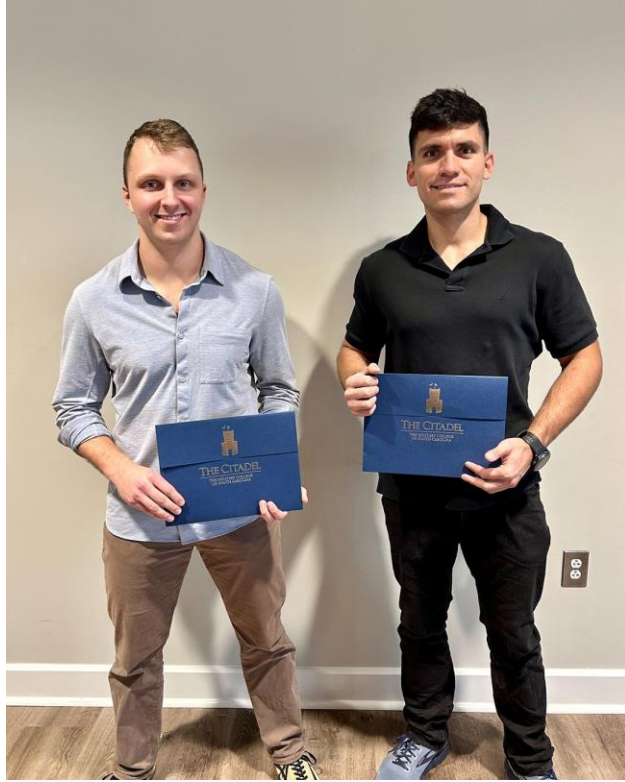
## Congratulations to our Gold Star and Dean's List Students!



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<sup>6</sup><https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gRAMlmPQ-EGES0HXONsEowam8kqVE-tCpzNasUbK0PtUOFVIN1E5NEVORTIYVFZBSUZYWkhIS1pDTi4u>







Congratulations to all of our Veteran and Active Duty students who earned Gold Star or Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester! To honor their academic achievements, the Veteran Student Success Center hosted lunch and Associate Provost Dr. Kelly Brenan provided students with a certificate and gold star coin. We are so proud of all of our students for their hard work and dedication!

## Reminders for Spring VA Educational Benefit Certification

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: *The Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing a new portal that School Certifying Officials (SCOs) will be required to use to certify students using VA Educational Benefits. This new portal, called Enrollment Manager, is a modernized platform for SCOs that will replace VA-ONCE, the current certification portal, and provide SCOs with an enhanced user experience. Because of this change in portals, SCOs will not be able to process any new enrollment requests when the VA sunsets VA-ONCE on February 24th, 2023 at 8 PM EST until Enrollment Manager goes live on March 6th, 2023. We are hopeful that there will not be any issues with the implementation of Enrollment Manager, but we will let students know if there is any delay in this process.***

- New and continuing students can submit the FAFSA<sup>7</sup> for the next academic year.
- Ensure that you have submitted a VA Enrollment Request Form<sup>8</sup> for Spring.

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<sup>7</sup><https://go.citadel.edu/financial-aid/fafsa/>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.citadel.edu/root/veterans-services-certification>

- If required (Ch. 1606, Ch. 30), continue to verify your monthly enrollment through WAVE<sup>9</sup>.
- Registration for the Summer and Fall semesters of the next academic year opens.
- Check with the Financial Aid office<sup>10</sup> for additional information regarding financial aid during Summer.

## Student Veteran Association Spotlight



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<sup>9</sup><https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.citadel.edu/root/finaid>





Earlier this month leadership from our Student Veterans Association group attended NatCon, the largest annual convening of Post-9/11 Veterans in the world. The conference, held in Orlando, Florida, featured breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and networking events.

*"As president of The Citadel Student Veterans Association, I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with policymakers and legislative staffers regarding VA healthcare and education issues and shortfalls. I believe it is vital that we voice our opinion, as a community of Veteran students, to these key audiences. I was also able to network with counterparts who serve at institutions across the US and gain insight into their experiences and what their chapters are doing to improve the Veteran student experience." - CSVA President, Aurel Edyvean*

***The next CSVA meeting will be held on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 2:15 pm here at VSSC!***

## In The News

The Citadel designated as federal Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, enhancing commitment to veteran students<sup>11</sup> - January 9, 2023, The Citadel Today

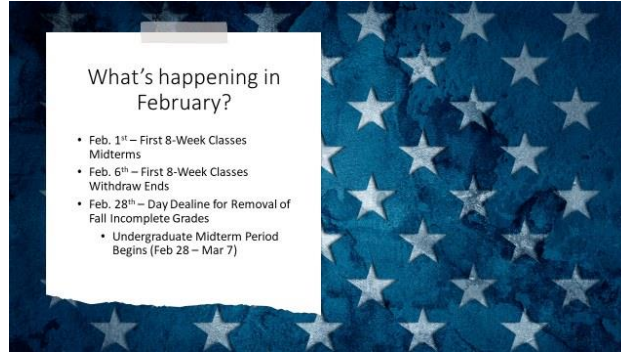
South Carolina secondary schools receive nearly \$2.6 million in grants<sup>12</sup> - January 20, 2023 - Live 5 News Charleston

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<sup>11</sup><https://today.citadel.edu/the-citadel-designated-as-federal-center-of-excellence-for-veteran-student-success-enhancing-commitment-to-veteran-students/>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.live5news.com/2023/01/21/south-carolina-secondary-schools-receive-nearly-26-million-grants/>

## February Academic Calendar



## Join the Alumni Association!



Citadel graduates are a remarkable network of leaders in the ranks of nationwide college graduates. They are supportive of their alma mater. They want to sustain their lifelong bond with their classmates and are dedicated to their college's reputation and the success of The Citadel.

Membership in The Citadel Alumni Association demonstrates the strongest affinity to The Citadel's past and present and it sustains the bond created by our shared experiences. It connects members to our worldwide alumni network and advances the Association's ability to give back to our beloved institution.

Learn more about joining The Citadel Alumni Association by clicking here<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup><https://www.citadelalumni.org/s/1674/bp20/interior.aspx?sid=1674&gid=1001&pgid=423>

Keep in Touch



*1 - Like us on Facebook<sup>14</sup>*

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<sup>14</sup><https://www.facebook.com/CitadelVeteransPrograms/>



*2 - Follow us on Instagram<sup>15</sup>*

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<sup>15</sup>[https://www.instagram.com/citadel\\_vssc/](https://www.instagram.com/citadel_vssc/)



*3 - Email us at [VA\\_Benefits@Citadel.edu](mailto:VA_Benefits@Citadel.edu)<sup>16</sup>.*

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<sup>16</sup>[mailto:VA\\_Benefits@Citadel.edu](mailto:VA_Benefits@Citadel.edu)



*4 - Call us at 843-953-9824.*