



Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College

www.proveveterans.org | (212) 396-7599

PROVE: A Decade of Progress

The Directors' Message:

Dear PROVE Participants and Supporters:

Just over a decade ago, September of 2007, the *Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education* (PROVE) was launched as a collaboration between Hunter College School of Social Work (now Silberman School of Social Work) and CUNY to support the growing number of student veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to CUNY campuses. Then, and now, CUNY has one of the largest student veteran populations of any academic institution in the country. Currently, more than 3,500 student veterans and reservists attend CUNY colleges.

Thanks to you (CUNY Central Office, participating campus administrators, PROVE field instructors, social work interns and student veteran mentors, and our funders), PROVE is a valued resource for student veterans on 10 CUNY campuses. With your support we have served over 6,000 student veterans since our launch. And, more than 120 social work graduate students have gained practical experience and insight into veteran-related issues enabling them to pursue their practices with a sensitivity for the unique needs of those who have served in the military.

Congratulations and thank you.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Sherwood

Roger J. Sherwood, PhD, LCSW

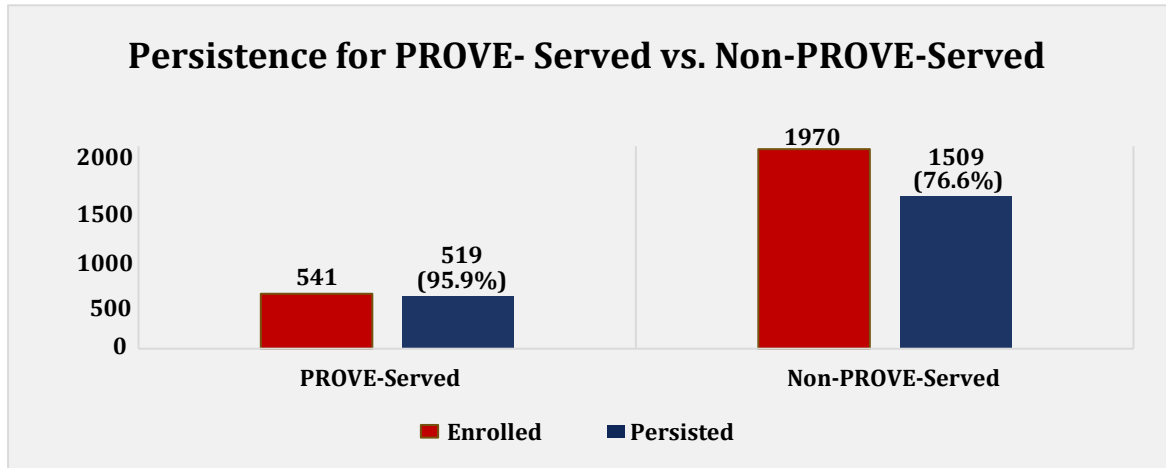
Project Co-Director
& US Army Veteran

Leora Shudofsky

Leora Shudofsky, LMSW

Project Co-Director
& Educational Coordinator

Performance



95.9 % of PROVE-served student veterans continued the pursuit of their degree from the Fall 2017 semester into Spring 2018, versus 76.6% of the Non-PROVE-served student veteran population at the PROVE-served campuses.

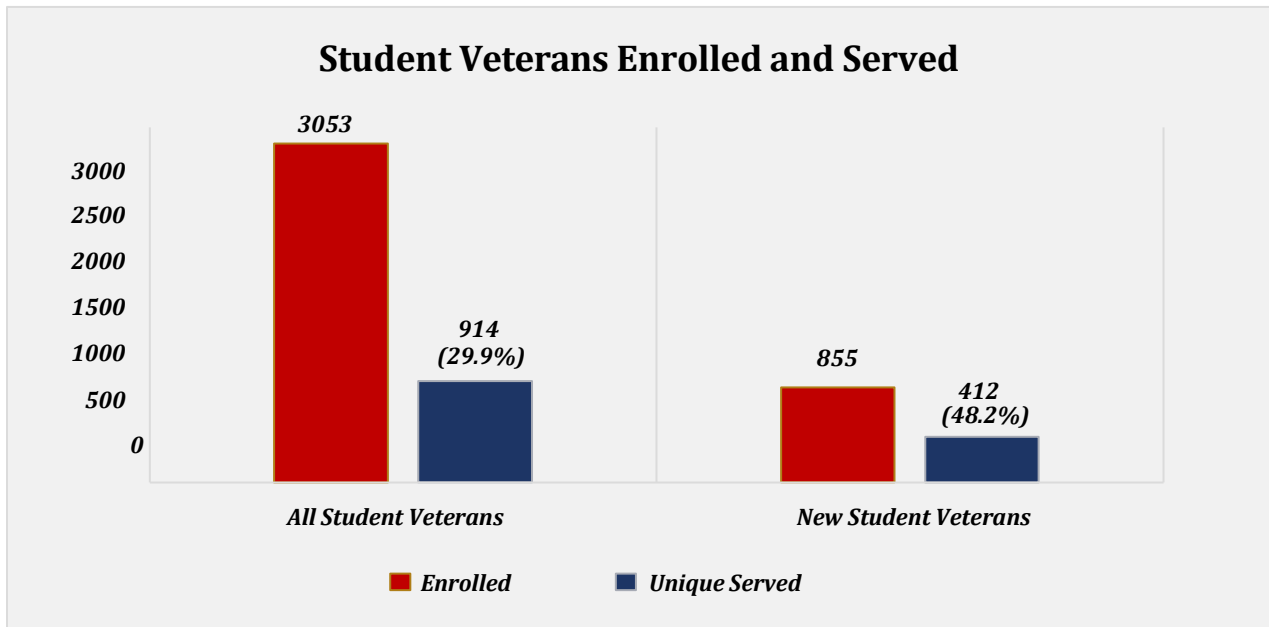
A year ago, due to a budgetary contraction, PROVE had to reduce services down to four campuses. Thanks to money allocated by the City Council Veterans Committee to CUNY, we were able to serve more campuses than we had at our previous peak in 2015-16.

From Fall 2017 to Spring 2018, PROVE recruited 21 graduate social work interns and expanded the program to six additional CUNY community and senior colleges, from four the previous year.

One of the most valuable contributors to PROVE's success has been the utilization of student veteran peer mentors, as well as our graduate social work veterans, to help student veterans make critical social connections with other veterans on their campuses. Their shared experiences and the rekindling of the camaraderie student veterans had in the military has been a powerful tool in helping student veterans' transition from military life to college life and beyond.

During this period, Fall 2007 to Spring 2018, PROVE served 1,015 unique student veterans on 10 CUNY colleges: four community colleges (Borough of Manhattan Community College, Hostos Community College, LaGuardia Community College and Kingsborough Community College) and six senior colleges (Baruch College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Medgar Evers College, New York City College of Technology and Queens College).

Performance



PROVE served 914 of 3,053 (29.9%) of the total student veteran population on PROVE-served campuses. PROVE also served 412 new student veterans, 48.2% of the 855 of the new student veterans enrolled on PROVE-served campuses.

PROVE student veterans have thrived and found purpose in assisting fellow veterans and have helped themselves in the process. And since 2007, more than 20% of our graduate social work interns have gone on to work at the VA, CUNY and other veteran service organizations.

“PROVE Interns have been solid contributors to this year's veteran support efforts. They have been fully accepted by our veteran community and have built many very positive 1-1 supportive relationships, as well as led a number of significant projects.”

Richard Pusateri

Military and Veteran Services Manager & US Navy Veteran
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

“The PROVE interns are a much-appreciated addition to our office and we would love to continue to build on the work our current interns are doing. PROVE’s support and dedication to our student veterans is valued.”

Daryl Griffin

Senior Academic Advisor & US Marine Corps Veteran
LaGuardia Community College

Our Student Veterans Community

Veterans and military reserve students face a variety of challenges that may affect their ability to succeed in academic pursuits. This population often encounters obstacles related to social, vocational and financial issues.

Social

Student veterans frequently find it hard to relate to civilian peers due to their different life experiences. It's common for them to feel isolated. Some find the increased freedom and lack of structure to be challenging as well, having been accustomed to specific tasks and missions. The open-ended nature of academic life may initially feel overwhelming.

Vocational

Approximately 42% of New York State's military community are in the reserves, inactive reserves and National Guard. These students have to balance reserve commitments that interrupt their study time with weekend training each month and longer exercises in the summer. They run the risk of being called to active duty, which can prevent them from completing the school semester. Long and/or multiple deployments can lead to lower retention and higher dropout rates.

Financial

While the GI Bill is generous, it requires navigating multiple offices within CUNY to implement, and can take longer than students expect, leading to delayed enrollment, late payments and other financial difficulties.

Access to affordable housing is another challenge. Student veterans relocating to NYC, specifically those with families, face many difficulties in procuring appropriate housing. Gaps in employment, due to their transition from military service to civilian life, can become barriers during housing interviews, with landlords seeking "verifiable income" that student veterans cannot provide until the GI Bill benefits are instituted.

PROVE collaborates with administration on each campus to resolve the social, vocational and financial issues that can derail student veterans' education. PROVE interns are trained in military cultural competency, which helps them better communicate with student veterans and establish therapeutic relationships. They also are required to learn about veterans' benefits and other resources—on campus and off—in order to connect student veterans to concrete services. PROVE is dedicated to facilitating student veterans' readjustment to academic and civilian life.

Our Funders' Impact

Thanks to the generous support from our funders, PROVE is easing the transition of 1,015 student veterans on 10 CUNY campuses, assisting them to achieve their educational and professional goals. Our funders enable us to directly address student veterans' psychological wellness, while providing referrals to on-campus and community resources. PROVE also encourages student veterans to participate in school organizations and take on leadership roles. The net impact is that 95.9% of PROVE-served veterans continued the pursuit of their degrees from the Fall 2017 semester into Spring 2018.



<https://bobwoodrufffoundation.org/>



New York City Council

<https://council.nyc.gov/>



<https://nyshealthfoundation.org/>



<https://www.robinhood.org/>

PROVE CUNY Campuses

Baruch College

55 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10010
(646) 312-4745
molly.pearl@baruch.cuny.edu

Borough of Manhattan Community College

199 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
(718) 289-5447
vets@bmcc.cuny.edu

Hunter College

695 Park Ave
New York, NY 10065
(212) 396-6383
lshudofs@hunter.cuny.edu

John Jay College

524 West 59th St
New York, NY 10019
(212) 484-1329
rpusateri@jjay.cuny.edu

Queens College

65-30 Kissena Blvd
Flushing, NY 11367
(718) 368-5472
dennis.torres@qc.cuny.edu

Kingsborough Community College

2001 Oriental Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11235
(718) 368-5472
vaso@kbcc.cuny.edu

LaGuardia Community College

31-10 Thomas Ave
Queens, NY 11101
(718) 730-7587
dgriffin@lagcc.cuny.edu

Medgar Evers College

1150 Carroll Street
Brooklyn, NY 11225
(718) 270-6139
imcbride@mec.cuny.edu

New York City College of Technology

300 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 260-4980
veterands@citytech.cuny.edu

Contact Us

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