

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

TO

GOVERNOR ROBERT McDONNELL

AND

THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE

**VIRGINIA MILITARY SURVIVORS
AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

October 1, 2012



Serving those who served.

**Department of Veterans Services
2012 Annual Report on the
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program**

Background

Under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), tuition and required fees are waived at Virginia public colleges and universities for the qualified survivors and dependents of certain military service members. Through the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund (VMSDEF), a stipend is provided to offset the costs of room, board, books, and supplies. The amount of the stipend is determined by the Virginia General Assembly, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the availability of Commonwealth general funds.

A qualified survivor and dependent is defined as the spouse, or child between the ages of 16 and 29, of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or Virginia National Guard Reserve, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941, was killed or is missing in action or is a prisoner of war, or of a veteran who, due to such service, has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent disabled, and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Domiciliary requirements also apply and are detailed in the Code of Virginia.

As required by the Code, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services must report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program. The report must include the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.

Information Dissemination

As in the past, DVS continued to review all new rating decisions for Virginia veterans promulgated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Roanoke Regional Office. In Fiscal Year 2012, approximately 1,522 veterans were identified whose period of service and level of disability met VMSDEP requirements, making their spouse and qualifying children potentially eligible for VMSDEP and VMSDEF benefits. DVS has notified the veterans and offered assistance with the VMSDEP application process.

Current Beneficiaries and Institutions Attended

A total of 994 unique students used VMSDEP benefits during the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters. This represents a 2.7 percent increase over the number of unique students using VMSDEP benefits in 2010-11. Of these 1,004 students, 399 (40 percent) attended a four-year institution, while 605 (60 percent) attended a two-year college or community college.

Of the four-year institutions, Old Dominion University had the highest participation (83 students), followed by Virginia Commonwealth University with 64 students. Tidewater Community College led all schools with 187 students. Thomas Nelson Community College was second among community colleges with 50 students.

Eighteen students used VMSDEP benefits during the 2011 Summer session. Nine attended Old Dominion University, five attended Norfolk State University, and the remaining students attended James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Radford University, and Virginia Tech.

Detailed information is presented in Appendix A. A comparison of participants during 2010-11 and 2011-12 is presented in Appendix B.

Completion Rates

The Department of Veterans Services continues to work with the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to track each student's eligibility and use of benefits. Students, as well as institutions, are advised accordingly. DVS continues to provide SCHEV with updated eligibility reports

APPENDIX A
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program
2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded

| | Fall 2011 | | Spring 2012 | | Total | | Summer 2011 | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| | Number | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Unique # | Dollars | Number | Dollars |
| Four-Year Publics | | | | | | | | |
| Christopher Newport University | 12 | 9,000 | 11 | 8,250 | 12 | 17,250 | 0 | 0 |
| College of William and Mary | 2 | 1,500 | 2 | 1,500 | 2 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| George Mason University | 25 | 17,500 | 20 | 14,000 | 27 | 31,500 | 0 | 0 |
| James Madison University | 17 | 12,500 | 16 | 12,000 | 18 | 24,500 | 1 | 645 |
| Longwood University | 10 | 7,250 | 12 | 8,500 | 12 | 15,750 | 0 | 0 |
| Norfolk State University | 35 | 24,500 | 30 | 21,045 | 37 | 45,545 | 5 | 1,505 |
| Old Dominion University | 83 | 59,750 | 81 | 59,250 | 95 | 119,000 | 9 | 3,655 |
| Radford University | 25 | 18,250 | 23 | 16,750 | 27 | 35,000 | 1 | 645 |
| University of Mary Washington | 7 | 5,000 | 7 | 4,500 | 8 | 9,500 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Virginia | 11 | 8,250 | 11 | 8,250 | 12 | 16,500 | 0 | 0 |
| University of Virginia's College at Wise | 9 | 6,750 | 7 | 5,250 | 10 | 12,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | 64 | 46,000 | 58 | 41,250 | 71 | 87,250 | 1 | 215 |
| Virginia Military Institute | 2 | 1,500 | 2 | 1,500 | 2 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Virginia State University | 35 | 25,250 | 31 | 22,750 | 39 | 48,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Virginia Tech | 25 | 18,250 | 20 | 14,500 | 27 | 32,750 | 1 | 430 |
| Four-Year Public total | 362 | \$261,250 | 331 | \$239,295 | 399 | \$500,545 | 18 | \$7,095 |
| Two-Year Publics | | | | | | | | |
| Richard Bland College | 3 | 2,250 | 5 | 3,750 | 5 | 6,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Two-Year Public total | 3 | \$2,250 | 5 | \$3,750 | 5 | \$6,000 | 0 | \$0 |

**Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program
2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**

| | Fall 2011 | | Spring 2012 | | Total | | Summer 2011 | |
|--|------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Number | Dollars | Number | Dollars | Unique # | Dollars | Number | Dollars |
| Community Colleges | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Ridge Community College | 6 | 3,500 | 9 | 5,500 | 10 | 9,000 | 2 | 860 |
| Central Virginia Community College | 14 | 9,500 | 12 | 8,000 | 16 | 17,500 | 1 | 215 |
| Dabney S. Lancaster Community College | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Danville Community College | 3 | 2,250 | 3 | 2,000 | 4 | 4,250 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern Shore Community College | 0 | 0 | 1 | 500 | 1 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Germanna Community College | 17 | 10,000 | 17 | 10,250 | 23 | 20,250 | 1 | 430 |
| J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College | 17 | 10,750 | 13 | 9,250 | 20 | 20,000 | 4 | 2,150 |
| John Tyler Community College | 28 | 17,000 | 23 | 14,000 | 31 | 31,000 | 6 | 2,580 |
| Lord Fairfax Community College | 10 | 6,000 | 8 | 4,750 | 11 | 10,750 | 3 | 860 |
| Mountain Empire Community College | 21 | 15,500 | 19 | 12,500 | 25 | 28,000 | 1 | 215 |
| New River Community College | 10 | 6,250 | 9 | 5,500 | 11 | 11,750 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Virginia Community College | 42 | 23,500 | 37 | 21,000 | 52 | 44,500 | 7 | 3,440 |
| Patrick Henry Community College | 6 | 4,250 | 7 | 5,250 | 7 | 9,500 | 1 | 645 |
| Paul D. Camp Community College | 10 | 6,250 | 7 | 4,000 | 11 | 10,250 | 0 | 0 |
| Piedmont Virginia Community College | 7 | 4,500 | 8 | 5,250 | 10 | 9,750 | 0 | 0 |
| Rappahannock Community College | 4 | 2,750 | 6 | 3,750 | 6 | 6,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Southside Virginia Community College | 3 | 2,000 | 5 | 2,750 | 5 | 4,750 | 1 | 430 |
| Southwest Virginia Community College | 14 | 10,250 | 12 | 8,250 | 17 | 18,500 | 1 | 645 |
| Thomas Nelson Community College | 50 | 30,750 | 45 | 27,000 | 59 | 57,750 | 5 | 2,365 |
| Tidewater Community College | 187 | 121,500 | 180 | 109,909 | 230 | 231,409 | 39 | 12,900 |
| Virginia Highlands Community College | 12 | 7,750 | 9 | 5,500 | 13 | 13,250 | 2 | 645 |
| Virginia Western Community College | 30 | 20,500 | 30 | 19,500 | 35 | 40,000 | 1 | 430 |
| Wytheville Community College | 7 | 4,500 | 6 | 3,750 | 7 | 8,250 | 1 | 645 |
| Community College total | 498 | \$319,250 | 466 | \$288,159 | 600 | \$607,409 | 76 | \$29,455 |
| Total | 863 | \$582,750 | 802 | \$531,204 | 994 | \$1,113,954 | 94 | \$36,550 |

Notes:

The \$36,550 paid for Summer 2011 awards were paid out of both 2010-11 and 2011-12 funds.
\$3,224 of the 2011-12 appropriation was used to cover Summer 2011 awards disbursed after June 30, 2011.

**Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program
2011-12 Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded**

| Term award amounts | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Full-time enrollment | \$750 |
| Half-time enrollment | \$500 |
| Less than Half-time enrollment | \$250 |

Source: SCHEV

APPENDIX B
Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded
2010-2011 and 2011-2012

| | 2010-11 Total | | 2011-12 Total | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Unique # | Dollars | Unique # | Dollars |
| Four-Year Publics | | | | |
| Christopher Newport University | 11 | 13,975 | 12 | 17,250 |
| College of William and Mary | 10 | 12,255 | 2 | 3,000 |
| George Mason University | 29 | 32,895 | 27 | 31,500 |
| James Madison University | 22 | 22,790 | 18 | 24,500 |
| Longwood University | 11 | 12,255 | 12 | 15,750 |
| Norfolk State University | 43 | 45,688 | 37 | 45,545 |
| Old Dominion University | 95 | 96,965 | 95 | 119,000 |
| Radford University | 23 | 25,370 | 27 | 35,000 |
| University of Mary Washington | 9 | 9,460 | 8 | 9,500 |
| University of Virginia | 11 | 13,115 | 12 | 16,500 |
| University of Virginia's College at Wise | 8 | 8,771 | 10 | 12,000 |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | 67 | 71,380 | 71 | 87,250 |
| Virginia Military Institute | 5 | 5,805 | 2 | 3,000 |
| Virginia State University | 39 | 46,225 | 39 | 48,000 |
| Virginia Tech | 28 | 34,185 | 27 | 32,750 |
| Four-Year Public total | 407 | \$451,134 | 399 | \$500,545 |
| Two-Year Publics | | | | |
| Richard Bland College | 5 | 4,945 | | |
| Two-Year Public total | 5 | \$4,945 | | |
| Community Colleges | | | | |
| Blue Ridge Community College | 15 | 12,685 | 10 | 9,000 |
| Central Virginia Community College | 17 | 13,330 | 16 | 17,500 |
| Dabney S. Lancaster Community College | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Danville Community College | 5 | 3,655 | 4 | 4,250 |
| Eastern Shore Community College | 1 | 1,075 | 1 | 500 |
| Germanna Community College | 23 | 19,995 | 23 | 20,250 |
| J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College | 15 | 13,330 | 20 | 20,000 |
| John Tyler Community College | 34 | 30,745 | 31 | 31,000 |
| Lord Fairfax Community College | 10 | 8,385 | 11 | 10,750 |
| Mountain Empire Community College | 28 | 26,015 | 25 | 28,000 |
| New River Community College | 9 | 6,020 | 11 | 11,750 |
| Northern Virginia Community College | 45 | 38,700 | 52 | 44,500 |
| Patrick Henry Community College | 7 | 6,020 | 7 | 9,500 |
| Paul D. Camp Community College | 5 | 4,515 | 11 | 10,250 |
| Piedmont Virginia Community College | 6 | 5,160 | 10 | 9,750 |
| Rappahannock Community College | 6 | 4,730 | 6 | 6,500 |

**Number of Recipients and Amount Awarded
2010-2011 and 2011-2012**

| | 2010-11 Total | | 2011-12 Total | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Unique # | Dollars | Unique # | Dollars |
| Southside Virginia Community College | 10 | 8,815 | 5 | 4,750 |
| Southwest Virginia Community College | 19 | 19,780 | 17 | 18,500 |
| Thomas Nelson Community College | 53 | 41,065 | 59 | 57,750 |
| Tidewater Community College | 207 | 191,135 | 230 | 231,409 |
| Virginia Highlands Community College | 13 | 11,395 | 13 | 13,250 |
| Virginia Western Community College | 31 | 24,510 | 35 | 40,000 |
| Wytheville Community College | 9 | 8,170 | 7 | 8,250 |
| Community College total | 567 | \$499,230 | 600 | \$607,409 |
| Total | 968 | \$955,309 | 994 | \$1,113,954 |

Source: SCHEV

APPENDIX C

Code of Virginia, § [23-7.4:1A](#)

§ [23-7.4:1](#). Waiver of tuition and certain charges and fees for eligible children and spouses of certain military service members, eligible children and spouses of certain public safety personnel, and certain foreign students.

A. There is hereby established the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program. Qualified survivors and dependents of military service members, who have been admitted to any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia, upon certification to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services of eligibility under this subsection, shall be admitted free of tuition and all required fees.

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program shall be implemented pursuant to the following:

1. For the purposes of this subsection, "qualified survivors and dependents" means the spouse or a child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or Virginia National Guard Reserve, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941, was killed or is missing in action or is a prisoner of war, or of a veteran who, due to such service, has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90percent disabled, and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. However, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services may certify dependents above the age of 29 in those cases in which extenuating circumstances prevented the dependent child from using his benefits before the age of 30.

2. Such qualified survivors and dependents shall be eligible for the benefits conferred by this subsection if the military service member who was killed, is missing in action, is a prisoner of war, or is disabled (i) was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia at the time of entering such active military service or called to active duty as a member of the Armed Forces Reserves or Virginia National Guard Reserve; (ii) is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such qualified survivor or dependent for admission to such institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution; (iii) if deceased, was a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia on the date of his death and had been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to his death; (iv) in the case of a qualified child, is deceased and the surviving parent had been, at some time previous to marrying the deceased parent, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf of such child; or (v) in the case of a qualified spouse, is deceased and the surviving spouse had been, at some time previous to

marrying the deceased spouse, a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years or is and has been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by such qualified spouse.

3. From such funds as may be appropriated and from such gifts, bequests and any gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources, there is hereby established the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance for board and room charges, books and supplies, and other expenses at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the use and benefit of qualified survivors and dependents.

Each year, from the funds available in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and its member institutions shall determine the amount and the manner in which financial assistance shall be made available to beneficiaries and shall make that information available to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services for distribution.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall be responsible for disbursing to the institutions the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Commonwealth of Virginia to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund and shall report to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services the beneficiaries' completion rate.

The maximum amount to be expended for each such survivor or dependent pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed, when combined with any other form of scholarship, grant, or waiver, the actual costs related to the survivor's or dependent's educational expenses allowed under this subsection.

4. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall designate a senior-level official who shall be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy for disseminating information about the Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to those spouses and dependents who may qualify. The Department of Veterans Services shall coordinate with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to identify veterans and qualified survivors and dependents. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly as to the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program. The report shall also include the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.