B.E.C.O.N November 18, 2022

Tony asked to clarify the 12/16 Christmas Party is the Holiday Breakfast Meeting. The Christmas Party will be held in January, with more details to follow.

Guests: Sheila Wilson, Miguel & Beck from Warrior Wishes of Montana, Alan Parsons from Veterans Upward Bound. John Bennett is back as a member again.

Announcements:

- 1. Dina mentioned that volunteers are still needed for the Festival of Trees along with items for the tree.
 - a. To get items to Dina for the BEC tree please contact her directly. Please come and help decorate the tree at 5:45 on 11/29.
 - b. There are many volunteer opportunities for the actual event. To sign up go to Sign Up Genius. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49ADAE2EA7FCC52-festival
 - c. Bill said there are still tickets available for the Festival of Trees. BIDDERS ARE NEEDED.
- 2. Up coming events for December Seasons Beatings 12/3 and Chase Hawks 12/17.
- 3. Special THANKS from Tony for the open house.
- 4. The Grateful Givings is a Veterans Thanksgiving meal program at the American Legion. Tony said that he was a bit late in getting the raffle tickets for this year, but he'll get an all club raffle going in January to raise funds for next year. The raffle will be for one of the following: 7MM Weatherby Vanguard Mark V with a Sightron 3-9X42 scope and biped. A \$150 gift card to Schields [not sure if he meant Scheels] or 1 alcohol basket. More details to come as Tony gets this out to all of the clubs presidents.
- 5. Bill Kennedy said that the Wreaths Across America is 12/17 @ 10am and 1,500 graves will be decorated with the wreaths. He is currently about 400 wreaths short. The cost is \$15/wreath and if you're interested in donating please txt him at 406-698-5229.

Speaker:

Alan Parson gave us an overview of Veterans Upward Bound. It was started in the 1970s to assist Veterans with getting into college, trade schools and apprenticeships. The Montana program started in 1992. Alan is a 9-year Army Veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He just got his Doctor of Education.

Veterans Upward Bound is a Federally funded program, through the Dept of Education, that provides resources that helps Veterans establish what is of interest to them, helps assist with tutoring and math refresher courses all free of charge. They help with computer training and computer loaners. They have faculty in Kalispell, Great Falls, Missoula and Billings who help with the program. Unfortunately, there currently isn't any faculty in Bozeman who helps with this program.

Funds from the Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone were approved by Grants Committee and Rene presented \$3,500 to the American Legion for the Grateful Giving Boxes, \$5,000 for flags to be purchased at the National Cemetery, \$7,500 to Warrior Wishes of Montana and \$7,500 to Veterans Navigation Network. In turn Warrior Wishes pledged \$500 to Wreaths Across America.

No meeting this Friday. The 12/2 meeting will be the Billings City Manager.

Veterans Upward Bound is one of eight TRIO programs

This TRIO program supports veterans who would like to enroll in some type of college. College includes certificate or training programs, trade school or 2-year programs, and 4-year programs. The program helps veterans develop the tools they need to be successful.

Who is eligible for **Veterans Upward Bound?**

Participants must have served in the Armed Forces for more than 180 days, have received something other than a dishonorable discharge, and be low-income or potential first-generation college students.

What are the benefits of participating in Veterans Upward Bound?

Veterans Upward Bound helps veterans prepare for college. Through instruction, tutoring, and advising, Veterans Upward

Bound helps veterans gain the skills they need to succeed in college and in life. In addition to academic support in subjects like math and writing, veterans gain important skills that will help them throughout their lives (e.g., time management, organization, networking).

What does Veterans Upward Bound do?

Here are some of the ways that Veterans Upward Bound programs help and support veterans.

- ▶ On-campus or live instruction in mathematics, science, foreign language, English composition, literature, and computers
- ▶ Refresher courses for veterans who graduated from high school, but who put off college in favor of service
- ▶ Tutoring and academic counseling
- ▶ Assistance with securing education benefits through the Veterans Administration, as well as through other local and state agencies
- ▶ Guidance regarding GED and alternative education programs
- Mentoring programs
- Help completing financial aid applications, college paperwork, and military forms
- Support navigating the realities of education and work
- ► Computer laptop loaner program
- ▶ Social, Cultural, and Team Building
 - Museums and historical sites
 - Sporting Events
 - Outdoor Adventures
 - Movies
 - · Other fun activities

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Veterans L	pward	Bound
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Who we are? What do we do? How to get connected? How can we assist you and your veteran? What's new for fall?



Scan the QR code for current classes and activities at VUBI

Veterans Upward Bound: Winter 202:

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VUB is one of eight TRIO Programs



This TRIO program supports veterans who would like to enroll in some type of college.

College includes certificate or training programs, trade school or 2-year programs, and 4-year programs. The program helps veterans develop the tools they need to be successful.

Veterans Upward Bound: Winter 2022

2

Benefits of Participating in VUB



Veterans Upward Bound helps veterans prepare for college. Through Instruction, tutoring and advising, VUB helps veterans gain the skills they need to be successful in college and in life. In addition to academic support in math and writing, veterans gain important skills that will help them throughout their lives (e.g., time management, organization, networking).

Veterans Upward Round: Winter 2022

How do	veterans	get	connected	with	VUB?
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Participants of the Veterane Upward Bound program must complete our registration form prior to the start of classes or events. Registration is processed from our Billings office and can be done accessed by going to wa

Guestions about VUB services or our registration process can be answered by calling, small or asking a question over our website chat service.

Phone: (800) 356-8387 limels info@vubmt.com

Voterana Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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College Readiness Assessment



TABE Accessment: TABE measures an individual's general level of math, writing and spelling. This tool measures academic strengths and weaknesses based on 1st grade to 12th grade levels.

Accuplacer Assessment: Accuplacer evaluates an individual's level of math and writing. Based on the score, students will be placed in the appropriate math and writing college courses. * University of Montana uses Aleks and eWrite in place of Accuplacer writing.

Career Assessment Inventory Diagnostics: The CAI Diagnostics will suggest possible careers that an individual may be successful in based on short questions that inquire what the individual enjoys doing.

Veterana Upward Bound: Winter 2022

5

First Year Experience Course



This course helps students transitioning into college. It can be challenging, as students are being introduced to new faces, places and ideas. The goal of the first year experience class is to help students become well-rounded, successful, periodipatory members of any class.

Enrollment for the First Year Experience class is processed jointly between Veterans Upward Bound and MSU Billings. Participants will receive 2 electiva credite.

Note: This course starts in September and in January.

Veterans Upward Sound: Winter 2022

Com	puter	Loaner	Pro	aram



Veterans Upward Bound recognizes that not everyone has access to a reliable computer. This may be due to a limited budget, an old computer system that is no longer reliable, or an unforeseen event.

During Covid-19, we received an enormous number of requests for computers. As a result we started a computer loaner program. What started out as a loaner program, has now shifted to a computer gifting program.

Note: These units are gently used and have been factory reset and work as if opened brand-new out of the box.

Votorana Upward Sound: Winter 2022

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In-Person Classes



Veterans Upward Bound provides 6-week instruction aimed at assisting veterans who need a brush-up before starting a post secondary education program. Computers, math and writing are available at all sites.

We have programs established in the following communities: Billings, Butte, Hamilton, Kallspell and Missoula. We are working at bringing services back in Great Falls and Helena.

Note: In addition to computers, math and writing, our Billings site also offers an academic success class, foreign language and science classes.

Veterana Upward Sound: Winter 2022

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Live Online Classes



Veterans Upward Bound recognizes that participants wear many hats. Family, work schedules and other commitments may hamper the ability for some to attend in-person classes. As a result, we have built an online learning program that will enable students participating in our classes as well as prepare them to successfully enroll and participate in a college level online course.

VUB uses the Moodle platform that is widely used at Montana campuses and beyond. Courses are live-streamed and recorded for students to review at a later time.

Note: All Billings classes are streamed, enabling students at other locations to participate online. Example college success, foreign language and science.

Voterane Upward Bound: Winter 2022

Online Self-Paced Support	Tutorials wit	h Tutoring
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Veterans Upward Bound provides individuals the opportunity to take classes at their own schedule and pace. We use a third party service to provide tutorial-based instruction.

Comfit allows students to login to a web-based system and complete math and writing lessons at their own pace. If a student needs additional assistance, tutora are available to guide them through the lessons. Tutora have access to the students' progress in Comfit.

Veterana Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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Transition Assistance



Transition essistance is available for veterans that are preparing to start college or another training program. VUB staff is available to assist veterans for the following services and more.

- · Request transcripts
- Applying for college admissions
- · Applying for Federal Financial Aid
- · Applying for GI Bill education benefits

Note: Did you know that veterans who participate in a VUB program are eligible for a scholarship?

Veterane Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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Tutoring Support



Students enrolled in a college or a training program often need additional support. Veterans Upward Bound can assist veterans with finding support services located on campus. In the event the campus services are unable to provide help, VUB will locate a tutor to support the veteran through the class.

Note: VUB will provide any support materials needed to help the veteran succeed in the class.

Yeterane Upward Bound: Winter 2022



- Great Falls College MSU day classes starting in January.
- Helena College evening classes starting in February.
- MSU-Billings day classes starting in March.
- Missoula College evening classes starting in February.
- Online day or evening classes starting in February.
- * Flathead Valley Community College evening classes starting in April.
- Bitterroot College UM schedule coming econi
- · Visit our website for up-to-date scheduling.

Veterane Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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Workshops



Occasionally Veterans Upward Bound will schedule short term workshops that are topic-focused. These workshops provide an academic review and assist in the development of skills necessary in any learning environment.

- Getting started with Windows 11
- Using a Google Home mini with Google Services
- College admissions, Financial Aid, and VA veteran benefits
 Career Exploration, resume writing, and applying for a job
- Information about apprenticeships and trades, using your VA Ed benefits
- Visit our website for more workshops!

Veterana Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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Social & Cultural Activities



Outside of academics, we feel it is equally important for veterans to socialize and take a break from work/school. Veterans Upward Bound schedules social/cultural activities and other events throughout the year.

In addition to our yearly scheduled events, we also sponsor group activities and events. If you would like to provide an activity for your veteran group, we would like to help! Contact our office for information.

Note: A VUB registration is required for each veteran.

Veterans Upward Bound: Winter 2022

Sch	belighe	Evente	R A	ctivities



· December: Holiday trolly rides · January: Escape room challenge * February: Netflix Movie Club

· Movie Tickets: Available any time!

Veterana Upward Bound: Winter 2022

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VA Work-study Opportunity in Billings



Veterans attending college or other training programs using QI Bill Education benefits are eligible to participate in a VA work-study program at our Billings office.

In many cases, this opportunity provides veterans the ability to work, study and receive additional educational support from our faculty.

Veterana Upward Bound: Winter 2023

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Access Information and Scheduling



Contact Information:

Phone: (800) 356-8387 Website: www.yubmt.com.

Dr. Alan Parsons, Project Director aparsons@vubmt.com | (406) 794-3063

Michael Wolff, Assistant Director & Technology Manager mwolff@vubmt.com | (408) 794-3083

Michelle Watson, Coordinator of Educational Services and Enrollment mwatson@vubmt.com | (406) 272-8591

Veterane Upward Bound: Winter 2022