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TO: Chancellors, Presidents, and Directors of Tennessee
Institutions of Higher Education VETS campuses

FROM: Mike Krause 

DATE: April 23, 2019

SUBJECT: Veteran Reconnect Conference: Focusing on the Transition from Military
Service to Civilian College/University and Beyond; Request for Proposals

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is pleased to announce a grant to organize two regional veterans support conferences in Tennessee. As a part of the funding to support the Drive to 55 and Veteran Reconnect, these conferences are intended to present ideas to improve the success of student veterans enrolled in Tennessee colleges and universities.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is directed towards institutions that have received THEC's VETS Campus designation under the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act of 2014. These institutions have shown a commitment to supporting military-connected students on their campus. This is an opportunity for these campuses to show-case their support for veterans to other higher education administrators, staff, and faculty from public and private not-for-profit institutions around the state. The primary focus of these conferences is on the successful transition of military students and veterans from military service to civilian college/university environment and through to employment after completion of their program of study.

THEC will provide grant funds of up to \$100,000 each for two regional conferences. Grant Awardees will be selected from proposals demonstrating the most comprehensive and complete plan for a veterans' conference in their region. VETS designated campuses may combine efforts with other higher education institutions to organize a conference. A goal for these regional conferences is to ensure maximum attendance from higher education institutions across the state.

Important dates:

- THEC will host an informational webinar for this conference RFP. At least one representative from each institution applying for the grant should plan to attend the appropriate webinar in order to qualify for the maximum points on the scoring rubric (as described on page 14 of the RFP). Recordings of the webinars will also be available.
 - Veteran Reconnect Conference RFP webinar: **Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 10:00am (CDT)**
Webinar Link:
<https://tngov.webex.com/tngov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecc71166100ecd610311c6e51a338160d>
- Letters of Intent are due on **Wednesday, May 3, 2019 at 12:00pm (CDT)**
- Full proposals are due on **Wednesday, May 23, 2019 by 12:00pm (CDT)**. Please see the RFP for key dates regarding the application, review process, and the format for proposals.

Please contact Ken Hanson at Ken.Hanson@tn.gov with any questions. THEC looks forward to receiving your submissions.