

# Education

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# 2023 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

APRIL 19-20, 2023 | PHOENIX, ARIZONA

 arizona coalition  
for military families



# Unique Challenges in Education for Veterans & Their Children

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Session 2

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# Support for Military Affiliated Students

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# Welcome!

# Agenda

- 1 Introduction to off campus resources for military families and military affiliated students (military, veteran, or family members)**
- 2 Arizona Veterans Success Program**
- 3 School Choice in Arizona**
- 4 Phoenix Veterans Center**
- 5 South Mountain Community College Tribal Resources**
- 6 Q & A and Wrap Up**

# Arizona Veterans Success Program



## **Troy Rundle, MA, CRC**

VetSuccess On Campus Counselor  
Voc Rehab Counselor  
Veterans Benefits Administration

## **VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)**

### **Pat Tillman Veterans Center**

[ptvc@asu.edu](mailto:ptvc@asu.edu)

<https://veterans.asu.edu/>

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp>





# Goals of VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

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- Assist Veterans in transitioning from military to civilian life and higher education
- Liaison to on-campus resources and other VA benefits and services
- To encourage, promote, and support Veterans to be successful in their educational programs and career endeavors
- Provide Chapter 36 Counseling to eligible individuals
- Perform Chapter 31VRE Case Management for campus specific CH 31 participants



# History of VSOC

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- First started in 2009 at Cleveland State University and University of South Florida
- 2010 program expanded to include 8 pilot VSOC locations
- Arizona State University was one of original 8 pilot locations
- Full time on campus at ASU beginning Spring 2011
- 104 current campus locations

# Services Available

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- Educational Assistance
- Re-Adjustment Counseling
- Employment Services
- Benefits counseling (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, VA Education, Disability Compensation, Pension, and Home Loan Guaranty Benefits)
- Connection with relevant VA medical services
- Referral to VA Vet Center

# Services Available, cont.

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- Transfer/Transition to university/college campus
- Connection with on campus resources (Disability Resource Center, Counseling Services, Career Services, Student Veteran Club)
- LTS information and review
- CH 36
- CH 31 Case Management

# VSOC Services Utilized by Veterans

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- General information on ASU
- Determining best benefit
- Remaining entitlement
- Brief Counseling
- Application for CH 33 and Transfer of Entitlement
- General CH 31 information

# VSOC Services Utilized by Veterans, cont.

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- CH 31/CH 33 cross over
- Referral to on campus resources
- Payment issues
- Referral/Connection to VAMC
- Complete Disability Claim
- Vocational Exploration
- Setting up profile for USAJOBS

# Benefits of a VSOC Counselor

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- Direct VA contact for students on their time
- Knowledge of both school processes and VA processes to help review complex issues
- Clarification on how VA benefits work and best options
- Support School Certifying Officials
- Individual with counseling background that can apply skills to student issues and concerns
- Support strong connection to local VA offices
- Provide training and information on VA benefits to school staff and faculty
- Each VSOC location is unique in certain ways that best fit the needs of their campus

# School Choice in Arizona

**Marta MacBan**  
Grassroots Coordinator  
Love Your School

[hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org)  
(480) 612-8784

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





# Choosing Arizona Schools

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## Today we will look at:

- Public Schools (District & Charter)
- Online Schools
- Microschools
- Homeschooling
- Private Schools + Tuition Scholarships
- Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)
- How YOU can make a difference!

# Public Schools

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- **District School** – the traditional style of public school. Each district covers a geographic region of the state and typically oversees multiple schools.
- **Charter Schools** – public, state-funded schools that operate under a charter contract with a charter school sponsor or authorizer.
- **Open Enrollment** - A family may seek to enroll their child in another public, district school by completing an enrollment application during open enrollment period (typically in January).

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/blog/2022/02/22/district-and-charter-schools/>

# Online Schools

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The Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) Program established in A.R.S. §15-808 allows approved school districts and charter schools to develop online instructional systems to expand learning opportunities for students throughout our state.

The State Board of Education approves district AOI programs.

<https://azsbe.az.gov/resources/arizona-online-instruction>

# Microschool

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- Refers to a learning environment where a small group of children (typically less than 10) meet in a home and are lead by a teacher known as a "guide".
- Arizona has one main microschool option right now. Prenda Schools is a K-8 model and has microschools across Arizona with over 1,000 enrolled.
- Tuition-free and private pay options are available.

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/microschooling/>

# Homeschooling

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- Homeschoolers are children whose parents or legal guardians choose to educate them at home in at least the required subjects of reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies.
- Homeschool families file an affidavit with the state of their intention to homeschool, but aren't required to turn in lesson plans or take state tests.

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/homeschooling/>

# Private Schools

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- Arizona private schools are tuition based and operate independently. There are a variety of private school options for Arizona families to choose from.
- Tuition assistance is available!

# Tax Credit Scholarships

- Arizona taxpayers can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their state taxes when they give to a School Tuition Organization (STO).
- Arizona STOs provide families scholarships that can be used at the private school that best meets their child's needs.
- A parent applies for their student through an STO. If a scholarship is available, the STO sends a check directly to the private school.

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/sto-primary/>



# Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA)



- The ESA Program began in 2011 and is administered by the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona State Board of Education.
- Parents who choose an ESA are able to access their child's state education dollars. These funds can be used for private school tuition, home education, tutors and more.
- The ESA Program allows families to customize an education that meets the needs of their child.

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/esa/>

# The Love Your School League



- Families are the strongest voices advocating for ESAs, school choice, and for our kids.
- Whether you have 5 minutes or 5 hours, you can make a difference!
- Get involved by attending events and sharing information in your community.
- Attend our monthly webinars to get trained and equipped to be a confident advocate.

<https://www.loveyourschool.org/theleague/>

# Phoenix Veterans Center



**Thomas Dooley**

Readjustment Counselor

Phoenix Vet Center

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Phoenix Vet Center**

(602) 640-2981

**Vet Center Call Center 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)**

24/7 Access to Vet Center Peer Counselors

<https://www.va.gov/phoenix-vet-center/>



# South Mountain Community College Tribal Resources



**Kyle Mitchell**

Program Manager

South Mountain Community Colleges

**SMCC Veterans Services**

Phone: 602-872-7730

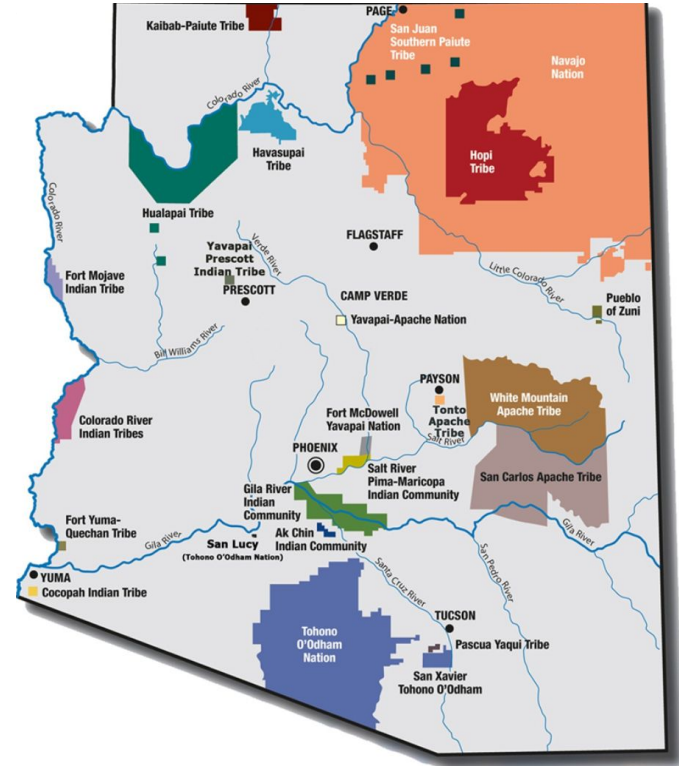
Email: [veterans@southmountaincc.edu](mailto:veterans@southmountaincc.edu)

<https://www.southmountaincc.edu/current-students/veterans-services>



# Arizona Tribes

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community
- Havasupai Tribe
- Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab Paiute Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Tohono O'Odham Nation
- Tonto Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yavapai-Scottsdale Tribe
- Pueblo of Zuni



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# Arizona Tribal Veteran Resources



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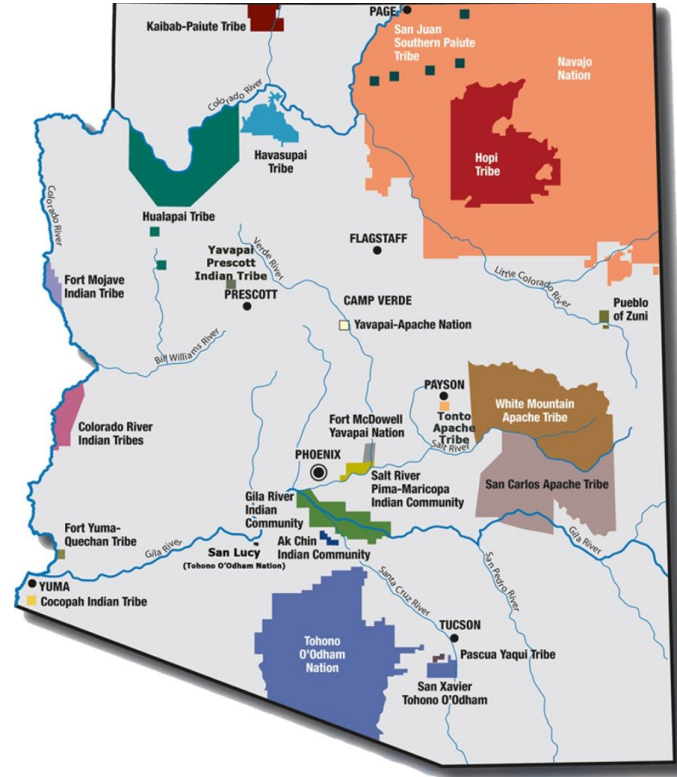
# Tribal Veteran Resources

Additional Tribal Veteran Resources

Indian Healthcare Services (IHS) and Urban Indian Organizations (UIO)

VA Healthcare Update

Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing program (Tribal HUD-VASH)



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# Wrapping Up

## What We Know

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### Question & Answer



# Session Evaluation

We want to hear from you!

