

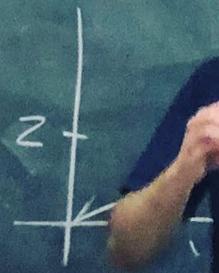


WARRIOR-SCHOLAR
PROJECT

2019 Annual Report



$$A = (4, 2)$$



- A - vector
- $r = A$ - magnitude
- $x = A_x$ - horizontal component
- $y = A_y$ - vertical component
- $\theta = \theta$ - direction
- A_x - horizontal vec. comp
- A_y - vertical vec. comp

$$A = A_x + A_y$$

Friends of Warrior-Scholar Project,

Warrior-Scholar Project ran its first academic boot camp in 2012, providing free one-of-a-kind services to enlisted veterans that would truly empower them in the transition to higher education. Just as military boot camp instills the warrior ethos, our academic boot camps push students through rigorous coursework to instill the ethos of a scholar. **We commit to students that one or two weeks with us will pay dividends throughout their entire academic and professional careers.**

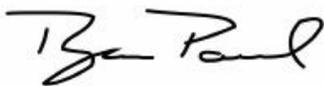
This report focuses on 2019, but it's important to acknowledge the temporary shift to virtual programming in 2020 necessitated by the pandemic. Our team is working tenaciously to run virtual programs that emulate the authentic and intensive WSP experience even without the on-site component. At every course, we facilitate open and honest civil discourse and construct our programs to foster vibrant discussion around challenging topics. We work hard to build a diverse and inclusive environment for our staff, faculty, collaborators, and students.

The WSP alumni we vet and train to mentor our students throughout our boot camps have always been key to our success, working alongside our talented central team and tremendous Board of Directors. That remains true in the virtual environment where authentic engagement is even more challenging and important. We are fortunate to have thought partners in our donors and a fantastic network of partner colleges and universities, including hundreds of faculty members, students, and administrators that help bring programs to life.

There's a reason 100% of our 250+ 2019 students would recommend WSP to their fellow veterans and why the undergraduate attrition rate for WSP alumni is less than 10% (compared to 28% for student veterans at large). It's because this thing *really* works. If you're skeptical of these numbers, I invite you to observe a course and judge for yourself.

None of this is possible without your financial support. We need you to join us in this mission of authentic and intensive empowerment that changes, and in numerous cases, saves lives. We appreciate any contributions you can offer at www.warrior-scholar.org.

Sincerely,



Ryan Pavel
CEO - Warrior-Scholar Project
United States Marine Corps, 2005-2010

OUR MISSION: SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED US

As a dynamic national non-profit, we empower enlisted military veterans by providing them with a skill bridge that enables a successful transition from the battlefield to the classroom, maximizes their education opportunities by making them informed consumers of education, and increases the confidence they will need to successfully complete a rigorous four-year undergraduate program at a top-tier school.



Gabby Graves-Wake
U.S. Marine Corps veteran
WSP MIT 2019 alumna

“My transition out of the military was through the Integrated Disability Evaluation system because I was injured while on active duty. I was transitioned to Wounded Warrior Battalion, where there is a lot of structure in place that really helps an injured, wounded, or ill servicemember transition. What isn't in place is when you're out of the military and you're starting to go through the plan that you've made, what do you do when you lose your confidence to continue down that path? Warrior-Scholar Project has really helped me find my confidence again. The path I said I was going to head down is the path I'm now confident enough to continue down.”



“I was fearless as a Marine, but when it came time to go back to school, I had my doubts. I was afraid of failing and wasn't sure that I would fit in. After attending WSP at USC in 2017, I no longer had any doubts. WSP helped me realize that I would succeed in academia the same as I had in the Marine Corps.”

Patrick Trujillo
U.S. Marine Corps veteran 2017 WSP USC alumnus
Current student at San Diego State University

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

259

veterans were served by our 2019 boot camps

18

college and university campuses across the country hosted our boot camps

17

weeks of humanities boot camp programs

7

weeks of STEM boot camp programs

2

new formats piloted: 1-week STEM and 2-week Business & Entrepreneurship boot camps

61

veterans were served by our 2019 community college workshops



6

community college campuses across the country hosted our community college workshops

In addition to our team of full-time staff who supported our programs, we utilized the talents of:

18

alumni fellows

86

humanities and business seminar faculty

36

writing instructors

36

writing tutors

21

STEM faculty

16

STEM teaching assistants

OUR PROGRAMS

Academic Boot Camps

Our academic boot camps are designed to meet veterans' unique mental, scholastic, and emotional needs and empower them to pursue their undergraduate studies. In small cohorts, warrior-scholars traditionally live on-campus for the duration of the program and take advantage of our partnering schools' research resources. We offer three different curricula for our academic boot camps: humanities, STEM, and business and entrepreneurship. In all three programs, host institution faculty volunteer their time to teach, and student veterans benefit from 2:1 instructional

support from writing instructors, program alumni fellows, tutors, TAs, and our staff.

Humanities Overview

Our democracy-focused humanities curriculum underscores the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship and fosters civic leadership skills.

STEM Overview

Following the humanities-focused academic boot camps, student veterans remain on campus for a one-week, intensive STEM-focused academic boot camp. The STEM curriculum is physics based, covering key

fundamental mathematical and scientific reasoning and problem-solving skills. We also offer a standalone STEM program that does not require participation in the humanities week.

Business & Entrepreneurship Overview

Following the humanities week, student veterans participate in an additional week of programming consisting of business skills workshops, team building and leadership exercises, pitch group work and presentations, and study skills development.

2019 Academic Boot Camp Host Institutions

Amherst College
Columbia University
Cornell University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Mass. Institute of Technology
Princeton University
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona
University of California, Irvine
University of Chicago
University of North Carolina
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
Univ. of Southern California
Yale University



Community College Workshops

In these one-day workshops, WSP staff teach students the skills they need to analyze complex academic texts and strategies on successful notetaking, time management, and assimilation into academic culture, followed by a Q&A with highly successful WSP alumni who have attended community colleges and are now currently enrolled in four-year universities.

2019 Community College Partners

Community College of Rhode Island
Grossmont College
Harrisburg Area Community College
Rockland Community College
Saddleback College
Tidewater Community College

115,000

veterans transition from the military to higher education every year, out of 200,000 who separate from the military



1%

of the total undergraduate populations of Top 20 schools are veteran students, according to a report by IVMF



72%

nationwide student veterans have completed or are on track to complete a college degree, according to a report by SVA/IVMF



THE WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT IMPACT

19%

of WSP alumni are enrolled at or have graduated from Top 20 institutions

90%

of WSP alumni have completed or are on track to complete a college degree

100%

of 2019 participants have identified abilities, skills, and experiences that will help in college

99%

of 2019 participants are more informed consumers of higher education

94%

of 2019 STEM participants feel more like they belong in the field of science

100%

of 2019 participants would recommend our programs to other veterans

94%

of 2019 participants gained confidence to apply to colleges previously thought out of reach

98%

of 2019 participants feel more capable as a result of Warrior-Scholar Project programs

FROM G.E.D. TO THE IVY LEAGUE

JULIAN ORTIZ (WSP COLUMBIA '19)



The first time Julian Ortiz stepped foot onto Columbia University's campus, a light bulb turned on—literally. When he entered campus, the winter lighting turned on.

"It felt like a sign," he said.

Much of Ortiz's story reads that same way, like a lesson in fate. Daunting challenges led to big successes, and now the high school dropout with a G.E.D. is a Navy veteran who will start his college education at an Ivy League school next fall.

Family tragedy and the residual upheaval it left behind led to the Houston, Texas native dropping out of high school after a series of moves caused him to fall behind in his education.

"My junior year of high school was a challenging time. I relocated three times during the course of that academic year," he said.

Ortiz received his G.E.D. in April 2008 and enrolled in San Jacinto Community College, but struggled to find his way forward.

"I knew that duty and service to my community and country was important," he said.

He considered options like firefighting and the Air Force, but neither were a good fit. And then fate intervened.

"On my way home from the Air Force recruiting office, I happened to damage

my grandmother's vehicle outside the parking lot of a Navy recruiting office," he said. "The rest is history."

Ortiz joined the U.S. Navy at age 22 as a Gunner's Mate responsible for operating and performing maintenance on all of his ship's guns, and the electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical systems. During a deployment to Japan, Ortiz began studying for the College-Level Examination Program online, and found a resource for American history taught by Columbia University professor Dr. Stephen Sullivan.

"I was obsessed from that moment on," he said. "His course on modern states is so captivating that it jump-started my desire to acquire my undergraduate degree."

"This program gave me the fire I needed. I knew that with the tools that WSP provided, it was time to apply to my dream school."

This experience gave Ortiz a new goal: get into Columbia University. He began searching "Columbia veterans" and "how to get into Columbia as a veteran" which led him to Warrior-Scholar Project. He was accepted into the WSP Columbia University program in 2019, and the experience was life-changing.

"Our cohort was phenomenal. The bond we quickly formed was unreal," he said. "Our fellows did a fantastic job of getting us connected, breaking down the plan, making us feel comfortable, and overall providing us a great time. The professors brought that Dr. Stephen Sullivan enthusiasm with them."

After attending WSP at Columbia, Ortiz knew for sure that he could achieve his goal of attending an elite Ivy League school.

"This program gave me the fire I needed. I knew that with the tools that WSP provided, it was time to apply to my dream school."

Ortiz applied to Columbia and was accepted for the fall 2020 class but deferred until his service ends in 2021. He received his acceptance letter when he was in Houston, very near the high school he had dropped out of as a teenager. He plans to major in economics and has his sights set to attend either law school or business school for a graduate degree.

WSP has inspired him to aim high.

"If you can serve in the United States Armed Forces, you can acquire a four-year degree. WSP can show you how to use your skillsets and apply them to the classroom. Do not be afraid to transition from service to the classroom. You can do it. You will succeed," he said.





WSP HELPED MARY SWANSON (WSP TEXAS A&M '19) TACKLE IT ALL

Mary Swanson has always been an overachiever. After graduating high school early, she joined the Marine Corps, rising to the level of sergeant of a platoon of 160+ Marines before ending her service after eight years.

So when she decided to go to college after her military separation, she attacked it with her usual high achiever vigor. "I've never just been satisfied with just going to school or having a job," she said.

For Mary, this means she enrolled in the University of Southern Maine while having three jobs and the busy life that comes with being a mom to her two kids. But this time, she wasn't able to overachieve the way she had in the past.

"I was working three jobs and was just not getting the grades I needed. I thought to myself, I'm not going to be successful on the level that I want to be successful if I continue down this path," she said. "But there was nothing that I could really change. I had the resources from SVA, I had the resources at USM for veterans, but I didn't have the time to attend tutoring every day, I didn't always keep pace with my classes, and something needed to change."

Never being one to settle, Mary kept searching for what would help her sharpen her management skills and hone that drive to succeed, and help her "relearn how to learn." She found Warrior-Scholar Project at the SVA National Conference in 2018, and she knew this was the resource she was missing. She attended the Warrior-Scholar Project STEM academic boot camp at Texas A&M University in 2019.

"I don't think I would be where I am, focusing on school, if it wasn't for WSP," she said. "I'm getting all As and Bs now, and I still work three jobs and have two kids."

"It felt like going back to the service," she said. "Being all veterans with shared experiences of serving, it was like being back in the barracks, there was that feeling of esprit de corps again. We all wanted to see each other succeed and grow."

At the time of her Warrior-Scholar Project academic boot camp, Mary was enrolled in a physics class at her university and she was struggling to keep pace with the material.

"I thought I was going to fail because I would be teaching myself," she said. "But the STEM fellows taught us and I understood it."

Mary will graduate from the University of Southern Maine in the Spring of 2021 with her bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in political science. Her plan is to attend law school and with an interest in becoming a child advocate attorney.

"I don't think I would be where I am, focusing on school, if it wasn't for WSP," she said. "I'm getting all As and Bs now, and I still work three jobs and have two kids."

Mary has since co-founded the Maine Student Veterans Alliance with the goal that all student veterans in Maine will have success in higher education the same way she has.

FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

We received support from the following foundations, family funds, and corporate supporters in 2019:

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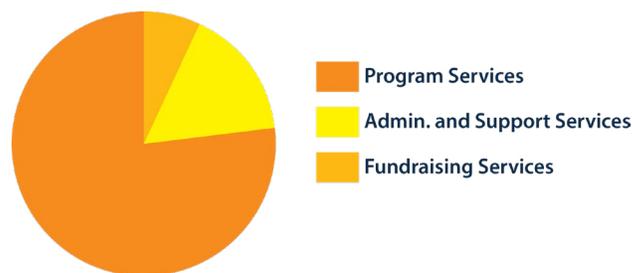
Support and Revenue



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Investments	\$194,469
In-kind Support	\$333,309
Grant Support	\$1,567,657
Corporate Support	\$43,129
Individual Contributions	\$404,511
TOTAL	\$2,543,075

Operating Expenses



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,935,108
Admin. and Support Services	\$415,675
Fundraising Services	\$189,135
TOTAL	\$2,536,918



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#WSPimpact

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