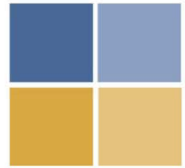


Tailoring Suicide Prevention Initiatives to the Needs of Student Veterans

Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide
Prevention Grantee Meeting

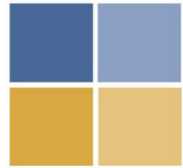




History & Mission

- The Jed Foundation works nationally to reduce emotional distress and prevent suicide among college students.
- Guided by leading experts, The Jed Foundation's programs target the full range of audiences that can impact college mental health including:
 - Students
 - Campus Professionals
 - Parents

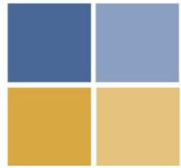




Veteran Mental Health

- Nearly 20 percent of U.S. service members returning from combat will report symptoms of PTSD or major depression (RAND – rand.org)
- Only 53% of those with PTSD or depression sought help in the past year. (RAND – rand.org)
- More than half of the estimated 300,000 military service members who are suffering from depression, post-traumatic stress disorders, and traumatic brain injury are going without treatment because of the gaps in mental health care and stigma issues. (RAND – rand.org)
- Over half of surveyed soldiers who met criteria for a psychological health problem thought they would be perceived as weak, treated differently, or blamed for their problem if they sought help (DOD Task Force on MH)
- 90% of today's seriously wounded U.S. military service members are surviving (VA)





Student Veterans

- Estimated 300,000 veterans and their dependents are currently enrolled in American institutions of higher education, representing 4 percent of the total undergraduate population.
- Military undergraduates tend to be younger than veterans in general, but older than traditional undergraduates. In 2007–08, some 85 percent of military undergraduates were aged 24 or older.
- Women represented 27 percent of all military undergraduates in 2007–08, although they made up just 7 percent of all U.S. veterans in 2006.
- 43 percent of military undergraduates in 2007–08 attended public two-year institutions. Twenty-one percent attended public four-year colleges. Private for-profit and private not-for-profit four-year institutions each enrolled about one-eighth of all military undergraduates.



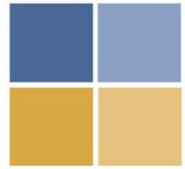


Peabody Award winning pro-social campaign with mtvU launched in November 2006

Seeks to reduce stigma and increase help-seeking through on-air, online and on-campus components

Campaign built on original quantitative and qualitative research commissioned by The Jed Foundation and mtvU





Half of Us Campaign



mtvU television network reaches 900 campuses with more than 10 million students

Campaign uses on-air, online, and on-campus programs to:

- Destigmatize emotional disorders
- Increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental health problems
- Encourage help-seeking













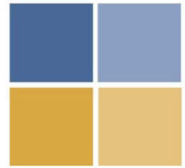








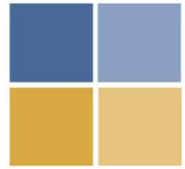




Key Lessons Learned

- Student veterans should be viewed as an opportunity and not a challenge
- Veteran to veteran resources and support are critical
- Need to bridge the divide between civilian students/faculty and student veterans
- Must understand the mental health issues in the aftermath of *this* war
- Student veterans dealing with mental health issues may need unique accommodations
- Support the warrior, not the war. Today's student vets feel overlooked, unappreciated and misunderstood.

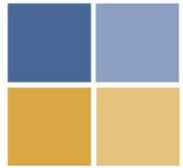




PSA 1: Common Area

- Veterans as productive students.
- Flashback that isn't overly dramatic. Simple triggers. Reaction is mainly internal.
- Veteran to veteran intervention with civilian involvement.
- Showing discussion and connection between veterans and civilian peers.

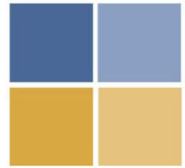




PSA 1: Lecture Hall

- In trying to teach proper communication between civilian and veterans – don't increase the divide by making the interaction intimidating.
- Encourage appropriate veteran/civilian (student and faculty) dialogue.

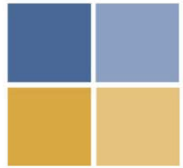




Jed Foundation Programming

- PSAs and Online Content
 - Paint a more realistic picture of transition problems and combat stress
 - Bridget the divide between veterans and civilians
 - Redefine preconceptions of student veterans
- Online Training Tool for Campus Health Professionals
 - Better understand the combat to college transition
 - Better understand mental health issues in the aftermath of *this* war
 - Better understand barriers to help-seeking and how to best address these issues





For More Information

Visit:

www.jedfoundation.org

www.halfofus.com

www.ulifeline.org

You can contact us at:

info@jedfoundation.org

