

Black Hawk College has been named a 2017 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media.

The 2017 Military Friendly® Schools list highlights 1,273 institutions that are striving to provide the best opportunities and education for our nation's student veterans. More than 1,700 schools participated in the 2017 survey.

Black Hawk College was designated a Military Friendly School in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 but serving veterans is not a new mission for the college.

When the college conducted its first classes in September 1946, 73 percent of the 239 students were World War II veterans.

Seventy years later, serving veterans and military students remains a high priority for Black Hawk College.

"We are constantly looking for new ways to better serve our veterans, military students and their families," said Marceia Duhm, coordinator of career and veterans services and Veterans Administration school certifying official (SCO) at Black Hawk College.

This semester, more than 250 BHC students are receiving veterans' benefits.

Through the Lane Evans Veterans Resource Center at the Quad-Cities Campus, the college provides resources and referrals and encourages military students and veterans to be active in the college and their communities.

"We provide support for those needing a little direction and encouragement as they transition from the military to college and civilian life," Duhm said.

Another source of support and camaraderie is the Military Students and Veterans Club, a chapter of Student Veterans of America. The club collaborates with other veterans organizations to host conferences in the community and coordinates an on-campus donation drive to send care packages to troops serving overseas.

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