

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas A&M University System Military-Affiliated Symposium

## Call for Programs

### Theme: *Sparkling Change: Advancing Veteran Success in Higher Education*

#### General Guidelines

**Session Length:** Each session should be approximately 55 minutes in length. Session presenters or facilitators are encouraged to provide a minimum of 10-15 minutes for questions during the session.

#### Suggested Formats:

1. Presentation – Traditional conference presentation by one or multiple presenter(s).
2. Panel – Panels consist of 3-5 (no more than 5) panelists and a facilitator. Prepared topics or questions should be provided to panelists in advance to ensure panelists are well prepared.

**Session Tracks:** Each presentation/panel should fit into one of the five below tracks.

1. **Best Practices in Resource & Support Programs** – Sessions in this track explore programs that prioritize the holistic well-being of student veterans, including mental health, career development, peer support and mentoring, accessibility, and financial wellness. These sessions offer insights into proven approaches for creating a supportive and inclusive environment for student veterans, enhancing their overall college experience, and promoting their success in higher education.
2. **Innovative Approaches to Serving Military-Affiliated Students** – Sessions in this track investigate cutting-edge strategies and initiatives aimed at meeting the unique needs of military-affiliated students in higher education. Sessions within this track showcase pioneering programs and practices that leverage technology and creative methodologies to enhance support and promote success of students.
3. **Collaborative Partnerships and Community Engagement** – Sessions in this track examine the importance of partnerships between institutions of higher education, government agencies, community organizations, corporate partners, and employers in supporting veteran success.
4. **Benefits and Certification** – Sessions within the Benefits and Certification track focus on the state and federal veteran education benefits utilized by military-affiliated students. Topics may include best practices in certification; innovative ways to streamline processes and procedures; and informational sessions on the various education benefits.
5. **Empowering Student Veterans** – Sessions within the Student Veteran Track are tailored specifically for student veterans as participants. These sessions offer practical insights, resources, and strategies to support student veterans throughout their academic journey.

#### Proposal Evaluation

Session proposals will be evaluated on the below criteria:

1. The proposal clearly addresses a topic related to the symposium tracks and/or theme.
2. The proposal highlights best practices, innovative techniques, and/or effective methods.
3. The proposal addresses items relevant to the education and professional development of those who work with the student veteran and military-affiliated student populations.
4. The proposed method for engaging audience participants is thoughtful, intentional, and appropriate for the session type.
5. The proposal abstract is well written and clearly describes the main points of the presentation and intended audience.
6. Proposals that highlight best practices that are proactive, strengths-based, inclusive, and/or evidenced-based are encouraged.