



# COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO Veteran Student Newsletter



## Message from the Associate Vice President for Student Services

I would like to extend a warm welcome to CSI's newest veteran students and welcome back to our returning vets. I am Dr. Michelle Schutt, the new Associate Vice President for Student Services here at the College of Southern Idaho. I want to share my appreciation for your service and sacrifice and congratulate you on your decision to pursue your education here at CSI.

On a personal level, I come from a long line of active service members, with a great grandfather serving in WWI, grandfathers serving in WWII and the Korean War, respectively, and my own father serving during the Vietnam War. My family and I recently visited the war memorials of Washington, D.C. where the true impact of service became an educational opportunity for my children when they were able to meet World War II veterans who shared their experiences and communicated the true cost of the freedom.

My grandfather, after returning from his service in WWII, took full advantage of the benefits of the "The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944" and after working at a meat packing plant before his deployment, returned home to enroll in college, earn a degree in education, and spend over 30 years in the classroom, where he influenced hundreds of lives. His experience and decision to enroll in college changed our family tree.

Your decision to attend the College of Southern Idaho has the same potential for your own family tree. We in Student Services attempt to provide a wide variety of support mechanisms to assist you on this journey. I encourage you to take advantage of all CSI has to offer. Connect with Shannon Kerr, your School Certifying Official. Stop in and talk to academic advisor Scott Lindquist. Join the Veterans' Club. Apply for the CSI Foundation Veterans' Scholarship. Seek out academic tutoring or personal counseling. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to let us know if there are other ways we can help you be successful!

I wish you great success in the upcoming academic year.

**Michelle Schutt, Ph.D.**

**Associate Vice President for Student Services**

## CSI Veterans Club

In the 2014 – 2015 spring semester, veterans on the CSI campus had expressed interest in establishing a Veterans Club. A club meeting was held and had produced a large turnout of individuals and formed many ideas to ensure the future success of the club. Since then, the Veterans Club had elected officers, participated in various CSI sponsored events, and was able to raise some money to help move the club out of its infancy stage to establish a permanent place amongst the other clubs offered through CSI.

At the beginning of the 2015 – 2016 fall semester, the Veterans Club held a meeting to talk about the future goals that would like to be accomplished. The club is currently working on finding community sponsorship to support the cause, social media outlets to better inform our members of upcoming meeting and events, t-shirts and/or hats to identify our members during events, and fundraisers to help spread awareness of our veterans around the CSI campus and the local community.

The Veterans club will be electing new officers for the 2015 – 2016 academic year and if anyone is interested in holding a position or has any ideas on how to make our club successful, please come to a scheduled meeting or email one of the clubs appointed advisors.

### Current Advisors:

Shannon Kerr  
Scott Lindquist  
Whitney Smith

### Current Officers:

President– Mason Cutrer  
Vice President– Trevor Turner  
Secretary– Tabitha Eaton  
Treasurer– Antoinette Page  
Representative– Kimberly Dean

**Tabitha Eaton**  
**Veterans Club Secretary**

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### College of Southern Idaho Veteran Services Contacts

**Shannon Kerr**– School Certifying Official  
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### Visit us Online:

<http://www.csi.edu/veteransServices/>



## Veterans Treatment Court Needing Volunteers

The 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District has established a new problem solving court located in Twin Falls that is designed specifically to help veterans. One of the foundations of the Veterans Treatment Court model is the establishment of a multi-disciplinary, non-adversarial, and collaborative team. Part of this required team is a peer mentor role that will encourage, guide, and provide social support to the veteran participant.

The peer mentor role is filled by veterans from the community who are willing to volunteer their time to help a fellow veteran participant in this program. If you are interested in volunteering for the Veterans Treatment Court program or would like more information, please contact the Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator Tabitha Eaton at [eatont.5jd.vtc@gmail.com](mailto:eatont.5jd.vtc@gmail.com) or the Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Richard Neu at (208) 735-4374 or [rneu@co.twin-falls.id.us](mailto:rneu@co.twin-falls.id.us).

## Newsletter Contributors:

- Shannon Kerr
- Scott Lindquist
- Michelle Schutt, Ph.D.
- John Twiss
- Tabitha Eaton
- Erin Nunnelle

## Campus Spotlight

### CSI Student Recreation Center

The CSI Student Recreation Center 24,000 square foot facility is open to CSI students, faculty & staff and to community members. Membership is free for full-time students and part-time student membership rates based on the number of credits they are enrolled in. The Center has a full indoor basketball/volleyball court, 3 weight rooms, two cardio spaces with a plethora of machines, including treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, stair steppers, rowers, all looking out large windows overlooking one of the most beautiful campuses in Idaho! The elevated indoor track has full length windows on one side and views of the basketball court on the other. The Student Rec. Center houses several fitness rooms where over 100 Health, Recreation and Fitness courses are held each semester by certified instructors. A large variety of indoor and outdoor intramural sports are available along with drop-in classes and fitness assessments. The CSI Student Recreation Center is open from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. For more information visit the Student Rec. Center website ([http://recreation.csi.edu/student\\_rec\\_center/](http://recreation.csi.edu/student_rec_center/)) or contact John Twiss (208-733-9554 [johntwiss@csi.edu](mailto:johntwiss@csi.edu)).

**John Twiss**  
Director of Recreation

## A Letter from your School Certifying Official

Hello All, I am not sure if you are as excited about the coming semester as I am but I know it is going to be a great one. I have had the privilege to recently meet quite a few new faces and see and visit with many of return students. I love the beginning of the semester when I get the opportunity to see some of you that I only see a couple of times throughout the semester and also the students I see often. If for some reason I have not met you please come see me, I am located in the Admissions and Records office of the Taylor Building.

I do have a few reminders for you.

Students receiving Chapter 30, 1606, and 1607 make sure that you are verifying your attendance at the end of each month. The VA will not issue a payment until attendance verification has been done. This can be done over the phone at 877-823-2378, or online at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/>. If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please remember that the certification form needs to be filled out every semester. The majority of you have already filled out the certification form for the fall semester but in case you have not please get that in to me as soon as possible so that I can help you get your benefits. Remember that I can only certify courses that work towards your major so please make sure you are working with your advisors. Also you are only allowed to repeat a course twice and I cannot certify any courses that you have passed unless a higher grade is needed for that program.

If you need to drop a class or change your schedules in any way PLEASE LET ME KNOW. It is imperative that I know. I am more than happy to assist you with the changes as I do have to report these changes to the VA.

If you find that you are struggling with your course work, know that we have many resources and that there is help available. Please stop my office at any time and I can help you find what you need to help you best succeed. Thank you for everything you do and allowing me the opportunity to serve you. If there is anything that I can help you with or if you have ever have any suggestions on how I can better be of service to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Shannon Kerr**  
Student Services Specialist  
School Certifying Official