

# BE A GOOD ADVOCATE FOR VETERAN STUDENTS

**1**

**Stop and Listen.** Transitioning can be hard, and being a sounding board can be extremely helpful.

**2**

**Refer Well.** Don't hesitate to refer a student to MVSS or to any other campus resources, but make sure the referral is appropriate.

**3**

**Don't ask many questions.** Most veterans consider their service record confidential, and asking questions about their military service can be offensive.

**4**

**Don't tell your war stories.** Make the conversation about the student and their needs. Once you develop a stronger relationship, your personal stories can be shared.

**5**

**Making politically charged statements about the military and war can be damaging in building relationships with veterans.**

**6**

**Take proactive steps to make your classroom a safe place for veteran students. Allow seating in the rear. Accommodate service animals. Post disclosures about potential trigger subjects in your syllabus. Facilitate safe discussions regarding trigger subjects.**

# QUESTIONS NOT TO ASK VETERANS

- ~ Did you kill anyone?
- ~ Did you see anyone die?
- ~ Are you glad you are back?
- ~ Did you miss your family?
- ~ Do you have to/want to go back?
- ~ What was it like?
- ~ Was joining the military worth it?
- ~ How do you feel about the war?
- ~ Are you really a veteran?

# QUESTIONS TO ASK VETERANS

- ~ What branch were you in?
- ~ What was your job in the military?
- ~ What are your career goals?
- ~ How is your transition going?
- ~ How I can help you accomplish your goals?