

GSE

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University

EDGE4VETSSM

Turning Strengths of Military Service Into Tools For Success in School, Work and Life



WHAT IS EDGE4VETSSM?



The key to helping veterans transition from the military to a successful civilian life is to show them how to reframe the strengths they learned in the military to gain a competitive edge back home.

Edge4Vets is designed to help America's veterans turn strengths they earned during military service into tools to achieve maximum success as they transition to school, work and careers. The program, developed by Fordham's Human Resiliency Institute at the Graduate School of Education, offers a series of resiliency workshops, a website where participants give and get peer support, and the Fordham Support Center.

Working with four key resiliency strengths reflected in the stories of 9/11 heroes, the resiliency workshops help veterans apply their coping skills to increase self-esteem, enhance the quality of their relationships (both personal and professional) and create individual action plans to prepare for jobs and future careers.

Operated in conjunction with FordhamVets and the Graduate School of Social Service, the support center offers links to resources for ongoing assistance provided through a collaboration of academic, business and government partners.

1

RESILIENCY WORKSHOP

Veterans learn critical strengths in the military, including ADAPTABILITY (how to change with circumstances); ENGAGEMENT (how to work with others); PROACTION (how to get things done) and OPTIMISM (how to remain positive).

In an introductory workshop, participants learn how to identify their own leadership traits in order to help them assimilate quickly to an academic environment. They create personal action plans that draw on these strengths and help them achieve goals they set in three areas—school regulations and procedures, social life, and academics—in order to focus fully on using school to prepare for personal and professional success.

2

EDGE4VETS.COM

For those who take the workshop and want to apply these lessons to help other veterans succeed, the program offers Edge4Vets.com, an interactive, vet-to-vet online support group.

At www.Edge4Vets.com, participants share their personal transition stories, discuss ongoing challenges and offer tips to other veterans in video and text form.

The follow-up sessions are led by volunteer mentors, who participate in order to reinforce their understanding of the strengths they earned in the military and gain clarity on how their skills match up with future employment and career opportunities.

3

SUPPORT CENTER

The Fordham Support Center provides veterans with links to ongoing encouragement and counseling programs through Fordham's Graduate School of Social Service and national partners recruited by the program.

In addition, veterans will find links on Edge4Vets.com to sources for academic assistance through FordhamVets, including help on how to apply the GI Bill to earn a college degree.



WHY THE NEED?

More than two million soldiers have been deployed to fight America's wars over the past decade. These include a record number of females whose needs have long been underserved in the transition process from the military to civilian life. Now, these young men and women are returning home to the uncertainty of a harsh economy and evolving social mores.

They face many challenges. They need a helping hand. The time to support them is now!

In 2011, the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham will begin implementing its three-part program with a series of pilots, conferences and fundraising events—all designed to create a multi-faceted mentoring system that will provide guidance for America's veterans and help them achieve full, satisfying and successful civilian lives.



IMPLEMENTATION

The program will begin in September 2011 with a pilot for student/veterans enrolled in FordhamVets.

Following that launch, a MODULE will be packaged and tailored to support student/vets in partnership with:

- Colleges
- Community Colleges
- Trade Schools

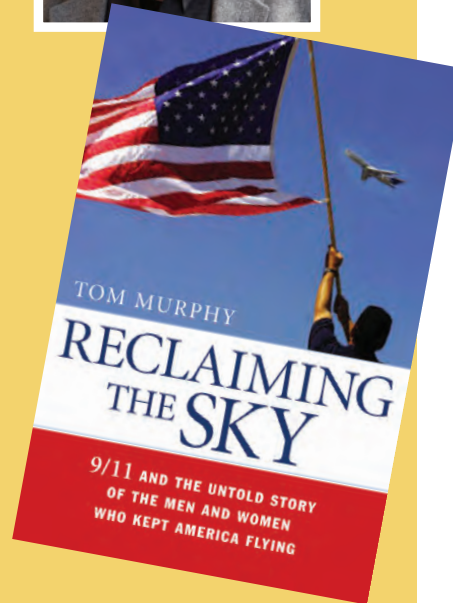
In addition, the program is being adapted to meet the needs of veterans in the workplace, in partnership with leadership companies.

Also, a MODULE is being prepared to meet the needs of FEMALE VETERANS, which will be offered in partnership with airports.

In addition to meeting veterans' needs, the Resiliency Edge model, the core of the Edge4Vets workshop, has been offered to thousands of aviation and healthcare employees across the country since 2008.

The resiliency principles used in the workshop are drawn from the stories of 9/11 heroes profiled in Tom Murphy's *Reclaiming the Sky*. Murphy is director of the Human Resiliency Institute at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education and the force behind the University's effort to find academic partners, private sponsors and support from national veterans organizations to help veterans meet the challenges of creating successful lives for themselves and their families after the military.

For more information about the resiliency principles that inform the curriculum, the stories of 9/11 heroes profiled in the book and participating charities, visit www.reclaimingthesky.com.



EDGE4VETS

The Time Is Now!

“The needs of female veterans have long been overlooked—Edge4Vets is exactly what we need.”

—VERONICA MARTINEZ

employee, Los Angeles International Airport

“As an alumnus, I am proud to see Fordham play a leadership role launching a great effort like this to help those who sacrificed so much for all of us.”

—MARK LONGO

board member, Legal Services NYC

“The resiliency workshop is something every veteran should take after the military to help them overcome culture gaps in civilian life.”

—JAMES THOMAS

former soldier in Afghanistan now studying at Fordham through FordhamVets



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Graduate School of Education | Room 1121 | 113 West 60th Street | New York, NY 10023

To learn how you can support Edge4Vets, contact Tom Murphy, director of Fordham University's Human Resiliency Institute, at (360) 731-0603 or tom@reclaimingthesky.com.

Visit www.HumanResiliency.com and www.Edge4Vets.com.

Visit Edge4Vets.com for a list of our industry partners.