

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Ana Cobian (323) 360-1827

ana.cobian@wardcirclestrategies.com

VETERANS TO TESTIFY JANUARY 8 ABOUT HOW UNFAIR PRACTICES & FAILED OVERSIGHT SADDLE GIS WITH DEBT & FUEL THE STUDENT DEBT CRISIS

AS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STEPS UP OVERSIGHT, VETS CALL ON GOV'T TO TIGHTEN ACCREDITATION STANDARDS & PROTECT STUDENTS FROM RIP-OFFS

“The system is broken. Now is the time to close the floodgates, end the ripoffs, and start raising education standards.”

WASHINGTON, DC - JAN. 8, 2024- Beginning on Monday, January 8, veterans and military-connected students from Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas who were mistreated or defrauded by poor-quality schools will testify before the US Department of Education -- blowing the whistle on lax oversight and widespread abuse as the government prepares to tighten college authorization and accreditation standards.

The veterans will also be available for 1:1 Interviews after testifying.

Their testimony comes as the federal government works to meet a November deadline to crack down on sham and low-quality colleges that [take money](#) from US taxpayers and students in exchange for degrees that are too often worthless.

The current accreditation system is notoriously loose -- rarely policing the worst-performing colleges, and lacking adequate standards to assess the educational quality of programs that gain eligibility for GI Bill benefits and federal student aid through accreditation.

“Veterans are rightfully furious when they realize that an accredited school—approved by both the Department of Education and the VA— failed to provide a marketable degree or a quality education in return for their hard-earned GI Bill benefits,” said Della Justice, Vice President for Legal Affairs at Veterans Education Success, a national nonprofit that fights for the GI Bill and the rights of veterans to utilize their education benefits.

“Student veterans rely on the government’s system for school oversight, but the system is broken,” added Justice. “We are pleased the Department is undertaking much-needed reform. Now is the time to close the floodgates and improve the standards so that student veterans get the education and outcomes they deserve.”

Veterans Testifying Jan. 8-11, 2024 Available for Interviews: **[REGISTER HERE](#) to SEE LIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

2024 TESTIMONY DATE & TIME	COLLEGE PROGRAM	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	BRANCH	VETERAN'S TOWN	STATE
January 8, 3:30-3:33 pm	Fortis Institute Nashville	Jasmine	Thomas	Military Spouse-Army	Fort Campbell KY and Ardmore OK	Oklahoma
January 8, 3:33-3:36 pm	Art Institute	Michael	Nelson	Army	Mansfield	Texas
January 8, 3:48-3:51 pm	Ashford University	Angela	McMillen	Navy	Pierce	Colorado
January 9, 3:30-3:33 pm	Full Sail University	Adam	Young	Navy	Gilbert	Arizona
January 9, 3:42-3:45 pm	American InterContinental University	Sally	Olsen	Marines	Bloomington	Illinois
January 9, 3:45-3:48 pm	ITT Tech	Stephanie	Pollay	Air Force	Harleysville	Pennsylvania
January 10, 3:33-3:36 pm	University of Phoenix	Jeri	Glenn	Navy	Copperas Cove	Texas
January 11, 3:30-3:33 pm	Grand Canyon University	Cynthia	Lawrence	Military Spouse-Army	Fayetteville and Harnett County	North Carolina
January 11, 3:39-3:42 pm	Argosy University	Mayso	Porch	Army	Arlington	Texas

Veterans Are Available for 1:1 Interviews after Testifying; contact Ana Cobian 323.360.1827; ana.cobian@wardcirclestrategies.com

Veterans Education Success is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance higher education success for veterans, service members, and military families and to protect the integrity and promise of the GI Bill and other federal education programs. The organization offers free help, advice, and college and career counseling to service members, veterans, and their survivors and families using federal education benefits. It helps them participate in their democracy by engaging with policymakers. Veterans Education Success also provides non-partisan policy expertise to federal and state policymakers and conducts non-partisan research on issues of concern to student veterans. Additional information is available at vetsedsuccess.org.

###