



serving those who served us

Auburn University has a strong home base on campus for veterans. Services that were once hard to find and often unused are now more noticeable thanks to the work of the Veteran's Resource Center. Currently, there are around 350 student veterans and 700 eligible military dependents that benefit from the resources offered by the center.

BY | JAYLIN GOODWIN

Originally founded in 2010, it was first designed to increase support for and outreach to veterans enrolling in college after the Post 9/11 GI Bill took effect. Over the past seven years, however, they have expanded their efforts by sponsoring campus organizations and programs, identifying academic resources, providing financial advising, and giving professional, personal, and career development services to our student veterans like CLA students Christopher Beamon and Morgan Dial.



Christopher Beamon (pictured above) is a College of Liberal Arts graduate student pursuing a master's degree in public administration. He served in the Army for four years as a cargo specialist and was stationed in several different locations both at home and abroad.

"I chose Auburn's Master of Public Administration Program because it is nationally ranked and accredited, and I was ready to come home," said Beamon. He hopes to use his degree to take on a leadership role within the Department of Veteran Affairs, more specifically the Veterans Health Administration. "With an MPA I can work on the regional or healthcare side, or go into state or federal government."

Beamon has used the resources and guidance offered by the Veterans Resource Center and says he is most grateful for the community and friendships formed through the office.

"There is a bond within the office. I don't have many friends at Auburn. The veterans and I share one thing in common: service. These are more like brothers and sisters to me," he explained.

Morgan Dial (pictured above) spent four years in the Navy as a mass communications specialist and served two deployments stationed aboard the USS Iwo Jima. After completion of her military service, she decided to enroll at Auburn since her husband was a student in Auburn's flight management program. Dial, now a junior in public relations, works in automotive experiential marketing and hopes to continue in the field of consumer behavior.

"I hope to continue to grow in a similar environment, where I am assisting consumers with understanding the product they are investing in rather than pushing them to buy something they won't need," explained Dial. "Wherever my career takes me I want to be sure that I am still working with people and leaving them with smiles whether it is coworkers, clients, or consumers."



Fun Fact: API (now Auburn University) switched from a semester to a quarter schedule in June 1942 to accelerate baccalaureate education for military-bound students.