

**Profile of  
Elaina Koltz  
Financial Aid Advisor, Veteran Services  
University of Wisconsin–Green Bay  
2019 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- Financial Aid Advisor for Veterans Services since 2009; has worked at UW-Green Bay since 1999, and in 2002, became the School Certifying Official (SCO), the liaison between UW-Green Bay students and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- As part of UW-Green Bay’s Veterans Program, helps to assist more than 500 veterans and their dependents who use VA benefits; since 2002, the number of students served on campus has increased 300 percent.
- Prepares reports certifying the university’s student benefits to the VA; with the growth in student veterans, additional tracking and reporting requirements became necessary, with audits conducted every few years.
- Serves as a key leader in statewide efforts to fairly and efficiently administer a complex mix of state and federal veterans’ benefits.
- Has created a welcoming environment for students, who express gratitude for her knowledge and genuine concern for their success and wellbeing.
- Leads and helped form the campus-wide Veterans Support Team, which in 2017 brought together a variety of departments to assist students unable to attend the first few weeks of the semester because of Hurricane Harvey.
- Implemented a Veteran and Service Member Student Lounge where these students can find resources and build relationships to support each other throughout the semester; site of monthly Veteran Open House.
- Serves as an advisor for the UW-Green Bay Vets 4 Vets Student Veterans Club and assists with programs in which they are involved, such as the City Stadium Run for Veterans and the Northeast Wisconsin Veterans Treatment Court.
- Plans activities for annual Veteran Week held around Veterans Day each year; helped develop a Veteran Employment Workshop to bring a veteran advisor from the Department of Workforce Development, along with UW-Green Bay’s career services representative and recruiters from local businesses.
- Became president of a new community program called Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Battalion Bravo Company, an organization that works on training volunteer veteran sponsors to reach out to veterans/service members discharged from active duty to help them connect to community veteran resources.
- Helping to bring to UW-Green Bay the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; the campus is poised to have the second VSOC program in Wisconsin.

**In Elaina Koltz’s own words:**

- “When I retired from the Wisconsin National Guard in 2004, I found the military was an institution difficult to leave. After working with student veterans on the civilian side, I realized how blessed I am to still be able to assist our local heroes.”

**In the words of colleagues:**

- “Elaina leads [the Veterans Support Team] with an infinite amount of energy and dedication. To say that Elaina goes above and beyond as an advocate for our students – especially those connected in some fashion to the military – would be an understatement.”  
—*Gregory Davis, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Green Bay*
- “Elaina has touched so many lives in helping veteran students and their families, and her positive attitude has influenced professionals across the state and region.”  
—*Sue Steeno, Assistant Director, Financial Aid, Student Employment and Veterans Services, UW-Green Bay*