

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Proudly Serving Veterans Since 1975

Veterans' Education Programs Issues, Legislative, & Education Agenda 2022-2023



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ABOUT US

The National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) is an organization of institutions and individuals who are involved or interested in the operation of veterans' affairs programs and/or the delivery of services to veterans as Veterans' Education Program Administrators across the country.



2023 NAVPA
Hill Visits!



ABOUT US

NAVPA has served as the voice of advocacy for veterans in higher education since its founding in 1975. Our research, training, and policy initiatives have developed programs and support services to ensure veterans achieve their academic and professional goals.



MEMBERSHIP

NAVPA's membership includes over 400 Institutions of Higher Learning across the nation that represent over 530,000 student veterans.

Membership in NAVPA shall be extended in three levels of participation:

- Institutional Membership
- Auxiliary Membership
- Associate Membership





Advocacy

NAVPA advocates on behalf of student veterans regarding the GI Bill[®] educational benefits.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

PRIORITY ISSUE #1

LACK OF ELRS TO SUPPORT SCOS

Issue: There are not enough Education Liaison Representatives (ELRs) to support the School Certifying Officials (SCO's) in the implementation of the many changes in recent Department Veterans Affairs (VA) policies, procedures, and legislation.



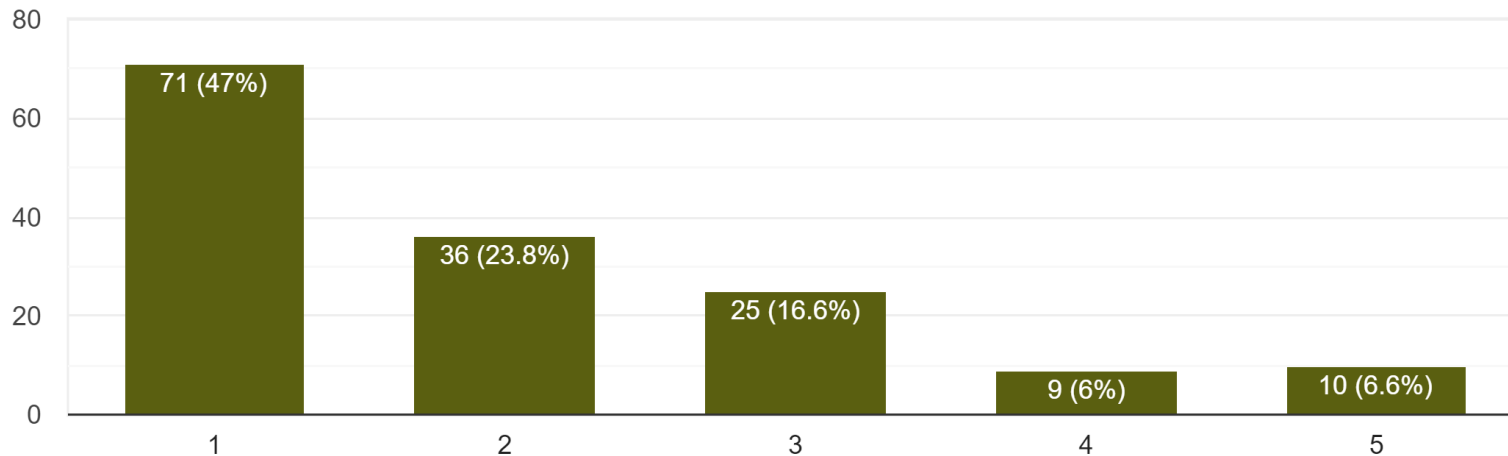
ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

NAVPA conducted a survey of SCOs in December 2022 and in this analysis, NAVPA found the following:

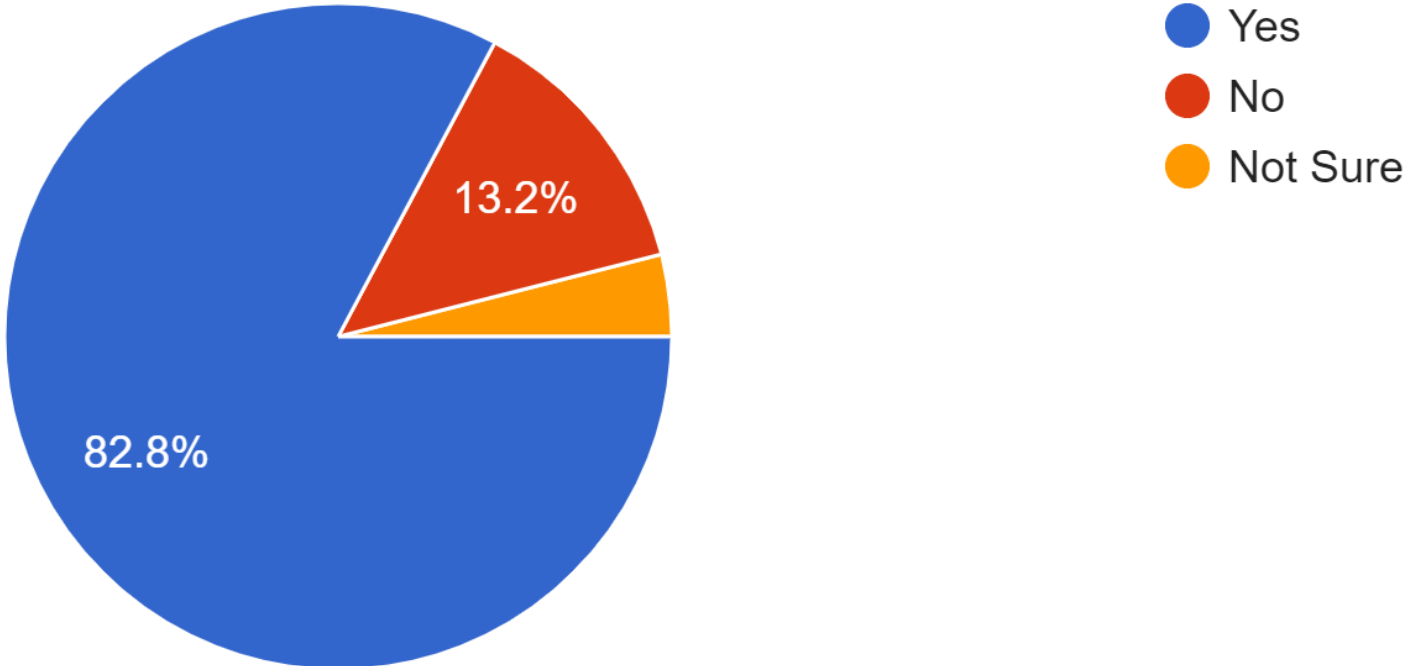
How satisfied are you with your ELR responses/support?

151 responses



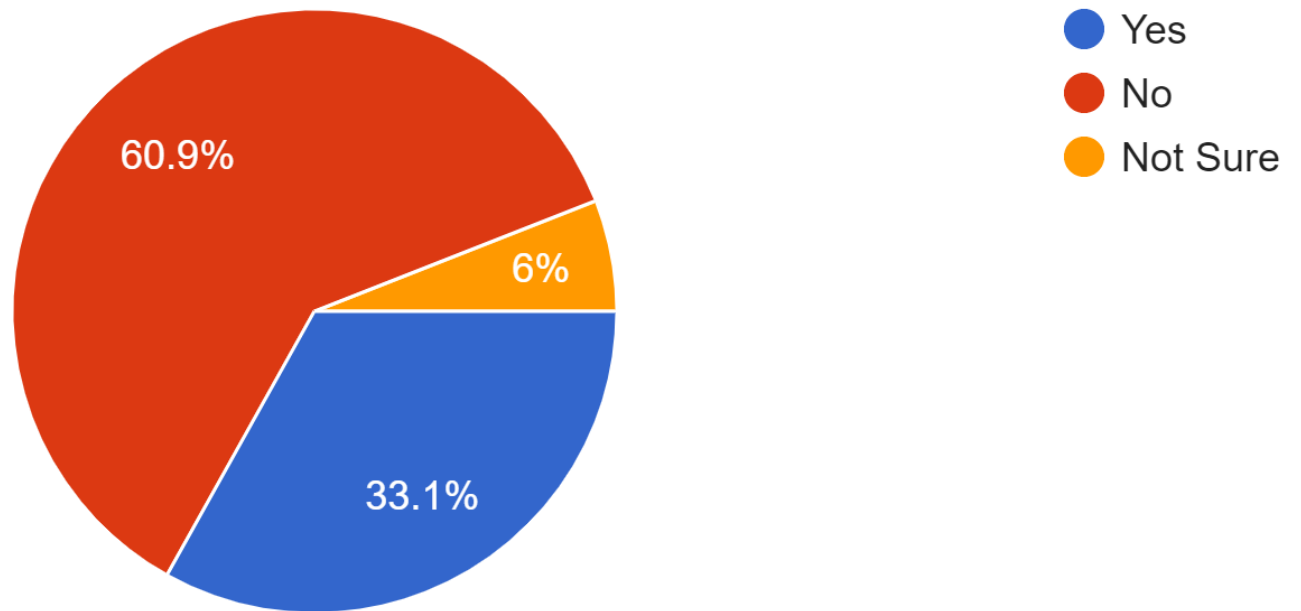
Do you have an approved catalog and updated WEAMS for 2021-2022?

151 responses



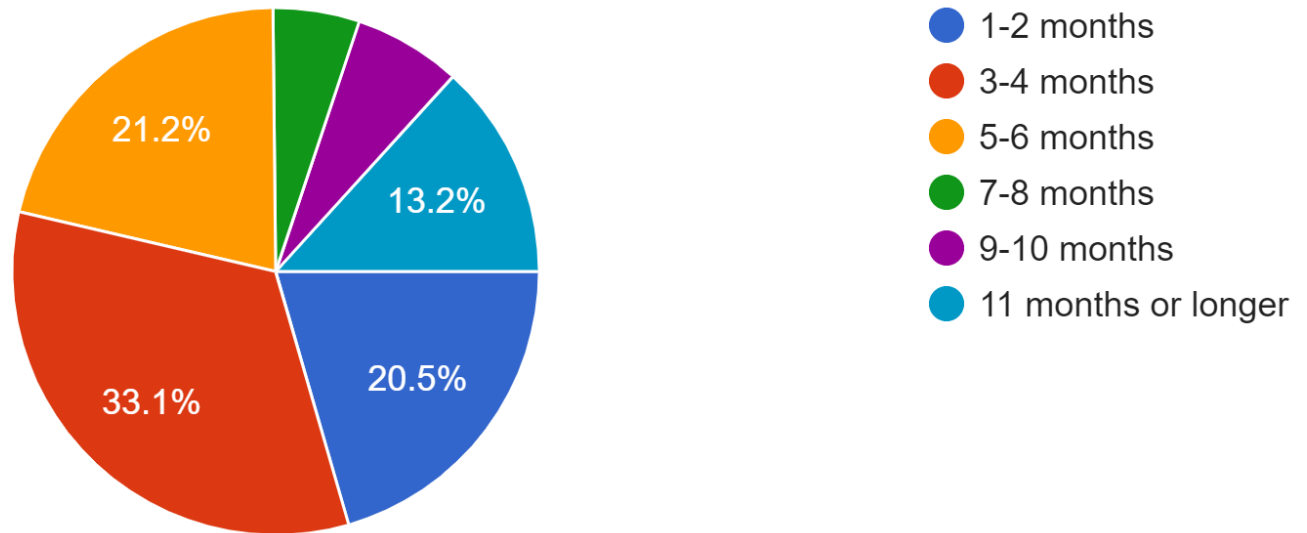
Do you have an approved catalog and updated WEAMS for 2022-2023?

151 responses



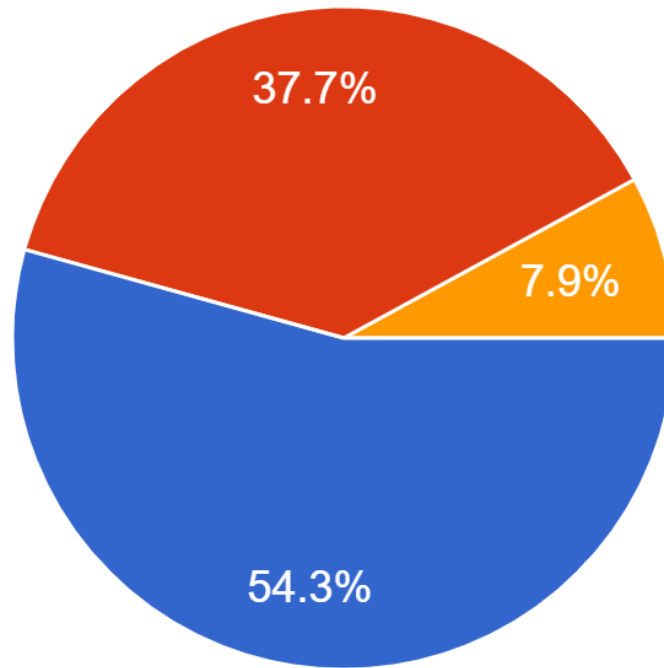
How long has it taken to receive an updated WEAMS report from your ELR?

151 responses



Have you submitted a VA Form 22-8794 in 2022?

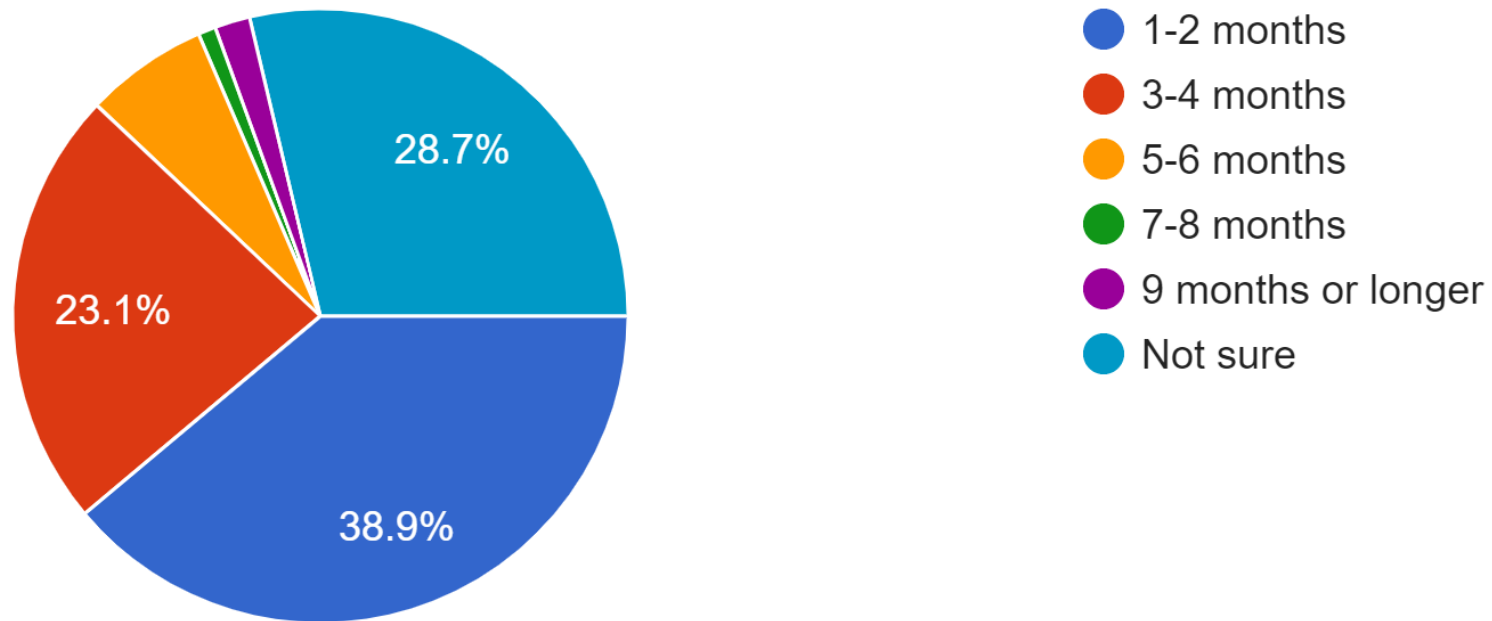
151 responses



- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

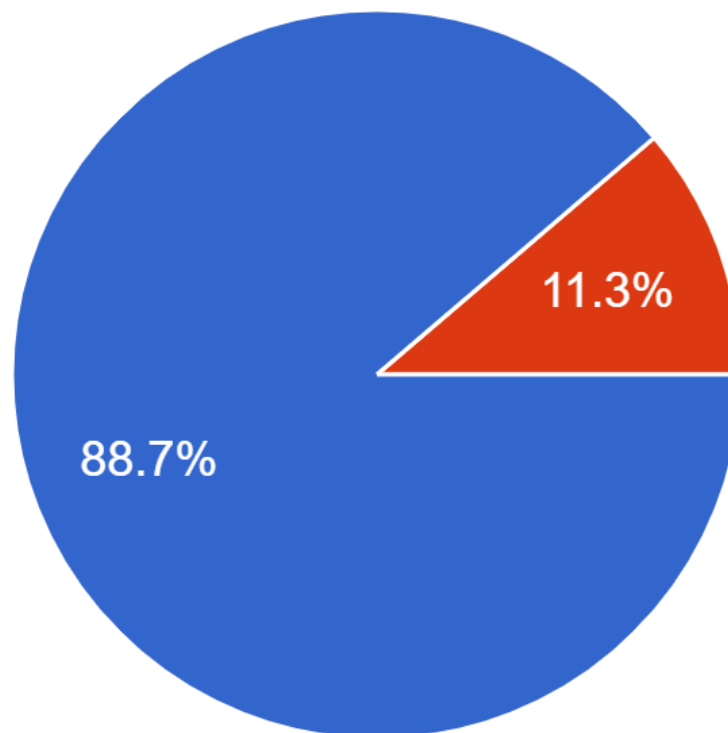
If yes, how long has it taken to receive VA Once approval for your new SCO?

108 responses



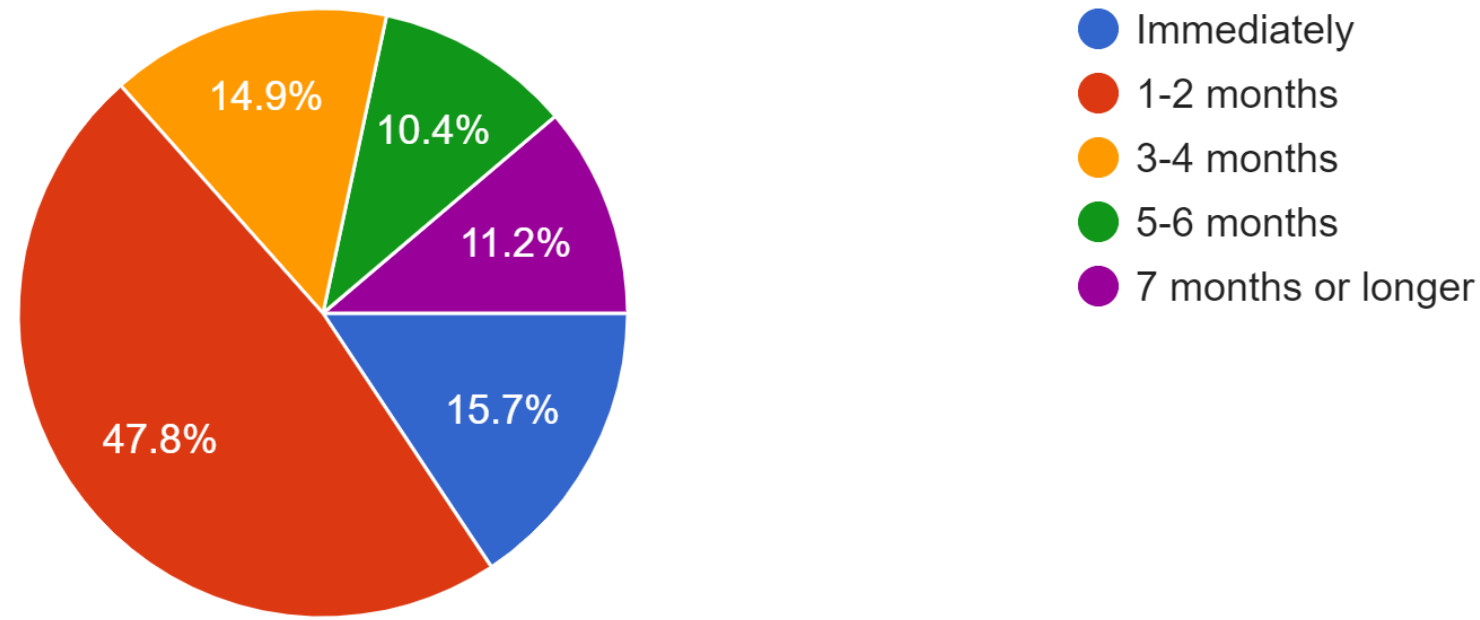
Have you submitted any questions to your ELR?

151 responses



If Yes, how long did you have to wait to receive an answer from your ELR?

134 responses



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

Recommendation:

NAVPA recommends a review of the current organizational structure within the VA Education Services to ensure the ELR has administrative support to meet mission requirements. Hiring a team to input mundane data will free up the ELR to respond to the needs of SCOs in understanding specific student veteran issues and the many changes in policies and procedures.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

Recommendation:

NAVPA also recommends a strong mentoring and communication system be developed within the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to support the necessary ELR communications and training. The lack of ELRs has been crippling in the administration of the GI Bill[®] to the detriment of student veterans.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

PRIORITY ISSUE #2

INCREASE OF SCO RESPONSIBILITIES

Issue: Due to policy changes within the VA and/or Congressional legislation, SCOs continue to have an abundance of new responsibilities and expectations set upon them.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

Recommendation:

The VA recommended one full-time SCO for every 200 GI Bill® students. NAVPA would like to see this updated and increase the number of SCOs to student ratio to accommodate the numerous amounts of changes and responsibilities placed on the SCO.

While NAVPA understands the necessity of a Compliance Survey, NAVPA asks that the VA be good stewards of taxpayer monies to ensure schools are not completing a Compliance Survey unnecessarily. NAVPA recommends the VA work with institutions and not schedule back-to-back surveys especially when there are no findings. Given the number of documents and time required to complete these surveys, NAVPA recommends legislation remove the time limited notice requirement in P.L.117-333.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

UPDATE:

NAVPA has been meeting with the HVAC and they are preparing new legislation to address the time requirement to address the 10-day notice for Compliance Surveys: H.R. 7939, Section 12(c).

NAVPA also addressed the lack of a database for the VA to deploy Risk Base Surveys for valid reasons.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

PRIORITY ISSUE #3

GI BILL® COMPARISON TOOL COMPLAINT SYSTEM

Issue: Institutions of higher learning receive unvetted/unwarranted complaints against them as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) GI Bill® feedback system, which is then posted on the public GI Bill® Comparison Tool.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

Recommendation:

VA should review all complaint responses and vet valid student complaints while ensuring non-valid POE complaints are not published on the GI Bill® Comparison Tool. VA should direct students to the institution to have their concerns addressed instead of recommending they file a complaint.

NAVPA recommends the VA establish a Point-of-Contact (POC) to respond to institutions' inquiries with established timelines for VA follow-up and respond to complaints and questions from the institution.



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Concerns

New Legislation Introduced

- *VA Work Study Improvement Act* - would require the VA to implement several reforms to maximize the positive impact on student veterans and improve program transparency.
- *Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act* - would create a five-year pilot program to expand VA Work-Study program eligibility to student veterans who are pursuing academic programs on a least a half-time basis



ISSUES & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Concerns

New Legislation Introduced/In the Works

- *Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act*
- *The Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act*
- *Other*



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

ON THE HILL



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Executive Board In DC





Education & Scholarship

- Winners announced in October
- 2023 Application opening this week!
- Students school must be an active member of NAVPA
- \$1000 scholarship for each region



Congratulations!

2022 NAVPA SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS

REGION I



ABIGAIL RENDON
MILITARY DEPENDENT
ENDICOTT COLLEGE

REGION II



JERMAINE BISHOP
VETERAN
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

REGION III



ASHLEE EASTMAN
MILITARY DEPENDENT
EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

REGION IV



LANIE BRIGGS
MILITARY DEPENDENT
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
IN HUNTSVILLE

REGION V



RUTHIE ZAHM
RESERVIST

REGION VI



MICHAEL MARROON
RESERVIST

REGION VII



AUSTIN LONG
ACTIVE DUTY MARINES

REGION VIII



MIHYANG KIM
MILITARY DEPENDENT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS' PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS 2023 Conference

Setting Sail to Success

2023 Conference

Norfolk, VA - October 16-20

AHOY NAVIGATORS!



National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators

#NAVPA2023

#NAVPA Norfolk

#NAVPAgators

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#StongerTogether2023

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Listed Group:

National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA)

