OPERATION EDUCATION

Scholarship Program
at the University of Idaho

"You have served us; now let us serve you, with a college degree."

Presented by:
Karen N. White, PhD, PT
Chair, Operation Education
What is Operation Education?

- A unique scholarship program for disabled veterans and their spouses
  - Remove barriers to assist veterans to earn a college degree
  - Undergraduate, graduate or professional
  - Support self and family,
  - Further contribute to society & community

- Three areas of support
  - Financial
  - Academic
  - Living and Social

- Comprehensive, personalized, flexible
Eligibility Requirements

• Honorably separated U.S. military veteran or spouse.
• Service-connected injury since 9/11 that resulted in a physical disability.
• Meet the University requirements for admission as a degree-seeking student.
• Enroll as a full-time student.
  – Spouses may apply jointly or individually.
  – Priority is given to Idaho residents and those whose disability resulted from action in a combat zone.
Financial Support

- Funding is generous but strategic
  - Use standard financial aid formulas to determine need
  - Utilize all other funding sources first
  - Approximately $8000 per student-year

- Student numbers are small to maintain a personalized program
  - 5 scholars on campus in fall

- Our goal is 20 students on campus
  - 4 new students per year x 5 years
Academic & Social Support

• Academic
  – Classroom accommodations
  – Adaptive equipment
  – Tutoring and advising
  – Education specialist
  – Real-time captioning

• Living and Social
  – Housing
  – Social connections
  – Personal and family counseling
  – Child care
  – On-campus transportation
  – Community partners
Campus Expertise Utilized to Deliver the Program

- Veterans Affairs Advisor
- Student Financial Aid Office
- University Housing Office
- Disability Support Services
- Tutoring & Academic Assistance Programs
- Information Technology Services
- Academic Advising
- Counseling and Testing Center
- University Transportation & Parking
- Student Health Center / Child Care Center
- Development, Marketing, Legal Counsel
Organizational Structure

• Scholarship Chairperson
  – Highly visible, active, senior level champion
  – Coordinate services, raise awareness

• Development Officer

• Veterans Affairs Advisor

• Steering Committee
  – Members from across campus
  – Create policy, direct program

• Selection Committee
  – Review applications, determine awards
Fundraising

- Program direct costs are supported entirely by private donations
  - Foundations, alums, supporters
  - We have raised $400,000 in two years
  - Over 1000 gifts, from $5 to $50,000

- Appealing program to raise money for
  - Today’s “victory garden”, a way for civilians to support the troops

- The goodwill and positive publicity that accompanies this project is immeasurable and invaluable
Our Offer to You

• We would like to see an Operation Education scholarship program on every campus.

• We offer you the trademarked "OPERATION EDUCATION" name, our business plan, and any advice that you may want, free of charge.

• Maintain the spirit and intent of the original program.
For More Information

• Visit our website: www.uihome.uidaho.edu/operationeducation

• To request a copy of our business plan e-mail us at: oped@uidaho.edu

• To request an application contact John Sawyer, veterans’ advisor at (208) 885-7979 or johns@uidaho.edu

• To make a gift select the “Give to Operation Education” button on our website