

# 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

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# What is Operation Education?

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- 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

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# 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.

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# Financial Support

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- 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

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# 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

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# 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

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# 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

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- 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

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The image features a vertical banner on the left side. At the top, the words "OPERATION EDUCATION" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font against a black background, with a small "TM" trademark symbol to the right. Below the text is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. At the bottom of the banner is an aerial view of a large, historic university building with a prominent clock tower and red brick walls. The text "University of Idaho" is written in white at the very bottom of the banner.

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EDUCATION**<sup>TM</sup>

# 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](http://www.uihome.uidaho.edu/operationeducation)
- To request a copy of our business plan e-mail us at: [oped@uidaho.edu](mailto:oped@uidaho.edu)
- To request an application contact John Sawyer, veterans' advisor at (208) 885-7979 or [johns@uidaho.edu](mailto:johns@uidaho.edu)
- To make a gift select the "Give to Operation Education" button on our website