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**Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College N7
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
5:30 pm**

Board Present: A. Baldwin, A. Clark, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Thomas, M. Wood

Board Absent: None

Others Present: M. Allmendinger, R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, W. Burns, W. Childs, P. Clark, R. Curry, C. DeEulis, J. Dorcey, L. Dull, J. Foco, J. Gorm, L. Govitz, S. Hill, B. Hodges, D. Hopkins, T. Johnroe, K. Kiste-Toner, J. Perry, S. Raube, E. Robb, K. Schuler, D. Urbaniak, J. Yezak

Press Present: None

Board Chair, S. Gannon, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She turned the meeting over to Brittany Hodges, Coordinator of Veteran Services and Josh Gorm, Veteran Services Office Professional.

B. Hodges began the presentation with two definitions of a veteran. One was from Title 38 of the U.S. Code and the other from Michigan Legislature. Both definitions state that discharge or release must be under conditions other than dishonorable. She also shared the College's current enrollment (Fall 2026) which includes 169 veterans, 8 service members, and 122 dependents. Those using VA education benefits include 58 veterans, 4 service members, and 66 dependents.

In Fall 2025 the total student enrollment was 8,553, and the total veteran and military affiliated population was 4.3%. This included 176 veterans, 8 service members, and 148 dependents. Using VA education benefits included 64 veterans, 5 service members, and 78 dependents. She also shared the fall-to-fall retention data.

Delta College has received gold level status the last six years from the Michigan Veteran Affairs Association as a Veteran Friendly School. The ranking is based on resources and supports available to veteran students including but not limited to: a veteran resource office; student tracking; veteran student lounge; early course registration; and career counseling support. Our veteran students are warriors, adult learners, professionals, first time in any college (FTIAC), parents, children, spouses, caregivers, dreamers, seekers, strivers, and doers.

Success for our veteran students can be completing their program of study; transferring out; having military service credits count towards their program completion; being employed; advancing one's career; being an example for others, helping family to complete school; or fulfilling a dream. There are a few things that make the veteran's college experience different. This includes military transfer credit opportunities; the classroom experience; stereotypes; support outside of veteran services and trusted spaces; and understanding that one student's experience is not the same as the others.

B. Hodges said they are known for connecting veterans, services members and eligible dependents to educational benefits. The types of education benefits include VA education benefits, federal tuition

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assistance, state assistance, scholarships, and grants. Veteran services also creates a secure and trusted space for listening; answering questions; creating opportunities to connect; support from pre-enrollment through post-graduation; and building community relationships.

J. Gorm spoke about his own personal experience in the military and now at Delta College working in the Veteran Services Office. He shared with the Board the various events and activities their office has held: Fall Festival, Veteran Dinner and Wounded Warrior Project Panel; and Bags, Board, and Battle Buddies. In the future they are going to create more opportunities for veterans to connect and engage such as workshops, information sessions and apple cider circles. They also plan to support the growth of a trauma aware environment as well as continuing to develop inter-office and community collaboration and supports services.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Talisa Brown, Secretary Pro Tem to the Board