



November 30, 2016

Dear School Certifying Official,

In 2015, NAVPA and the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University formed a partnership to study the effects of the Post 9/11 GI Bill™ on the role and function of campus based School Certifying Officials (SCO's) and the institution as a whole. With no previous data, measurable outcomes, or processes in place, the impact of the Post-9/11 GI Bill has an unknown bearing on post-secondary institutions.

The team identified the research problem as follows:

- There is evidence that SCO's are struggling to meet the needs of students due to the amount of work and responsibilities of processing the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Not all schools have increased their number of employees to meet the needs of the incoming students utilizing Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- Some institutions are designating a customized point of contact regarding military and nonmilitary financial education benefits (US DOE, NCES 2014-017).
- Without validated data, schools struggle to make sound business decisions.

NAVPA and MFRI worked congruently with the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) to ensure validity of the study. The team conducted a pilot study with test schools representing a broad spectrum of higher educational institutions across the country, including public, private, for-profit, and non-college degree schools. During the 2016 NAVPA Conference in San Diego this past October, the NAVPA Education Committee and MFRI presented preliminary results on the Post 9/11 GI Bill study. During the presentation the study received support from both Dr. Joe Wescott, NASAA and Rob Worley, Director of Education, VA.

We are asking for more participation in the study and have extended the survey deadline to **December 21, 2016**.

We need true data from the actual SCO. The SCO is the key person processing veteran's benefits. More responses are needed to establish an effective study using both qualitative and quantitative data.

We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to participate in this important study. We are including a hard copy of the study to share with other departments SCO's may need to collaborate with in order to capture all of the requested information, along with detailed instructions on how to complete the survey.

Thank you,

Keith Glindemann
President, NAVPA

Dr. Joseph Wescott
Legislative Director, NASAA