



**WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE**



Fall 2025 Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter

MVP and TVTV Newsletter

Your leading source for important updates related to our support to servicemembers, veterans and their families at William James College.

Welcome to William James College! Whether you are an incoming student or in your final year, we encourage you to check out the Military and Veteran Psychology (MVP) program. The MVP concentration along with its partner, the Train Vets to Treat Vets program (TVTV) offers several services and support to servicemembers, veterans or their families (SMVF) as well as to students who are interested in working with military related populations. If this sounds like you, we invite you to get involved through research, outreach, or community training.

Our community of faculty, staff, and students is here to support you and help you thrive during your time at William James. We're here to help you develop the skills and experiences you need for a successful career in mental health practice. Services and support for the SMVF and students include leadership opportunities, military focused workshops, one on one coaching and mentoring, assistance with CV and resumes, and interview preparation.

We are looking for student leaders to join our team! Keep reading to see how you can become involved!



WJC MVP/TVTV Faculty and Community Partners
(Patricia Matlock, Kevin Lambert, MAOP, Sonia Suri, PhD David Haddad, Ed.D., Angela Taveira-Dick, PhD, Corey New, MBA)

So, what exactly is the MVP Concentration? The MVP concentration seeks to train mental health professionals to provide services to military service members, veterans, and their families. The program welcomes students from all backgrounds, both civilian and military.

The MVP concentration requires students to:

1. Complete focused academic coursework.
2. Provide relevant direct services to the military community through field training.
3. Participate in personal and professional development activities with other students.
4. Conduct research in the areas of military and/or veteran matters.

If you have questions or if this sounds like something you may be interested in, please contact Dr Angela Taveira-Dick at angela_tdick@williamjames.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit our MVP Website

Recent Engagement

APA 2025 Symposium

We are thrilled to congratulate our students and staff on their recent symposium at the Denver 2025 APA Conference!



At this year's American Psychological Association conference, a dynamic team of William James College students and faculty led a powerful symposium, "Women Veterans Rising: Reclaiming Connection, Support, and Emotional Well-being." Under the guidance of **Dr. Jenny D'Olympia** (Director of TVTV program) student presenters explored the evolution and impact of the TVTV initiative, highlighting its 425% growth in student veteran enrollment since 2017 and its commitment to empowering veterans, especially women, through graduate education in psychology. This session featured compelling data from the Women Veterans Needs Survey (N = 4,705), revealing both risk and protective factors influencing mental health, and underscoring the importance of community, connection, and culturally responsive care.

Our presenters made up a diverse group of women veterans including, WJC faculty and staff, **Dr. D'Olympia** and **Patricia Matlock**, and student presenters, **Alycia Loshaw**, **Erica Merrill**, **Mary Polanco**, and WJC alumna, **Dr. Jessica Price**. Each presenter shared research findings and personal insights that illuminated the nuanced challenges faced by women veterans, including loneliness, PTSD, and barriers to accessing gender-sensitive services. This collaborative analysis emphasized the need for

women-centered programming, peer support, and trauma-informed interventions. The symposium showcased both rigorous scholarship and lived experience, and also embodied the heart of William James College's mission: to educate, serve, and lead with empathy. Our team's work continues to shape national conversations on veteran wellness and exemplifies the transformative power of student-led research.

GI Bill - 12 Month Extension

Update on GI Bill Benefits: On April 16, 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that individuals who completed at least two periods of service—one qualifying for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) and another for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (PGIB)—may be eligible for additional GI Bill benefits. View the link here and find specific changes below: [Link Here](#)

BEFORE	NOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beneficiaries eligible for both MGIB and PGIB were required to waive MGIB eligibility to begin using PGIB benefits.• PGIB entitlement was limited to the amount of remaining MGIB entitlement.• Previous elections to waive MGIB could not be revoked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beneficiaries impacted by the Court's decision are no longer required to waive MGIB eligibility to use PGIB benefits when applying.• PGIB entitlement is no longer limited to the amount of remaining MGIB entitlement, but beneficiaries are still subject to the 48-month limit for combined benefits under multiple programs.• Previous elections to waive MGIB in order to use PGIB can be revoked.

Announcements



Courses

MVP Canvas Course Page

The MVP now has a Canvas course page for all MVP students to access. Here you will find information on upcoming coursework, MVP concentration meetings, and focused resources for you to use with your clients. For more information or to be added please contact Dr. Taveira-Dick.

Veteran's Day Event at WJC



The MVP is proud to host its annual Veterans Day Event at WJC, taking place this year on **November 6 from 12:00-1:00 in the Atrium**. This special gathering is a chance to honor and celebrate the service of our Veterans while learning more about the MVP community. All are welcome to attend, and we especially encourage those who may be interested in the program to join us.

Directed Study Opportunity

Directed Study: Dare to Dream Experiential Facilitation (1 Credit, Spring 2026)

This directed study course will immerse WJC students in military and veteran culture through partnership with the Dare to Dream Ranch (<https://www.daretodreamranch.org/>) located in Foster, RI. Students will collaborate with this organization to serve as facilitators during a one day retreat where they will provide psychoeducational workshops to veteran participants. These psychoeducational workshops will focus on core concepts around mindfulness, self-compassion, social support, moral injury, and understanding PTSD. Through the development and implementation of these workshops, students will learn how to provide culturally competent person-centered care as it relates to the needs of military and veteran populations. Students will also be encouraged to develop their own personal approach to creating and delivering these workshops.

Students who are interested in learning more about this course should reach out directly to:

Angela Taveira-Dick,

PhD: angela_tdick@williamjames.edu

Advanced Educational Series

Bridging the Gap: Mental Health, Culture, and the Military Experience


Join us this Fall! This advanced educational series is designed for the WJC community: WJC graduate students, MVP concentration students, faculty, and staff seeking advanced knowledge and skills to serve military-affiliated populations. Offered as part of the MVP concentration within our graduate programs, this series provides an in-depth exploration of the unique psychological, cultural, and systemic factors that shape the experiences of service members, veterans, and their families.

The series will consist of a total of six presentations addressing the following topics:

- **Psychological Assessment in Military Contexts:** Develop proficiency in evidence-based assessment tools tailored for military populations, including screening for risk for suicide, mental health disorders, and deployment-related stressors.
- **Military Culture and Systems:** Gain foundational knowledge of military structure, values, language, and norms. Understand how rank, duty status, and branch affiliation impact identity, stigma, and help-seeking behaviors.
- **First-Person Narratives & Case Reflections:** Learn directly from the voices of service members and veterans through presentations, interviews, and reflective discussions. These narratives provide critical insights into the lived experiences of military members, which include topics such as combat, reintegration, loss, resilience, and recovery.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. David Haddad @ david_haddad@williamjames.edu

Student Military and Veteran Community



WJC STUDENT MILITARY AND VETERAN COMMUNITY

We welcome student veterans, military-affiliated students, and non-military-affiliated students, united by a shared interest in supporting the military community. Our mission is to foster a supportive and inclusive environment that enhances peer support, cultural competency, and professional development for students pursuing graduate-level academic and clinical training at WJC. We achieve this through educational initiatives on military and veteran-related issues, community service, advocacy, and social engagement. The SMVC is committed to supporting veterans, service members, military families (including spouses, children, and extended family), and their allies, addressing challenges such as deployment, transition, and reintegration, while strengthening the broader WJC community.

**For more information, contact student
leaders:**

Alycia Loshaw

alycia_loshaw@williamjames.edu

Erica Merrill

erica_merrill@williamjames.edu

Services available for military affiliated students at WJC! The William James College Military and Veteran Community (MVC) welcomes veterans, military-affiliated students, non-military-affiliated students, faculty, and staff united by a shared interest in supporting the military community. Our mission is to foster a supportive and inclusive environment that enhances peer support, cultural competency, and professional development for students pursuing graduate-level academic and clinical training at WJC. We achieve this through educational initiatives on military and veteran-related issues, community service, advocacy, and social engagement. The MVC is committed to supporting veterans, service members, military families (including spouses, children, and extended family), and their allies, addressing challenges such as deployment, transition, and reintegration, while strengthening the broader WJC community.

Interested in joining us or want more information? Contact us!

Student Leader: Alycia Loshaw
Alycia_loshaw@williamjames.edu

Student Leader: Erica Merrill
Erica_merrill@williamjames.edu

Continuing Education Credits

This TVTV sponsored CEU series provides essential training in veteran specific issues to better equip mental health providers with the knowledge and competence needed to effectively serve this population.

October 10, 2025

Suicide Prevention for Military, Veterans, and Law Enforcement through Safer Firearm Storage: Lethal Means Counseling

October 24, 2025

Understanding the Complexities of Veteran Substance Use and Mental Health

November 14, 2025

Suicide Prevention for Military, Veterans, and Law Enforcement through Safer Firearm Storage: Lethal Means Counseling

December 12, 2025

Moral Injury

Visit our website below for more specific information regarding each of our CE courses. We hope to see you there!

WJC CE Website

Contact Us!

Still have questions about the MVP/TVTV programs?

Watch our recent MVP/TVTV informational video and get to know **Dr. Jenny D'Olympia**, Associate Professor and Core Faculty in the Counseling and Behavioral Health Department, and Director of the Train Vets to Treat Vets program. Dr. D'Olympia shares her personal experience as an Air Force Veteran and provides information about our Military and Veterans Psychology program for military, veterans, and civilians. This concentration will provide students with the tools, hands-on experiential learning, and cultural intelligence to deliver services to the military, veterans, and their families. For more information, please visit:
www.williamjames.edu/mvp

[Watch the Video Here!](#)

Connect with Us on LinkedIn

Join our Military and Veteran community by following us on LinkedIn!

[Follow Us Here](#)

Interested in joining our military programs? Would you like to find out more? We're excited to connect with you! please view the MVP and TVTV points of contact below or email us: [**mvp@williamjames.edu**](mailto:mvp@williamjames.edu)

Jenny D'Olympia, PsyD, LMHC, LP, HSP (she/her)

Associate Professor, Counseling and Behavioral Health Department

Director Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs

617-564-9426 (office)

Angela Taveira-Dick, PhD

Director, Military and Veteran Psychology Program

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Patricia Matlock

Consultant to the Military Veteran Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs

Patricia_Matlock@williamjames.edu
(808)387-6017 (cell)

We hope you will join us for our future training events. We provide quarterly newsletters, so please stay tuned for our next edition. Thank you for following us and being a part of our community!

[Visit our MVP Website!](#)

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mvp@williamjames.edu

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