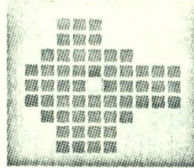


NEWS



STATE UNIVERSITY of New York
Agricultural and Technical College
FARMINGDALE, N. Y. 11735

CONTACT: FRANK ELKINS, Director of Public Information

(516) 420-2142

FARMINGDALE U. LAUNCHES "OUTREACH" PROGRAM FOR VETERANS THIS FALL

Dr. Charles W. Laffin, Jr., President of the State University at Farmingdale, today announced the formation of an Outreach Program at the College designed to assist the educational needs of the returning veteran, who now resides, or will reside in the local community after completion of his military tour.

In announcing the innovative program, Dr. Laffin, a veteran of two wars, said "that since the end of World War II, colleges and universities in the nation have unintentionally neglected the uneducated veteran. Our proposed Outreach Program will work to correct this inequity."

Dr. Laffin explained that the main purpose of Farmingdale's Outreach Program to be implemented with the Fall, 1972 academic year starting this September, is to fully acquaint the veteran with the educational opportunities available to him should he elect to resume his education.

Under Farmingdale's Veterans Outreach Program preferential treatment will be given veterans classified as academically disadvantaged. These individuals, Dr. Laffin said, would not normally meet the current entrance requirement of the College, and presently have little marketable job skills because of inadequate education.

Dr. Laffin reports that the Federal Government has available \$5.8 million for Veterans Education starting this Fall. He adds that the granting agency, Health, Education and Welfare puts emphasis on Veterans Outreach programs designed to help educational institutions and other agencies to develop programs to inform large numbers of veterans about their benefits and to urge them to seek counseling and to enroll in appropriate educational and training programs."

In explaining the operation of the College's Outreach Program, Dr. Laffin stressed that he is counting heavily on cooperation from the various local community and county agencies who, through the nature of their work, come in contact with veterans on a daily basis.

He explained that the very active local student Veterans' Association approached him last winter on the Outreach concept. At that time, the Veterans' Association held several seminars and "Veterans Career Conference Nights" at Farmingdale to explain to ex-GIs, the many work study programs available on the campus, their employment benefits and opportunities available to them at the college and how they could make use of these opportunities in their job quests. They again pledged wholehearted support in launching such a program at the Farmingdale campus. Additional support is also expected by the College from many American Legion Posts in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Dr. Laffin points out that in a recent American Legion Adjutant's Newsletter, the Legion states that it is prepared to furnish any institution undertaking an Outreach Program the names and addresses of returning veterans. "This type of cooperation will aid tremendously in effectively carrying out the goals and objectives of the Veterans Outreach Program," said the Farmingdale U. President.

In the next week or two, the College expects to select an experienced Coordinator, a Veteran, to head up the school's Outreach program. Beginning this September, it will be the responsibility of the coordinator to supervise a team of six student veterans at Farmingdale in recruiting "Outreach" veterans in the Nassau and Suffolk area. As the program expands and more Federal funds become available to the College, the number of student recruiters will be increased.

Student recruiters will continue to attend college on a full time basis and work for the Veteran Outreach Program after classes and on weekends. They are to be paid from monies provided the College under a jointly funded Federal and State Student Work-Study Program. The recruiters will be making personal, telephone and mail contact with as many veterans in the community as time will permit. The identity of the veterans to be approached will be furnished by community agencies and American Legion Posts. At the start the recruiters will seek to contact under-educated and unemployed veterans to acquaint them with the educational opportunities at Farmingdale. They also will arrange visits to the campus to help them complete the College's entrance forms. Recruits will explain to veterans the educational opportunities at Farmingdale, and the educational benefits he is entitled to under the current G. I. Bill of Rights.

When a veteran decides to resume his education at State University at Farmingdale, his academic qualifications will be evaluated by an experienced professional college counselor, and if found to be satisfactory he will be asked to matriculate in a course suitable to his capabilities and ambitions in life. Where a veteran is lacking in academic qualifications he will be requested to enroll in special ongoing programs in either developmental studies or remedial programs, available through the College's Urban Center.

Upon completion of the program, the veteran will have increased his educational skills so that he may enter as a freshman for a college degree either at Farmingdale or other institutions of higher learning.

###

72872