



**Elgin Community College
Wellness Services**

The Breakdown ~ Being a Student and a Veteran

Being a Student and a Veteran

- Vinny Cascio: Welcome to The Breakdown with your wellness professionals here at Elgin Community College. I'm Vinny Cascio.
- Angela Ogburn: I'm Angela Ogburn. In this podcast, we have a very special guest joining us from Veteran's Services, Anitra King. We're very excited to have you here to talk to us about veteran's services at ECC. Thanks so much for joining us.
- Anitra King: Thank you for having me today.
- Vinny: Now, Anitra, talk to me a little bit about your experience working with veteran students.
- Anitra: I actually started working with veterans when I was in the Financial Aid Office back in 1999. In 2009, the governor at the time said all students, all schools, must have one person of contact for veterans to come to school, so I was that person. I moved to career services so I was able to help veterans not only with their education benefits but also help them with their military translation so they can actually get a job.
- Vinny: Wonderful, that's great. What kind of academic services do we offer specifically for our veterans?
- Anitra: We have right now the veterans study room, it's located in Building B, Room B166, and it's just for veterans to go and study - they can take their laptops and go study in the evening and morning. It's actually to allow them to meet other veterans so they can continue with that camaraderie that they had when they were in the service.
- Angela: Great. Anitra, can you tell us some ways that ECC employees can show more support towards our veteran students? I know that is something that's really important to our employees, so what do you feel like we could do?
- Anitra: Just talk with the veterans, communication is key. I usually tell the veterans to make sure they talk to their professors if they have a doctor's appointment ahead of time, if they have other duties scheduled, if they have to go out for anything they have to do related to the service - just let them know. Communication is key.
- Angela: Right. That makes sense. What kind of advice would you give specifically to our veteran students in regard to how they communicate with faculty?
- Anitra: Make sure that they keep it open and honest. If they know ahead of time that they have a doctor's appointment and if it's a test day, talk to the professor. They can probably have the test scheduled in the testing center so they can go



and take it, or they can make up work ahead of time or after, just make sure that they talk to everybody.

Vinny: Right. There's some words of wisdom right there. Thank you, Anitra. Where can students reach you?

Anitra: I am located in Building B, Room B120, in the Student Success Center with the wellness professions, academic advising, transfer, and our internship coordinator.

Angela: Great, thanks so much Anitra. There is so much more that we could talk about with this. For more information about veterans services, come check us out in the Student Success Center. Like Anitra said, we're located in Building B, Room B120, and we're open for you Monday through Friday. Thanks again, Anitra. Take care, you guys. I'm Angela Ogburn.

Vinny: I'm Vinny Cascio.

Together: And we're your wellness professionals.