

# JOURNAL-NEWS

## Dayton Daily News

Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014

### **Miami Regionals increase outreach to veterans**

**BUTLER COUNTY —**

Veterans centers are opening at Miami University's regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, in an effort to provide multiple services to military members they can access in one place.

A veterans' center opened this semester at Phelps Hall in Hamilton at 1601 University Blvd., said Chamina Smith, assistant professor in the business technology department. Smith is part of a group of Miami faculty and staff expanding outreach to veteran students.

Space has also been designated for veterans' services at Johnston Hall in Middletown at 4200 N University Blvd., Smith said.

The opening of dedicated physical space for veteran services is the work of Veterans Outreach Collaborative to Impact Success, which is a group of Miami University staff and faculty and Veterans Affairs professionals. The group says it's working to improve access, advocacy and success for military student veterans at the university's regional campuses. Student veterans can go to the centers to learn about the services available to them including Veterans Affairs, student advising, technology and learning assistance, admissions and financial aid, and the Student Veterans Association, Smith said.

"We're establishing a center for veteran services and it's going to house a regional coordinator to recruit new student veterans to Miami, navigate their benefits, and advocate on their behalf to ensure their success at Miami," Smith said. "They will serve as one-stop shops."

"The locations on both campuses are designed so students can meet with staff, meet with other veterans and access all the resources that are tailored to them," Smith said.

Also new are advisory services for veterans to start a business. The Ohio Small Business Development Center of the Greater Cincinnati Urban League last fall semester opened temporary office space at Miami Hamilton. Office hours are held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

Wednesdays. Business adviser Everett Gregory gives entrepreneurs one-on-one mentoring on business plans to start a new company or grow an existing business.

This semester, the Ohio Small Business Development Center office has opened permanent space at 101 Phelps Hall in the veterans' center at Miami Hamilton.

Veterans from the community, and veteran students at Miami's other regional campuses in Middletown and West Chester Twp., can come to the Small Business Development Center in Hamilton for the start-up business services. Hours are open for walk-in, or appointments can be made by calling 513-785-3046.

"There are a number of Ohio Small Business Development Centers in Ohio colleges and universities, but we're integrating starting a business into the classroom," Smith said.

Miami Regionals offers associate degrees in applied business with concentrations such as accounting, management and marketing. Classes teach students the principles and practices of business. Students now also have the opportunity to develop business and marketing plans at the same time with the counseling of the Small Business Development Center, Smith said.