



Rotary Veterans Initiative

806 Alexander Spring Road
Carlisle, PA 17015

A Project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities



For Immediate Release

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Rotary Veterans Initiative Invests \$25,000 in the Career Dreams of Penn State Harrisburg Student Veterans and supports the Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research

Carlisle, PA. – The Rotary Veterans Initiative (RVI), Penn State Harrisburg, and Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research are collaborating to help military veterans transform their lives, support their families, strengthen our Central PA communities, and address the complex societal problem of addiction. On Thursday, August 4th, RVI, a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), fiscal sponsor, will present \$25,000 to Penn State Harrisburg, to support veterans' scholarships, textbook vouchers, and stipends for student veterans performing Pollock Center unpaid internships:

- **Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg-North:** 7:30 a.m., Holiday Inn Express, 2055 Technology Parkway Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
- **Rotary Club of Carlisle:** noon, Comfort Suites, 10 South Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013

Benjamin "Ben" Condran, Air Force Veteran, Biobehavioral Health Major, Penn State Harrisburg junior, and resident of Palmyra with his daughter, said, *"Scholarships, stipends, and funding opportunities like the ones provided by the Rotary Veterans Initiative for student veterans like me are extremely beneficial. Many, if not most of us, are working part-time or even full-time jobs while attending school to make ends meet and provide for our families. I am grateful for the support that RVI provides to veterans enrolled at Penn State Harrisburg, as this funding will relieve not only some of the financial burdens we face but the stresses associated with it as well. My career dream is to improve the standard of care and help others optimize their well-being."*

Dr. Weston Kensinger, Director of the Pollock Center and Penn State Harrisburg Associate Teaching Professor of Biobehavioral Health, said, *"The continued and increased support from RVI is appreciated and felt by our veterans across campus. Veteran students face unique challenges and juggle many responsibilities both inside and outside of the classroom. With RVI's generous gift for veterans associated with the Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research, they will now have the needed financial support to engage in unpaid internships, research, professional development activities, and hands-on experiences. The amazing support from RVI is an opportunity for our veterans to*

enhance their skills, build connections with faculty, staff, and the community, all while financially supporting themselves and their families."

Dr. John M. Mason Jr., Chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg, said, *"We are grateful to receive such generous, continued support from the Rotary Veterans Initiative for the veteran community at Penn State Harrisburg. This philanthropy helps provide access to a Penn State education for our veterans and additional assistance to enhance their academic experience along the way. The veteran community at Penn State Harrisburg is broad and diverse, participates across our undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and is involved in student clubs, organizations, and activities. We are pleased that the Rotary Veterans Initiative has chosen to partner with us in support of this unique group of learners."*

Rod Frazier, President of the Rotary Club of Carlisle, said, *"Our Rotary Club is thrilled to be a part of RVI's expansion efforts, including the recent Business Bootcamp for Veterans and support for the Pollock Center. Given veterans' extraordinary sacrifices for our country, every effort to improve their lives and increase their potential is well worth it."*

Dawn Sizer, President of the Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg North, said, *"The Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg – North has been a long-standing supporter of our country's veterans as well as the RVI. Each year we see veterans served by this program are not only achieving their educational goals but are able to financially shoulder the costs. It is our hope that additional and ongoing funding can be secured to help more of the veterans that have already paid a heavy price to ensure our safety and security."*

Abby Beswick, Associate Director of Development, Penn State Harrisburg, asserted, *"The Rotary Veterans Initiative has been a dedicated and generous partner of Penn State Harrisburg since 2017. In just five years, their support will directly impact over 100 student veterans at the college. It has been a true honor and privilege to work with Rick and his fellow veterans, who are helping to ensure our deserving veterans on campus have the opportunity to achieve their educational goals."*

Rick Coplen, RVI Chairman, said, *"To date, RVI has contributed \$177,500 to support 240 veterans in Central PA. We are excited to work with Penn State Harrisburg and the Pollock Center to support student veterans and important community-led approaches to solving major public problems like addiction. We invite the public to help us continue to assist veterans by participating in our BBQ fundraiser at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 10, at Rendezvous Run Farm (806 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, 17015). We KNOW the BBQ will be delicious --- Redds will provide it!" For more details and to register for or sponsor the BBQ, please click on <https://www.tfec.org/rotary-veterans-initiative-rvi-bbq-fundraiser/> (or scan:*



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To make a tax-deductible donation to RVI, please write the check to the "Rotary Veterans Initiative" and mail it to RVI, 806 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, PA 17015 (or) make an online donation at <https://www.tfec.org/funds/rotary-veterans-initiative/>