WOMEN VETERANS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2018
IMPACT REPORT

THE MISSION CONTINUES

Women Veterans Leadership Summit 2018
Impact Report
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The Women Veterans Leadership Summit is part of an ongoing national conversation for women veterans, empowering and equipping these women to lead a movement that inspires community change efforts and advancement towards equality. Each year, WVLS brings together the voices and insights of a diverse range of female luminaries from the worlds of business and nonprofits, entertainment and politics. Our speakers and presenters represent a wide range of backgrounds and experience, are both veterans and non-veterans, and are all committed to growing this network of women leaders. This year, 65 selected women veterans from across the country came together in Washington, DC.

These women have a range of personal and professional experiences, but all of them are committed to better understanding the challenges that women face when they leave the military and breaking down the barriers that hold them back. The summit provided them with a vast network of women with shared experiences, and empowered our attendees to continue their service to each other and to their communities back at home.
After attending WVLS, 97% of program attendees felt they were more connected with other veterans, a statistically significant increase of 9.8%.

95% of participants reported that the summit gave them the skills to expand their own network.

93% of participants reported that the summit gave them the skills to be a leader in their community.

90% of participants reported that the summit taught them to focus on their own self care / regulation.

After attending WVLS, 92% of program attendees reported feeling a greater sense of fulfillment.
WEEKEND THEME: CONNECTEDNESS

Through participation in Women Veterans Leadership Summit, veterans feel a deeper sense of connection — to other women veterans, to their own communities, and to their professional networks.

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Spitfire Strategies:** This session, facilitated by Jackeline Stewart and Prita Piekara, focused on strategies for building a personal network, storytelling, and learning how to create a personal “brand.”

- **McKinsey Partners:** This session, lead by Tracy Nowski, emphasized the importance of finding mentors and sponsors in both personal and professional capacities, and discussed pathways for getting there.

- **Veterans Writing Workshop:** Jerri Bell, US Navy Veteran, lead attendees in a veterans writing workshop which explored the importance of storytelling for reintegration and allowed attendees to connect on a deep personal level.

“My favorite part of the Summit is being present in a room full of inspiring women that I know I can touch through words, hugs and encouragement and they can reach out to support and help me as well. We have been through so much and this weekend provided a much needed opportunity to connect with other women that have faced similar challenges and turned them around to become even more powerful and impactful, making a positive difference in our communities!”

— Kimberly McGraw, US Navy Veteran
WEEKEND THEME: PERSONAL GROWTH

Through participation in the Women Veterans Leadership Summit, veterans develop and grow both professionally and personally in ways that help them successfully reintegrate to life after the military. Areas of growth include skill competency (job readiness), leadership, sense of purpose, self-confidence, communication and well-being.

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS:

• Finding Your Golden Thread: Kristin Gossel of BAE Systems joined the group for a fireside chat in which she discussed success in the corporate world, balancing motherhood with work, and how to set yourself a part from the competition.

• Effective Communication: For the second year in a row, Lauren Marlotte of the UCLA Women Veterans Program lead a workshop on effective communications strategies for women, including the importance of using powerful and direct speech.

• Winning Your Battle For Balance: Dr. Kate Hendricks-Thomas shared moments of her personal journey to wellness with attendees, lead the group in a guided meditation, and stressed the importance of self-care, resilience, and spirituality for living a healthy life.

“At this year’s WVLS I had a drill in my hand before I could blink. But instead of diving right in, I was blessed with the opportunity to make an amazing connection with a fellow veteran. This was my chance to help a fellow woman veteran become empowered in a new way. She walked away with a newfound curiosity for her garage [...] and the motivation to take her newfound skills home and teach someone else what she had learned.”

- Alicia Todd
US Army National Guard
At the Third Annual Women Veterans Leadership Summit, the women veterans who attended were able to impact a community that needed their help. Veterans also reaped personal benefits from their engagement, including better understanding of non-veteran populations and being inspired to continue their service at home.

**WEEKEND THEME: COMMUNITY IMPACT**

**SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Service Project:** All attendees took part in a service project at Kramer Middle School in Southeast DC, where volunteers refurbished the school’s courtyard, painted murals to spruce up the grounds, and built an outdoor garden complete with multiple planter beds to supply students with healthy and fresh food choices.

- **Women In Service Panel:** During this panel session, attendees were able to hear from five different women currently working in the public or nonprofit sector, and learned how they could transform their passion for service into a career while still having a positive impact on communities.

“We made something better than when we came in and I met a lot of interesting people in the process that I wouldn’t have otherwise met.”

- Melissa Ritz
US Air Force Veteran
SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

BAE Systems, Inc. @BAESystemsInc

It was a pleasure to sponsor this impactful event on behalf of @missioncontinue where our own @klgossel spoke about empowering & equipping women veterans to network & connect. #HerMission #WVLS2018

Kristie Helmuth @KristieHelmuth

Empowerment means standing up for yourself, asking for what you want, and pushing back. I think @missioncontinue wire tapped my struggles and built this conference.

Megan @megsyev

I’ve never been around so many women veterans - 75+! So fun to speak and serve at the @missioncontinue Women Veteran Leadership Summit 2018. Women veterans lead from the front! @McCormick_Fdn

Jackie Perez @jackleengperez · Apr 28

Nice to end a stressful week of big payoffs with a weekend of #selfgrowth in DC with @missioncontinue at #WVLS18! #womenonamission #hermission #veterans

Kramer Middle School @KramerMiddle

Thank you to all the wonderful women with @missioncontinue for coming taking time to build this garden! Thank you to @ServeDC & @missioncontinue! Even Principal @Romsmith32 is getting his hands dirty!

BAE Systems, Inc. @BAESystemsInc

What are 4 themes every #womenvet should consider to advance in her career? Kristin Gossel, VP of Comms for our I&S biz, sat down with @missioncontinue to share hers: baes.co/56dj30jPYDZ #HerMission #WVLS2018

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