

Welcome Letter from the Director

Greetings Coog Vets,

On behalf of the University of Houston Veteran Services team, welcome! We are honored that you have chosen UH to pursue your academic and professional goals. Whether you are a prospective student, a new arrival, or continuing your education, we are here to serve you.

As a U.S. Army veteran, social worker, Air Force wife of 25 years, and proud mother of four—including two college students and a set of twins—I understand both the challenges and strengths that come with being a military-connected student. I am also a first-generation Latina college graduate and student veteran, currently completing my Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership. As a result, my passion for student success—especially for those navigating transitions—is deeply personal.

Our mission at UH Veteran Services is to ensure every military-affiliated student has the tools, support, and community they need to thrive. We are committed to making your transition from service to classroom—and eventually, to career—as smooth and successful as possible.

We offer:

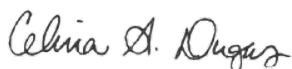
- **Expert staff** with firsthand knowledge of federal and state military education benefits, including GI Bill® and Hazlewood
- **Personalized support** for academic, mental health, financial, and career-related challenges
- **A welcoming space** on campus with a computer lab, study areas, a copier, a kitchenette, and a lounge
- **Camaraderie and connection** through peer mentoring, tutoring, social programming, and student engagement
- **Career readiness resources**, including resume assistance, networking events, veteran career fairs, and industry panels
- **Referrals and coordination** with the VA, university departments, and community organizations

In addition to providing support during your time at UH, we also focus on preparing you for life after graduation. We want you to leave here not only with a degree, but with the confidence and connections to succeed in your next mission.

UH is a vibrant, diverse institution, and military-affiliated students like you are a vital part of that energy and excellence. Please remember, our door is always open. You are not just a student here. You are family.

Welcome to the Coog Vet community. We're proud to serve those who have served.

With respect and gratitude,



Celina A. Dugas

Director, Veteran Services
University of Houston