

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

### Nicole Crean

I joined the navy in 2004 and graduated from Aviation Ordnance A School at the top of my class, advancing to petty officer third class. This training gave me the opportunity for exciting and fast-past work throughout my 6-year career in the Navy, such as working with the Top Gun School on F/18 aircraft and various P-3 commands in the U.S. and overseas in Iraq and Qatar. I met my husband in the squadron VP-40. My husband is still in the Navy, and when he was picking orders, I asked him to pick Fallon (my first duty station) because I love Nevada. So we moved to Fernley and bought our very first house, where we live with our five year old son.

My experience with Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) has been nothing but positive. All the people that work with the group are so welcoming and understanding. I was terrified of the transition from constant work to school but VUB made the transition seamless. I didn't believe in myself that I would do well with school, but they all did and that helped so much. It is nice to be surrounded with people who have been through the same type of lifestyle that you have, and I find myself doing a lot of my work at VUB because of the atmosphere. Everyone there is willing to help in any way possible. I appreciate them all more than they will ever know, and I can't say enough great things about every one of them. I will forever be grateful for all they have done for me personally.

It is nice to be going to school on my own terms and because I want to. I find that being 27 and attending school isn't as intimidating as I would have thought. I want to learn, and I know more about myself and how I learn best. That knowledge has helped me succeed in school. I wasn't sure that the Navy had taught me anything that would help my in school but it did. The Navy has helped me strive for only the best. I am on time, always prepared, and I don't settle for anything less than my best. Seven years ago, I wouldn't be able to say that. I am very thankful for all that TMCC has offered me, and I am taking advantage of all that I can. TMCC is one of the best decisions I have made in my life and I am so proud to say I attend school here.

My future goals are to keep going with school and doing the best I can. I plan on transferring to UNR and majoring in Speech Pathology. I want to work with children and better their lives, either in a school or medical setting because the work is so rewarding. I know that through my experience in the Navy, I am not one to sit at a desk all day. I need to be up and moving around and engaged with others. For now, there is nothing more rewarding than furthering my education so that I can show my son how important school is to succeeding in life.



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### Huber Moreno

I served in the United States Air Force for six years as a Communication/Navigation maintenance specialist on special operations C-130 aircraft at Kirtland A.F.B., Albuquerque, NM.

While in the military, I had the opportunity to attend the University of Phoenix to get my general education for my AAS degree in Avionics Technology through the Community College of the Air Force. I was able to finish all general education requirements for my AAS degree two years prior to separating except for my math.

After the military, I made it my goal to go back to school and complete my education. I decided on TMCC because it is a military friendly school and I felt that I would be able to get that one on one time with the instructor in a community college that I probably wouldn't get in a large class environment somewhere else. I chose an AAS degree in Renewable Energy because I wanted a career in a field that is rapidly expanding and has a promising future in our great state of Nevada.

I found that the Veterans Upward Bound program gave me the confidence to complete my math requirement for my degree when I took the Math II course through VUB and found that it helped me place one math class higher on the Accuplacer test than I had placed prior to taking the course, and subsequently help me complete the Math108 requirement for the Renewable Energy degree.

I am in my final year at TMCC and looking forward to graduation this upcoming spring.



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## Bob Harington

After being out of school for the last six years I was somewhat apprehensive about starting my college career. While researching the numerous schools and vocational programs in the local area I discovered the Veterans Upward Bound Program at TMCC. When I walked in for my appointment with a counselor at VUB, I was greeted warmly by fellow veterans and an exceptional staff of counselors and instructors.

I then took the TMCC Accuplacer test, and my suspicions about college were confirmed, it was going to be difficult. I had gotten a low score in both math and English and would have to start my college career in remedial classes. My VUB counselor, Judy Turner, informed me that this was very common amongst veterans returning to school and recommended that I start attending workshops at VUB.

Over the next few months I attended workshops for math and English twice a week. During this time VUB gave me every tool that I needed to succeed, including school supplies and gas money. I looked forward to every workshop at VUB. I was continually amazed at the dedication and support given by the staff, and enjoyed being able to socialize with my peers who were going through similar academic struggles.

When I took the Accuplacer again, I scored significantly higher in math and was able to start my college career in Math 096 as opposed to 095. Also, I was no longer terrified about the prospect of having to write enormous essays, just mildly annoyed. Most importantly, Veterans Upward Bound gave me the confidence I needed to thrive in an academic environment.

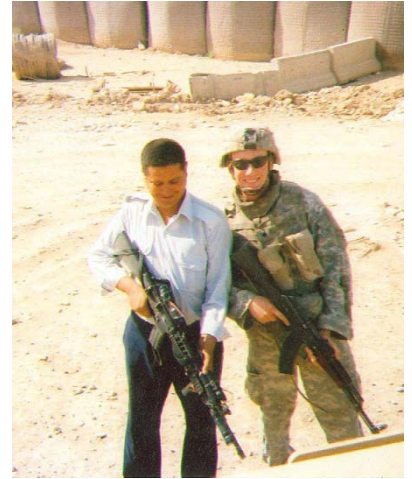
I was born and raised in northern Nevada and went to Galena High School. I joined the Army when I was twenty and was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado with 1/68 Armor Battalion, Third Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division as an infantryman. I spent five years in the Army and advanced to the rank of Specialist/ E-4. I was deployed to Iraq two times.

I am currently pursuing a transfer degree in general science at TMCC. I intend to study either science or engineering at a university, but I have not decided where yet.

I enjoy anything to do with the outdoors: Camping, rock climbing, scuba diving and fishing.

*Bob is currently a sophomore at TMCC pursuing an Associate of Science Degree*

Bob Harington  
with an Iraqi policeman trading weapons  
in the Khan Banni Saad Police Station in  
Iraq



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### Cirila Santillano

Deciding not to reenlist in the Army National Guard and quitting my federal job was one of the hardest decisions I've had to make. I let go of the security of a great job, retirement and military family. I did it all for the purpose of attending college full time and following my dreams to become a naturopathic doctor.

The first step I took was to contact Veterans Upward Bound. After a few unsuccessful attempts on my part because of conflicting work schedules, VUB accepted my return with support and understanding. VUB is a great place to start off if you are planning on going to college or need to refresh your English and Math skills. I took all the classes that VUB offered including; English, math, brain power and computer basics classes.

The VUB staff is amazingly supportive, understanding and knowledgeable. Not only do they offer great classes but prepare you for what is expected of you at TMCC or UNR. Because of VUB, the transition into TMCC was smooth and manageable. I can definitely say the tutoring and classes are state of the art, personable and important. Thank you so much VUB staff. I can't imagine doing so well without you guys.

*Cirila is now a sophomore at TMCC pursuing an associate of science degree. Cirila is also an advanced long-distance runner currently training hard for upcoming marathon competitions.*

