



**WILLIAM JAMES  
COLLEGE**

**December 2023 Newsletter**

*Quarterly Newsletter*



## **MVP and TVTV Newsletter**

*Your newsletter for all important updates related to Military and Veterans Psychology and the Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs.*

Welcome to William James College! Whether you are an incoming student or a fourth year student, we encourage you to take part in the Military and Veteran's Program if you have any interest working with the military population. The MVP has come a long way over the last several years and we are looking for student leaders to join our team! The available resources in this concentration are valuable to students by fostering leadership skills and preparing you for a career catering to military members. Keep reading to see how you can become involved!

[Visit our MVP Website](#)

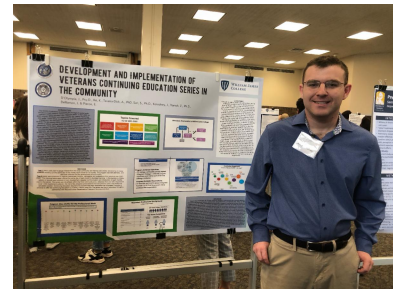
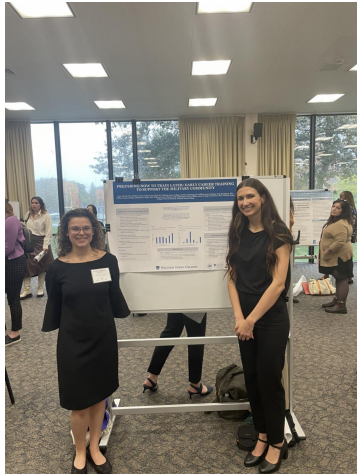
### **Announcements**

**Division 19 - Society for Military Psychology  
Presentation at New England Psychological  
Association (NEPA) - October 2023**

**Congratulations** to our MVP and TVTV Div 19 team for their recent poster presentations at the October 2023 NEPA Conference at Worcester State University, MA.

"Preparing Now to Train Later: Early Career Training to Support the Military Community." A student group under the direction of Dr. Sonia Suri presented on how the experiences that students engage in now, help prepare them for working with soldiers, veterans, and their families both at their practicum sites and in their future careers as clinicians. This poster was created to highlight the MVP concentration and the TVTV program at WJC.

"Development and Implementation of Veterans Continuing Education Series in the Community" A faculty group consisting of Dr. D'Olympia, Dr. Taveira-Dick, and Dr. Sonia Suri highlighted their CEU series which provides the community with valuable knowledge of veterans mental health issues.



Merrill, E., Wall, S., Ginsburg, Z.,....., et al. (2023, October 21). *Preparing Now to Train Later: Early Career Training to Support the Military Community*. [Poster Presentation]. 2023 New England Psychology Association Annual Conference, Worcester, MA, United States.

D'Olympia, J., Ré, K., Taveira-Dick, A., Suri, S., Kolodney, J., Tiamuh, Z., DéRamon, J. & Pierce, E. (2023, October 21) *Development and Implementation of Veterans Continuing Education Series in the Community*. [Poster Presentation]. 2023 New England Psychology Association Annual Conference, Worcester, MA, United States.

---

## PREPARING NOW TO TRAIN LATER: EARLY CAREER TRAINING TO SUPPORT THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

Erica Merrill, MS, William James College; Sara Wall, BA, William James College; Zachary Ginsburg, BA, William James College; José De Ramon, MA, William James College; Michaela B. Soper, MA, William James College; Jenny D'Olympia, PsyD, William James College; Sonia Suri, PhD, William James College; Patricia Matlock, William James College

### Military and Veterans Psychology (MVP)

- Veteran and Military Specific Coursework
  - Military Psychology and Culture
  - Military Families and the Cycle of Deployment
  - Substance Abuse and Addictions in Military and Veteran Communities
  - Treatment of Substance Use Disorders
  - Trauma Theory and Treatment with Emphasis on Military and Veteran Populations
- Military-Focused Doctoral Project
  - Students are required to complete a doctoral project germane to this specialty.
- Field Placement Opportunities
  - WJC's goal for MVP students is to have 20% of their fieldwork involve cases of veterans or their families.
- Experiential Groups
  - Unique opportunities for added support and learning
- Research Opportunities
- Workshops
- Continuing Education
  - WJC offers free access to continuing education programs
- Community Learning Project

"I have found some of my closest supports through the MVP and TVTV program and I am starting to build a solid foundation for my future career."  
-Erica Merrill, MS

"The MVP concentration has provided some of the most valuable and interesting experiences and coursework over my last three years at WJC. With the help of this program, I was given the opportunity to apply for and receive the HPSP scholarship."  
-Sara Wall, MA

**Figure 1**  
New Enrollments of Military and Veterans Students Between 2018-2023 at William James College

**Figure 2**  
Graduation Year of Military, Veteran and Civilian Students in the Military and Veterans Psychology (MVP) Concentration from 2018-2023

**Enrollment**

- Figure 1 demonstrated a dip in MVP enrollments in 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic
- The recent rise of enrollment numbers depicted in Figure 1 can be directly attributed to an increase in community outreach and trainings provided by the MVP Program and William James College.
- WJC currently has 50 Veterans students enrolled.

### Train Vets to Treat Vets Program (TVTV)

- Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services
- Mentorship and Support Network
  - Offer a supportive network and mentorship for the military and veteran community
- Research and Community Programming
  - Students in the TVTV program work alongside William James College faculty to develop community programming and conduct research.
- Preparation as Future Clinicians
  - Prepare students for working with military members, veterans, and their families at practicum sites and in their future clinical careers.

### Graduation and Beyond

- In the last five years a total of 36 MVP students have graduated, with the lowest graduating year consisting of one graduate and the highest being 16 graduates.
- Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)
  - HPSP is an educational support program for individuals who desire to serve as clinical psychologists in the military.
- Communities We Serve
  - Vet Centers
  - Department of Veterans Affairs (VAs)
  - Community Mental Health
  - Service Members

WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE



MVP poster presented by students from WJC at the NEPA Conference

## New MVP Faculty Alert! Welcome Dr. Elena Tillman!



Elena Tillman, Psy.D. is an Adjunct Faculty member and graduate of William James College, where she earned her PsyD in Clinical Psychology. She was also a proud member of the Latino Mental Health Program, completing both of the Costa Rica and Ecuador immersion programs and earning the certificate in Latino Mental Health.

During her training at WJC, she was afforded a diverse range of practica including the Latino Health Institute, Boston Children's Martha Elliot Health Center, and McLean Hospital. She ultimately completed her pre-doctoral internship through Wediko prior to commissioning into the US Navy, where she completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Portsmouth, VA.



Dr. Tillman served 2 tours overseas at the US Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Yokosuka, Japan. Her primary duties were staff psychologist and clinic manager, in which she provided a range of clinical services including combat-related trauma treatment for OEF/OIF service members. She also liaised and collaborated with the local host nation hospital in Tokyo by leading cultural and psychoeducational groups on Eastern pain management practices for Active Duty service members, their families, and Civilians living with chronic pain. She enjoying serving on the Multicultural Diversity Committee, to include planning for and presenting on heritage and diversity events hospital-wide. Most recently, she has served as a civilian embedded mental health provider for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, CA where she provided evaluation and treatment for NSW service members as well as program development for the Psychological Health Services unit.

She enjoys all things outdoors with her furry sidekick Baloo, and is honored to teach in the Military and Veterans Psychology program.

---

## **Dr. Jenny D'Olympia Appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services**



Dr. Jenny D'Olympia has been appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services. She was sworn in at a ceremony at the State House hosted by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll, on Monday, November 6. The Council will advise the Governor on all issues that impact veterans across the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Council will review and assess federal and state laws and regulations and existing programs and services relating to veterans to

enhance the lives of veterans and their families. Members serve for a three-year term, meeting quarterly, and the Council must submit a formal written report every two years to the Governor and LG, summarizing the Council's work and recommendations.

## Empowering Veterans Conference, New York City



William James College, Dr. Jenny D' Olympia, Director, Military Veteran Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs, was invited to participate in the resiliency and mental Health Panel discussion at the Empowering Veterans NYC 2023 conference on Nov 9th and 10th. The event was hosted by New York student veterans from Columbia, Cornell, and New York Universities to support and celebrate Veterans before Veterans Day. The Empowering Veterans NYC event was focused on creating a transformative and uplifting experience for **ALL Student Veterans** by providing them with engaging speeches and discussions to support and inspire them in their academic and professional journeys.

---

### Congrats to Dr. Angela Taveira-Dick



Dr. Angela Taveira-Dick is the Associate Director, Military and Veteran Psychology Program and Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling and Behavioral Health. Dr. Taveira-

Dick was recently selected to serve as the Massachusetts Psychological Association's representative on the Executive Office of Veteran Services Advisory Committee on Veteran Reintegration. This important committee is tasked to "investigate, study, and scrutinize various aspects of veterans reintegration into civilian life." She previously served as the Project Director of the HRSA Graduate Psychology Education and Opioid Workforce Expansion Training Grants. Dr. Taveira-Dick received her doctoral degree from the Nova Southeastern University in 2013 with an emphasis on treating individuals with serious mental illness. She completed her predoctoral internship in *Clinical & Community Psychology* at Yale University School of Medicine and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in *Psychosocial Rehabilitation* at the Bedford VA.

Prior to her position at WJC, Dr. Angela Taveira-Dick was the program manager for the Community Recovery Connections Team at the Bedford VA. In this position she learned how to manage systems by identifying and creating community partnerships between the VA and non-governmental agencies in order to enhance veterans' reintegration into the community. She led her team to create partnerships between nonprofit agencies in nine different towns in the Boston area. As a result, the "veteran coffee social" program facilitated approximately 30 veteran community coffees which connected over 100 service members with community resources each week. In addition, she developed and implemented the Specialized Team for Early Engagement and Recovery (STEER) program to serve veterans with symptoms of psychosis. Her main interests include psychology training, community engagement and delivery of mental health services to veterans (including early intervention for those diagnosed with first episode psychosis).

---

## Time2Track Tags

**Tag! Tag! Tag!** When it comes to entering your clients on Time2Track, we are emphasizing the importance on adding tags for our military community! Adding tags that indicate military affiliation allows for students to highlight their clinical training with a population that is underserved, highlighting the

importance of social justice issues and the responsibility to meet the mental health needs of a diverse society. For any students in specific concentrations such as Military and Veteran Psychology (MVP), tags are critical to ensuring that students are meeting with clients who are part of this population, hence allowing students to develop competencies (under supervision) in working with and treating these special groups.

[More Details on Time2Track](#)

## Get Involved!

### Experiential Groups

**Still want to join? It's not too late!** Experiential groups are a great way to connect and network with fellow students and faculty with military interests. This is a great first step to get involved with the MVP concentration or if you are just curious about the military population. The MVP concentration students are required to participate in an experiential learning group, but all students in the William James College community are invited to participate! These are a unique opportunity for added support and learning about military culture. Groups meet weekly for 1-hour throughout the year, resulting in 15 sessions per semester. These groups are facilitated by a MVP faculty member and consist of non-military and military and veteran students in our community.

**Meetings for Spring 2024 will be held on Mondays at noon on campus in room 311. Please contact Dr. Haddad at [David\\_Haddad@williamjames.edu](mailto:David_Haddad@williamjames.edu) for Spring 2024 start date and if you have any additional questions.** If Monday meetings do not work for you, please contact Corey New at [corey\\_new@williamjames.edu](mailto:corey_new@williamjames.edu) to explore online opportunities.

---

### Connect with Us on LinkedIn

Join our Military and Veteran community on by following us on LinkedIn!



## Upcoming CE Events

### Save the Date!

#### **Preventing Suicide in Veterans: Leveraging Data to Understand Veteran-Specific Risk Factors**

**Date: December 8th 2023**

**Where: Online via Zoom**

**Time: 12:00-1:00**

**Price: \$0- spots are limited, register soon!**

**Presenter: Andrew Peckham, PhD**

Suicide rates among U.S. veterans remain elevated compared to civilians, highlighting the urgent and persistent need to understand veteran-specific risk factors for suicide. In order to meet the challenge of reducing veteran suicide risk, it is critical for providers to understand not only broad risk factors that might increase risk of suicide among veterans overall, but also to understand the diverse range of demographic and clinical differences within veteran populations that influence suicide risk. In this presentation, the speakers will review current best practices for assessment of risk and protective factors for suicide among veteran populations, with an emphasis on provision of lethal means safety in veterans. The presentation will also highlight recent developments in suicide research, focusing on clinically meaningful findings from large datasets in the COVID and post-COVID eras.

***This program is appropriate for beginner, intermediate, or advanced practitioners or anyone working with military-connected individuals looking to gain knowledge in this area***

[Register Here!](#)

---

**Suicide Prevention for Military Veterans Through Lethal Means Counseling**



**Presenter: Officer Jay Ball, Jenny D'Olympia, PsyD, LMHC, & Kevin Lambert**

**When: Monday December 18, 2023**

**Time: 9:30am-3:30pm**

**Where: At William James College**

**CE Credits: 4.5**

**Cost: 80\$**

This program will provide clinicians with the background knowledge about firearms, safe firearms storage, firearms safety and the laws of firearms ownership in Massachusetts to improve their knowledge, vernacular and confidence, when discussing suicide prevention as it relates to firearms and safer firearms storage with military and veterans in the community. This training will also discuss the relationship between veterans and firearm ownership. It will provide an overview of tools for suicide risk screening and will offer specific questioning and scenarios related to risk of death by suicide with firearms demonstrated and practiced through role play. Although this program covers veterans' culture, it is not exclusively applicable to veterans, and can be applied to many subgroups. Practitioners of all levels and experiences are encouraged to attend!

[Register Here!](#)

---

*If you would like to review any previous CE events, you can find the links to recordings on our website.*

## Past Events

### **Suicide Prevention for Military Veterans Through Lethal Means Counseling**

**Date: November 17, 2023 at 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM ET**

WJC is happy to have had such a large turnout of 19 students to this training! This program provided clinicians and students with the background knowledge about firearms, safe firearms storage, firearms safety and the laws of firearms ownership in Massachusetts. A key element of this program seeks to improve

knowledge of military lingo and increase the clinician's confidence when discussing suicide prevention, firearms and safer storage as it relates to military and veterans in the community. ***Sound interesting?*** Join us for another training December 18th!

[Register Here](#)

---

## Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide in Servicemember, Veteran and Families Annual Conference

October 20th, 2023 William James College hosted the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide. "Serving Those who Serve: Moral Injury or Lethal Means, Rethinking veteran suicide, exploring indicators practices roadblocks". The conference is sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



---

## Still have questions about the MVP/TVT programs?

Watch our recent MVP/TVT informational video and get to know Dr. Jenny D'Olympia, Associate Chair and Assistant Professor in the Counseling and Behavioral Health Department, and Director of the Military and Veterans Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs. Dr. D'Olympia shares her personal experience as an Air Force Veteran, and provides information about our Military and Veterans Psychology program for military, veterans, and civilians. The program will provide students with the tools, hands-on experiential learning, and cultural awareness to deliver services to the military, veterans, and their families. For more information, please visit [www.williamjames.edu/mvp](http://www.williamjames.edu/mvp)

Watch the Video Here!

## Contact Us!

If you are interested on how to become a part of our military programs at WJC or have any inquires, please view the MVP points of contact below or email [mvp@williamjames.edu](mailto:mvp@williamjames.edu)

**Jenny D'Olympia, PsyD, LMHC, LP, HSP (she/her)**

Associate Chair and Assistant Professor, Counseling and Behavioral Health Department  
Director, Military Veteran Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs  
617-564-9426 (office)

**Angela Taveira-Dick, PhD**

Associate Director, Military and Veteran Psychology Program  
[angela\\_tdick@williamjames.edu](mailto:angela_tdick@williamjames.edu)

**Patricia Matlock**

Consultant to the Military Veteran Psychology and Train Vets to Treat Vets Programs  
[Patricia\\_Matlock@williamjames.edu](mailto:Patricia_Matlock@williamjames.edu)  
(808)387-6017 (cell)

---

We hope you will join us for our future training events. We provide quarterly newsletters, so please stay tuned for our next edition. Thank you for following us and being a part of our community!

[Visit our MVP Website!](#)

---

Is this content not relevant to you? Please let us know that you would like to be taken off the mailing list by hitting "reply" to this email. If you use the unsubscribe link, you are unsubscribed from all William James College email lists and we don't want to lose touch with you!

[mvp@williamjames.edu](mailto:mvp@williamjames.edu)

[Donate to MVP](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!