Post-9/11 GI Bill: It can change your life

Earning a college degree seems like an expensive proposition. But for today's Veterans, that shouldn't be seen as an unsurmountable hurdle. Especially since, according to a Pew Research Center report on higher education, a college diploma is more valuable than ever. Among the findings:

- A college education is worth more today: There's a wider earnings gap between college-educated and less-educated millennials compared with previous generations.
- College benefits go beyond earnings: In addition to earning more, college-educated millennials also have lower unemployment and poverty rates than their less-educated peers.
- College grads are more satisfied with their jobs: College-educated millennials are more likely to see themselves on a career path, rather than just working at a job to get them by.

Yet, I know what you're thinking...what about the biggest issue facing all students on campus? Yes, the dreaded tuition bill. We've all read about soaring tuition rates – and you don't want to be in debt before you even crack a textbook.

But for our nation's newest generation of Veterans, there's good news: Your service entitles you to reap all of the benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The GI Bill will cover the full cost of an undergraduate education at any public university or college – and many private schools – in the country.

Besides paying 100% of your tuition and fees, the Post-9/11 GI Bill offers <u>additional benefits for Veterans</u> <u>pursuing an education</u>, including:

- Monthly housing allowance
- Up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies
- A one-time relocation allowance
- The option to transfer benefits to family members

To get an easy-to-digest overview of all the Post-9/11 GI Bill offers, visit newgibill.org, a website set up by the lraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. And before you pick a major, consider how you can use your field of study to cultivate a career supporting your fellow Veterans.