



*For Immediate Release*  
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## **Rep. Shankland Secures UW System Support to Expand Popular UW-Stevens Point Veterans Seminar**

STEVENS POINT – State Representative Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) announced today that UW-Stevens Point will make the celebrated “Back from the Front” seminar for veterans available to other UW System campuses as early as this fall. This comes after earlier concerns that the veterans seminar would no longer be offered as a result of the discontinuing of the First-Year Seminar Program due to budget cuts.

*“Back from the Front* has been an incredibly successful offering at UW-Stevens Point, helping veterans in their transition back to civilian life by giving them a supportive learning environment,” said Rep. Shankland. “I am thrilled that UW System and UW-Stevens Point are supporting this seminar and expanding it to other campuses after I asked UW System leaders to consider doing so. This course embodies the Wisconsin Idea, and we owe it to our veterans to expand this innovative seminar across the UW System.”

The seminar *Back from the Front: Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life* studies the history of American veterans coming home from war. By studying those experiences, students gain valuable perspective and are better able to process their own experiences. Transitioning from military to campus life for student veterans, whether in a war zone or not, can be alienating and difficult. The UW System allocated \$10,000 to UW-Stevens Point to support the development of the seminar for use by other UW System institutions and the seminar should be available to other institutions by this fall.

“We want to thank Rep. Shankland for working with UW System, UW-Stevens Point and the veterans’ community to support this unique educational opportunity,” said UW System President Ray Cross. “The UW System is a national leader in offering exceptional educational services to student veterans, and expanding access to the veterans’ seminar to more institutions is a perfect example of our commitment to ensuring our veterans have the best possible experience.”

The seminar is taught by David Chrisinger, an Associate Lecturer at UWSP. Instead of taking a final exam, student veterans are required to write a 2000-4000 words personal essay. These essays proved to be so powerful that they were recently published in a book, “See Me for Who I Am: Student Veterans’ Stories of War and Coming Home.” The book and course have gained national media attention. Proceeds from the book were allocated to the UWSP Student Veterans Club.

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