Dear Servicemembers, Veterans, and Military Families,

Welcome to our campus! My name is Patrick Chimenti, and I’m a clinical social worker providing services to IU East and Purdue University School of Technology students. I’m also the son of an Army combat veteran and a former military/family counselor for the DoD.

Before coming to IU East, I worked with Infantry Brigade Combat Teams of the Army’s 10th MTN and 1st Infantry Divisions as an embedded counselor, supporting Soldiers and Families through several deployment cycles. As a child, I saw the effects of combat on my father, and as a counselor, I assisted servicemembers and families in coping with the effects of multiple deployments; loss; extended family separations; reintegration; post-traumatic stress; and transition to civilian life.

Despite many hardships, I witnessed countless acts of courage, compassion, and resilience as these brave military families fought for and supported their “battle buddies” in-country and at home. I personally experienced these same acts when confronted with the death of a parent and near fatal injuries to my wife. One experience, which I will never forget, clearly illustrates the selflessness of military families. As I was attending a memorial for 16 fallen Soldiers (and also as my mother was critically ill), I approached two spouses of the affected unit to console and support them. Before I could offer my sympathies, they said, “How’s your mother, we’re praying for her.” Bewildered, I asked, “With all the stress and suffering you’ve experienced, how could you possibly be concerned with me?” The response was, “Because we understand-you’re a part of our unit and we support each other.”

It is because of these characteristics and experiences that I write today, to assist you and your family in any way possible: through financial, academic or psychological support. In addition to counseling and information and referral, I would like to start a military family support group to provide a forum for mutual support and information sharing. Please feel free to share your interest or ideas by contacting me by phone or email.
Other key people on campus who could be of help to you are:

- Tim Fienning, IU East VA Certifying Official 765-973-8449 or tfiennin@iue.edu
- Dennis Hicks, CWO2 USN, Ret.- IU East Registrar 765-973-8456 or visit www.iue.edu/registrar
- Liz Ferris, IU East Career and Experiential Learning Coordinator 765-973-8584 or liferris@iue.edu
- Rebeckah Hester, IU East Director of Campus Life 765-973-8585 or rrieder@iue.edu
- Chris Snively (Army Veteran), Purdue School of Technology Student Services Coordinator 765-973-8373 or csnively@purdue.edu
- Darrell Johnson, Army Veteran 317-292-3372 or dgjohnso@iue.edu or Danny Kates, USAF, Ret. djkates@umail.iu.edu; Student Veterans Organization (SVO) Representatives

Thank you for your service; please let us know if we can be of service to you.

Respectfully,

Patrick Chimenti

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