



Nov. 9, 2018

To the Upstate Community:

In recognition of November as National Veterans and Military Families Month and with Veterans Day right around the corner, I want to salute all veterans and active service members and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Upstate has more than 200 veterans and active service members among its staff and students, participating in all areas of our teaching, research and patient care missions.

Upstate has significant relationships with the Armed Forces, from our support of training with Fort Drum personnel on Blackhawk medical transports and advanced trauma life support, to our residency and physician relationship with our neighbor the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Upstate also partners with the Armed Forces on life-saving research, such as our recent work on assessing a vaccine for dengue and our newest study helping the development of a heroin vaccine.

Our community outreach through Team Upstate and our recent Day of Service have benefited the local veteran service agency Clear Path for Veterans.

As we look to increase our efforts of serving our veterans, we are in the process of developing an employee/student veterans committee that will look at matters related to recruiting, retaining, supporting the academic and career goals of veterans and individuals in the military on our campus and community, as well as connecting further with veterans' groups in our community.

And at the College of Medicine, we are developing an innovative pathway to medical education in which students would spend a year of medical school at a Veteran Affairs medical facility while receiving instruction in veterans' health and military medicine.

Please take a moment this month to say thank you to our employees, students and alumni who have served our country.

Sincerely,

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP  
President & Health System CEO  
SUNY Upstate Medical University