



Veteran Community Engagement Committee (CEC)

“If we think about every decision as a *better* decision when we invite the wisdom of the crowd. And our crowd is Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, *and caregivers!* It’s very critical that we take the wisdom of all these individual groups, blend them together, because we get a better decision in the end.”

EUGENE VECERA, ARMY

“I feel that we’ve been fortunate to work with some of the best VA...investigators here. And they also provide direct patient care. The collaboration with our panel members adds not only a holistic, but also a cohesive freshness—a fresh approach to the improvement of Veteran care. I also feel that our experiences and input are held in high regard. The investigators here...they care about our opinions. They care about our input.”

BRANDIE MCKINLEY, ARMY



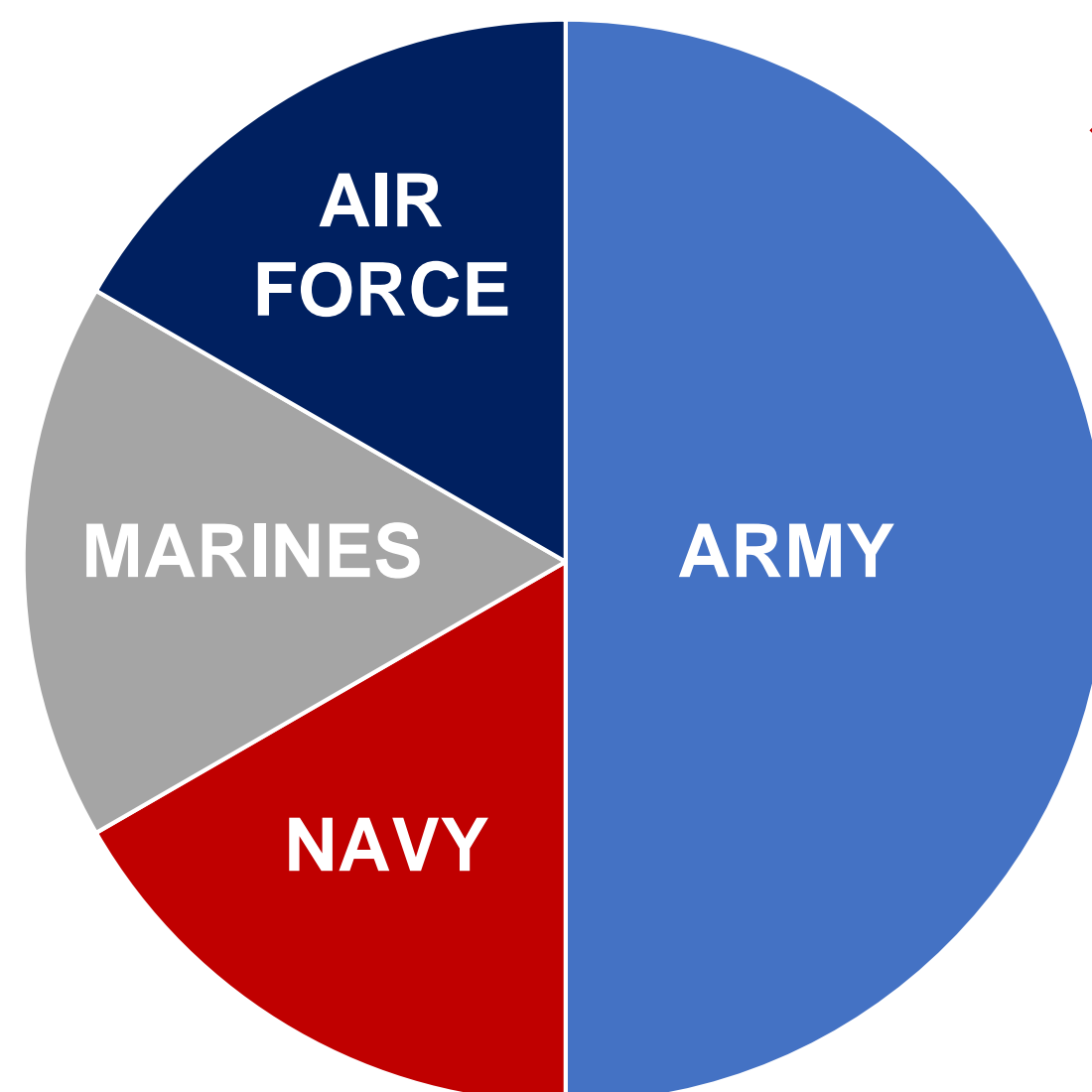
“My expectations are high, and I can’t say that the VA has met my expectations...in a lot of ways. But I see so much promise in the CEC, and in the research that is being done here that I can’t say that I’m anything but...inspired that it’s finally coming to pass. ...not that hard work hasn’t been done in the past, but that this really is a cutting edge understanding about opening the door to the VA future.”

CHRISTINA VALENZUELA, NAVY

“The first thing that pops into my mind is for our Committee to have a voice in all of the research projects in which it would be appropriate for the [CEC] to have a voice, so that there’s the benefit of...investigators hearing what our thoughts are. I would also like to see...more feedback from what comes out of our discussion. Where alterations have been made in the design of the research, or what findings have been made.”

DON WAGNER, AIR FORCE

MILITARY BRANCH



2016-2017 CEC MEMBERS

- ❖ **RICARDO ADAME, MARINE CORPS**
 - ❖ ERIKA BOWEN, ARMY
- ❖ **BRANDIE MCKINLEY, ARMY**
- ❖ **CHRISTINA VALENZUELA, NAVY**
- ❖ **EUGENE VECERA, ARMY**
- ❖ **DONALD WAGNER, AIR FORCE**