A Roanoke college is "joining forces" to help injured vets & their families

Jefferson College of Health Sciences is one of more than 500 nursing schools across the country taking part

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reporter

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ROANOKE, Va.—The students at Jefferson College of Health Sciences are put through the paces everyday. But starting in the fall, these nursing students will take on the military.

"It's felt that nursing school curricula don't focus heavily on a vets as a specific population, and while I know we do to some degree, I believe we can do a better job," explains Ava Porter, Department of Nursing Chair.

It's estimated 1 in 6 of our soldiers returning home from war suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury - that's where "Joining Forces" was born.

Organization and schools like Jefferson College have committed to doing a better job helping those soldiers and their families. Plans at the school are already in motion.

"There's a lot of education that will need to happen for faculty and students and two of our professional organizations - the national league for nursing and the america association of colleges for nursing are already offering and putting out webinars and other educational programs that we will have faculty participate in," says Porter.
This initiative is timely. According to Jefferson College, more than half of our country’s veterans get help from outside the VA.

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