

7.8 MILLION*

* Number of American service men and women who took advantage of the original GI Bill.

In 1944, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act—more commonly known as the GI Bill—provided returning World War II veterans with financial assistance for college or vocational training. This funding made possible the training of 450,000 engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists. The education and training received by these professionals and millions more of the “Greatest Generation” fueled the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in America that powered the next half century.

Today, American colleges and universities are working to promote access to and success in higher education for more than 2 million service members and their families who are eligible for newly expanded benefits under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. As these men and women, who sacrificed so much for their country, transition from soldier to student, institutions of higher education stand ready to ensure that they have every opportunity to succeed.

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America's colleges and universities teach the people who solve the problems and change the world.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs.