

# Veterans Upward Bound

## Rising Star

Christopher Ohle



## Outstanding Alum

Joseph Moore



**H**ospital Corpsman 3rd class Christopher Ohle joined Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) in August 2016. Christopher served three tours in the U.S. Navy during the Desert Storm/Desert Shield Era (August 1990-May 1991). Upon returning stateside, he was stationed at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD while serving on the Presidential Medical Team at the age of 20.

What makes Christopher stand out as an excellent VUB participant is his sense of humor, consistency in utilizing VUB resources, and his commitment in pursuing postsecondary education. He will start classes in spring 2017 at Wichita State in the Barton School of Business, majoring in business marketing with a minor in art and design. Christopher is interested in video production and is currently involved in the community helping to promote local musical artists. When asked about his thoughts on VUB, he had this to say, “VUB has been a blessing to me in ways I never would have thought. The staff have been so helpful in preparation for my college experience. The transition to being a successful returning adult learner at a four-year university has been fortified through VUB’s computer literacy, math and English programs, Rosetta Stone, and active networking with veteran organizations in the community. I wouldn’t trade the friendships or the experiences for anything.”

Christopher has two important quotes he hopes the TRIO staff and students can appreciate: “Can’t, never tried,” by Robert J. Wright and the following by an unknown author, “A closed mouth doesn’t get fed...and I’m hungry!!”

**J**oseph Moore joined VUB in July 2008 after serving in the U.S. Army for three years, including one year tour in Iraq. His love for music and motivation to be the first male in his family to graduate from college encouraged Moore to pursue his bachelor’s degree and, ultimately, become a teacher.

What exemplifies Moore as a VUB participant is his resiliency to achieve his goals. During his academic career, Moore faced difficult struggles, which he overcame. When his grades took a turn for the worst, instead of walking away and giving up, Moore sought help. He buckled down and worked hard to bring his grades up. In July 2014, Moore graduated from Wichita State with a Bachelor’s of Arts in music; he is currently a music teacher at Samuel E. Spaght Science and Communications Magnet School.

According to Moore, TRIO was the helping hand he needed as he finished his degree. VUB provided him with tutors and all the academic help he needed to be successful. His advice and words of encouragement to the TRIO staff is, “never give up or quit! What the staff does, has and will continue to shape the future leaders of our nation as well as our great city.”

To the students of TRIO, Moore leaves the Dr. Seuss quote that changed his life, “Why fit in when you were born to stand out?”