For the fourth consecutive year, Oakland University received a gold ranking, the highest possible rating for veteran-friendliness from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). The organization recognizes institutions of higher learning for dedication to student veterans and dependents using their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits.

Based on a variety of factors, the schools on this year’s list were grouped into bronze, silver and gold levels of recognition. To earn a gold-level designation, schools need to fulfill at least six of these seven evaluation criteria:

- Established process for identification of current student veterans
- Veteran-specific website
- Active student veteran organization or club
• Veteran-specific career services, resources, advising and/or outcome monitoring
• On-campus veterans’ coordinator and/or designated staff point of contact
• System to evaluate and award credit based on prior military training and experience
• Monitoring and evaluation of student veteran academic retention, transfer and graduation rates

Oakland met all seven criteria and also fulfilled 15 out of the 16 criteria listed on MVAA’s dashboard – one of only four schools in the state to do so.

“This is a huge honor for Oakland University and for me personally,” said Eric Wuestenberg, coordinator of Veterans Support Services. “My staff and I strive to make Oakland the best veteran-friendly school, not only in the State of Michigan, but in the whole United States because we feel that’s what our military-connected students deserve.”

To learn more about veteran support services at Oakland, view the website at oakland.edu/veterans or call (248) 370-2010.