



**DAWN BYBEE '19**  
U.S. Marine Corps

# AGGIE SHIELDS TEXTBOOK LENDING LIBRARY

Aggie Shields is a student organization founded in 2014 that manages a "Veteran & Dependent Text Book Loan Library" that has been established through donations of used textbooks and new textbook funds. The high cost of textbooks creates financial challenges for many student veterans. Aggie Shields has been very successful in alleviating the burden of textbook costs for military-affiliated students and is currently seeking donations to enhance its support by increasing the number of books available to veterans in need.

During the past 10 years, the number of veterans and dependents has more than doubled at Texas A&M, and this growth is forecasted to continue. To meet the increasing demand, Aggie Shields' goal is to provide textbook support to more than 350 student veterans and eliminate more than \$100,000 in textbook costs each semester. In order to reach this goal, the VRSC seeks an endowment to provide permanent funding for this leading national best practice.

*The Texas A&M University Aggie Shields Textbook Lending Library is now the model for others to emulate across the state and the nation.*



Aggie Shields has provided books to **more than 2,500** student veterans, family members and survivors.



Initial indications show that the return on investment is in **excess of 400%** for each dollar contributed to this growing program.



With more than **6,800 books loaned**, the financial savings is nearly **\$700,000**.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE



**DAVID BACOT '90, COLONEL, USAF, RET.**  
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