Main Points:

- An influx of veterans into higher education means that learning institutions must take informed action to provide efficient and effective assistance for those with mental illness and suicidal ideation.
- Schools can act accordingly by engaging student veterans and pulling them into a system of care for treatable disorders like PTSD.
- Successful implementation of these actions will occur with quick interventions, campus-wide awareness, and knowledgeable school clinicians.

Key Statistics:

- Regarding student veterans in the study, “there are significant numbers of participants thinking about suicide (46%), with 20% having a plan, 10.4% thinking about suicide ‘often or very often,’ 7.7% making an attempt, and 3.8% believing that suicide is either likely or very likely.”
- In discussing student veterans’ mental health profiles, “PTSD is a particularly significant factor, with 82% of those making a suicide attempt experiencing significant symptoms.”

Recommendations:

- Immediately locating student veterans upon their campus arrivals should become a priority for institutions of higher education.
- Student veterans may be unfamiliar with campus offerings tailored to their needs, and schools can ensure information delivery by simply advertising available assistance options.
- A thorough understanding of PTSD and its effects on the student veteran population can inform school clinicians and the counseling practices they employ.