

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



VETERANS
CAUCUS



Effective Strategies for Serving Student Veterans

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Dr. Jannett Jackson, Chancellor



Topics for discussion

- **Short historical review of the Veterans Caucus of California Community Colleges**
- **Where we are now**
- **Effective Strategies & Legislative Advocacy**
- **Questions**

Veterans Caucus

Short historical review

- Began in Monterey, Trustees Spring Conference 2014
- Formed an Executive Committee:
 - Founders: Larry Kennedy(Trustee) & Jannett Jackson(CEO)
 - Secretary: Bernie Luskin(CEO)
 - At-Large: Bill Withrow (Trustee)
 - Treasurer & Membership: Andrea Rambo
 - Student Veteran (vacant)

Veterans Caucus

Mission:

Committed to providing a strong voice and representing California's community colleges to promote the welfare of veterans through effective legislation and encouraging veterans to participate fully at all levels of policy making and public service.

Current Status

- Our logo
- Affiliation with CCLC
- 501c3 Status
- Bylaws (final edits)
- Structured after CEOCCC



Membership:

- All Colleges are Affiliate Members
 - Dues allow Colleges Full Membership
 - **Individual \$25; College/District \$150; 4Yr/Graduate Institutions \$100; Corporate \$250**
 - Quarterly Veteran's Caucus Newsletter
 - Eligibility to serve on Board of Directors
 - Monthly updates on recent legislation related to Veterans
 - Online Membership Directory
 - Invitation to Veterans Caucus events
 - Special benefits specifically for veterans

Membership(Sample):

- *American River College*
- *Barstow Community College*
- *Chabot-Las Positas CCD*
- *Coast Community College District*
- *Columbia College*
- *Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD*
- *Kern Community College District*
- *Moorpark College*
- *Oxnard College*
- *Pamela D. Walker*
- *Rancho Santiago CCD*
- *San Diego Mesa College*
- *San Joaquin Delta College*
- *San Mateo CCD*
- *Santa Monica Community College*
- *Shasta-Tehama-Trinity CCD*
- *South Orange County CCD*
- *Ventura County CCD*
- *Yuba Community College District*

Effective Strategies to Serve Student Veterans

- Data Collection
- Academic Credit for Military Coursework & Tuition
- Special Veterans Orientation to College
- Dedicated Space – Veterans Resource Centers
- Guaranteed Access to Counselors
- Career Guidance – incorporate into CTE/DWM initiative

Effective Strategy - Examples

- **Get the Data**
 - What is the number of veterans in your area?
 - “The VA estimates that the bay area serves over 266,000 veterans. Many of these were recently discharged from military service.”

Effective Strategy - Example

- **Academic Credit for Military Coursework & Tuition**
 - Did you know Veterans receive priority registration for classes under the SSSP program?
 - Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 would simplify this out of state tuition costs. What about spouses of active duty military?
 - Some colleges offer (limited) academic credit for military coursework, does your college offer?

Effective Strategy - Example

- **Dedicated Space**
 - Does your college have a dedicated space for veterans?
 - Having a dedicated space committed to veterans, allows them to interact and relate to their peers.



Effective Strategy Analysis

Orientation to College

- Does your college offer special orientation for veterans?
- Highly recommended but may be optional or provided by your Veterans Resource Center.
 - (e.g. LPC “Veterans First” Orientation, with special guest State Senator Glazer)



Effective Strategy Analysis

- **Guaranteed Access to Counselors**
 - Statewide, California does not have sufficient counselors to properly service its student population.
 - Insure veterans receive priority to academic and mental health counseling.
 - All new veteran students should see a veteran's counselor to develop a student education plan.
- **Collaboration with CSUs & Private Universities**

Effective Strategy- Example

Career Guidance

- Does your college offer career guidance services?
- Services include:
 - Job preparation workshops
 - Employer interviews
 - Career fairs and placement assistance

■ Health Services

- PTSD, Trauma and Coping Strategies - working with local social service agencies



Effective Strategy – Example

www.chabotcollege.edu/veterans/



Recommendations to Federal Veterans Subcommittee

Remediation:

- Recognition and support for "remediation" classes.
(Currently not paid for under the GI Bill)
- Veterans benefits could cover 12 hours for developmental courses that are non-credit.
- Provide more institutional resources for colleges to be able to support their veteran populations.

Recommendations to Federal Veterans Subcommittee

- Provide a centralized tracking method to monitor the progress of veteran students,
- Currently each college does/does not do this, recommendation is that state can also assist.
- Encourage the military services and VA to provide more transition support for veterans who are discharged from active duty.
- TAP (Transitional Assistance Program assistance while still in the service)

Advocacy Examples

- **Federal:**

- ACCT's "National Legislative Summit"
- Feb 13-16, In Washington –
- Supported By CCLC VCCD & PCCD
- Withrow, Kennedy, Jackson and Luskin met with Erin Snow at the Federal level (Veterans Affairs for Democratic House).



- **State:**

- Reach Out To Your Elected Representatives
- E.G. Assemblywoman Catherine Baker's Veterans Taskforce
 - 15 Agencies & 18 Attendees (e.g. County Veteran Org., American Legion, Veteran Foundations, CLPCCD)
 - Jackie Irwin from Ventura County is State Assembly Chair of Veterans Affairs Committee has met with VCCCD.

- **Local:**

- YOU, Your Trustees & Local Volunteer Agencies

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QUESTIONS