



**California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus
Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Friday, November 22, 2019
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Notes**

1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

Present:

Larry Kennedy, Ventura County CCD Trustee
Doug Houston, Yuba CCD Chancellor
Bill Withrow, Peralta CCD Trustee
David El Fattal, Ventura County CCD Vice Chancellor
Patti D'Orange-Martin, Pasadena City College
Malo Sagiao, Irvine Valley College
Dolores Davidson, Foothill College

Recorder:

AnnMarie McCarthy, Ventura County CCD

Trustee Kennedy called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves. Trustee Kennedy commented that the purpose of the Veterans Caucus is to advocate and lobby on behalf of Veterans at the legislative level.

Cameron Cox, Intelcom Learning Vice President of Marketing, presented on the need to provide educational services to Veterans and commented that in 2015, the Intelcom Learning Board of Directors found student Veterans have the highest need for support. Intelcom Learning developed the MyVRC mobile app three years ago that can be customized for use at every college. Irvine Valley, Saddleback, Chabot-Las Positas, and Moorpark are among the nine colleges currently using the app which allows individual colleges to personalize the app with instructional tools and resources specific to their student Veterans. My Wellness, My Success Tools, and Onboarding are examples of categories that can be campus specific. There was further discussion on how to get the word out about this app, such as a notice to all Veterans Resource Centers; a Veterans Caucus newsletter article; a notice posted on the CCLC website; and through a CalVet partnership.

Trustee Larry Kennedy reviewed the four goals of the Veterans Caucus:

1. A Veterans Resource Center in every college – 80% currently have one
2. A dedicated counselor
3. Decrease the time it takes to distribute the GI bill
4. Obtain academic credit for prior military service *AB 1786, Cervantes. Community colleges: academic credit for prior military experience.*

2. Bylaws

A copy of the current Bylaws and Budget Report were provided to attendees.

3. Student Representative Induction

A student representative was not available due to finals schedule.

4. Legislative Updates – AB 1786 and SB 1071

Patti D'Orange-Martin, Coordinator Veterans Programs and Services at Pasadena City College, presented on AB1786 and SB1101 bills. Irvine College hosted a Veterans event where speakers discussed military units versus community college units and how military training does not match college training. Work is ongoing to match college courses to military courses.

The second part of the Veterans event was focused on mental health issues of Veterans and it was noted that a survey was distributed to 108 colleges as to these issues. Ms. Martin stated that the Department of Defense will release 24,000 military personnel into civilian life by end of 2019 and the majority will enroll in a community college. Focus is on the need to connect Veterans to the college and assist in job placement. There was a recommendation for a resource notebook designed for each college through an innovation grant. Currently, Proposition 63 funds are controlled by county mental health, but very little funding is directed to Veterans. A goal for Los Angeles County is to have a peer advocate on every campus.

Ms. Martin further discussed that United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. Vets) and the limited funds available. Questions for discussion are: How are new funds spent? Is there data on women Veterans? Is anyone looking into homeless issues? Ms. Martin indicated that Steve Peck, U.S. Vets CEO, stated his organization might be able to provide mobile housing for homeless Veterans. Bill AB 1786 has been signed which will provide credit for prior learning. Focus now is on career education programs and how they align with Veterans. The Department of Defense is encouraging each military branch to create their own community college. Further discussion as to how combat Veterans are not able to enroll in nursing programs because of a lack of prerequisites, but they have the skills learned through military service.

Dolores Davison, History and Women's Studies Instructor Foothill College, commented that during the September Board of Governors meeting the subject of credit for prior learning was expanded. Admissions officers can now work to ensure Veterans are receiving proper credit. The Board of Governors are also reviewing the expansion of bachelor degree programs at community colleges.

Malo Sagiao, Irvine Valley College Veterans Services Center Manager, commented on innovation grant best practices. Mr. Sagiao distributed computer bags with resource binders, including mental health resource information, and folders that Irvine Valley College provides to Veterans and suggested that the resource materials could be used as template for other colleges. Mr. Sagiao invited follow-up questions and provided his contact information (714) 290-6766.

5. Newsletter Blog Items

There was no discussion of this item.

6. Annual Plaque Award

Assembly Member Kevin Kiley, California 6th Assembly District, was recommended to receive the Annual Plaque Award.

7. Adjourn

Trustee Larry Kennedy distributed Veteran Caucus pins to caucus members. The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Larry Kennedy at 12:00 p.m.