CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
TROOPS TO COLLEGE

California State University Campus Veteran’s Team
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Troops to College: An Education Partnership

- Governor of California
- State Agencies
- Military Branches
- California’s Public Colleges and Universities
Background: California Demographics

- California leads nation in number of veterans
  - 2.2 million (9.2%) of 24 million nationally live in California

- 12% of active duty in U.S. Armed Forces are from California
  - 170,000 of 1.45 million

- 12% of active duty are stationed in California
  - 175,000 of 1.45 million

- 20,000 active Air Force and Army National Guard stationed in California
  - 3,000 deployed worldwide
Background: Veterans and Service Members Profile

- High school graduates
- 27.3 = average age
- 84% male and 16% female
- Demonstrated leadership
- 27,000 veterans migrate to California annually (USDVA)
- 96% of exiting veterans enrolled in Montgomery GI Bill
  - US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics indicate that roughly 70% ever utilize benefits; Military.com estimates that fewer than 50% actually use benefits toward a completion of a degree
Problem

- Over 3 million students enrolled in California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California
  - But only 14,000 are veterans using Montgomery GI Bill Education Benefits

- California Public Higher Education represents tremendous untapped opportunities for exiting veterans
Vision

- Announced by Governor Schwarzenegger March 2006
- California will become the nation’s model and leader in providing educational opportunities and assistance to active duty military and veterans
  - Increase enrollment of active duty and veterans at California’s public universities
  - Provide increased instructional opportunities to men and women on active duty, the National Guard, and the Reserves
- Result: Provide more qualified men and women to the California workforce
Mission

- The California Community Colleges, CSU and UC will –
  - Expand outreach programs
  - Expand academic advising
  - Expand financial aid advising
  - Provide on-base classes
  - Provide distance education
- Colleges and universities will partner with military branches and California Departments of Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor and Workforce Development
State Benefits for Service Members and Veterans: Non-Resident Tuition Waivers

- California law waives non-resident tuition* for –
  - Active Duty
    - Undergraduate students stationed in California
    - Graduate students stationed in California
  - Veterans
    - On active duty for more than one year immediately prior to discharge
  - Dependents of active duty stationed in California
    - Spouse and children

* All students, both California residents and non-residents, are required to pay the undergraduate CSU State University Fee of $2,772. CSU non-resident tuition (an additional $10,170) is waived for qualified non-California residents.
Additional State Benefits for Service Members and Veterans

- **AB 950 (Salas), sponsored by CSU Board of Trustees**
  - Increased waiver of non-resident tuition for graduate students from one to two years
  - For service members stationed in California who are not California residents

- **SB 272 (Runner)**
  - Provides “priority registration” to active duty members of the Armed Forces, and
  - Veterans within 2 years of leaving active duty
Implementation

- Five Task Force Committees Established
  - Communications, Marketing, and Website Task Force
  - Veteran’s Outreach Task Force
  - Admission and Financial Aid Task Force
  - Partnership Task Force
  - Best Practices Task Force
Outcomes to Date

- Initiating and enhancing websites at each campus
- Establishing a statewide website (design complete; Dept of Vets Affairs to host)
Outcomes to Date

- Linking all campus websites to military websites, e.g. ACE, military.com, etc.
- Including list of campus contacts on all websites
- Incorporated “Troops to College” into California Department of Veterans Affairs training program
- Establishing the Severely Injured program at Balboa and Camp Pendleton
Outcomes to Date

- Partnerships with military bases and college campuses
- Participating in Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Increasing membership in Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC)
- Reviewing credit transferability procedures and criteria with an “eye” towards “advantaging the veteran”
Outcomes to Date

- Establishing veterans support teams with a single point of contact
- Implementing active on-base university outreach programs
- Developing Regional Service Centers consisting of military bases and campuses to provide services
- Developed policies and protocols for access to military bases and access to university campuses
Outcomes to Date

- Fostering communication between military base and campuses
- Developed a college counseling corps consisting of veteran college alumni to work with active duty men and women
- Developed Veterans Support Teams to assist "soldiers" to transition to becoming students
National Interest

- Testimony before Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
- Testimony before House Committee on Veteran Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
- Presentation to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Committee on Education
- Troops to College program for Congressman Bob Filner, House Veterans Affairs Committee
National Interest

- Presentation to worldwide USMC Education Specialist Conference Meeting with House Veterans Affairs Committee Staff Directors
- Presentation to National Association of Veteran Administrators
- Developed language for reauthorization of HEA for grants to universities that develop Veterans Centers of Excellence (modeled after CSU Vets Support Teams)
National Interest

- Briefing to Speaker Pelosi’s home staffers
- Chancellor Reed to address ACE at plenary session in February
CSU Achievements

- Chancellor and presidents two-day visit to Camp Pendleton
- Alumni resolution of support
- Veterans support teams on all campuses
- Implemented veteran web sites
- Working with American Council on Education (ACE) to ensure transferability of military courses and experience to degree requirement
- Exploring alternative paths to admission that recognizes recent military training and coursework
- Developing articulation agreement with University of Maryland, University College
CSU Achievements

- Implemented regional partnerships with military bases
- Instituted veterans orientation and welcome receptions to ease transition
- Meeting regularly with military education service officers
- Visiting military bases to provide on-site counseling and information
- Monthly conference calls with campus veterans support teams
- USMC with SDSU and CSU Fullerton to provide Cultural Awareness training
Next Steps

- Implement a statewide roll out with Governor
- Expand advertising and promotion
- Expand regional partnerships
- Expand consistent use of ACE Guide in the evaluation of military training for academic credit
- Expand student veterans clubs
- Expand services to wounded veterans
- Pilot for distance learning program
Summary

- More active duty personnel and veterans are exploring public higher education
- More classes are being offered on base to active duty personnel
- Expanded academic advice and services
- Becoming schools of choice