Timeline of CSU Troops to College/Veterans Affairs Efforts

The timeline below covers a time span from March 2006 to the present, which is the period of time when the CSU developed most of its campus programs.

March 2006

- Partnership with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Office, California Community Colleges, California State University, University of California, California Departments of Veterans Affairs, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, as well as the six military branches. The effort is known as the Veterans Education Opportunity Program.
- Col. Bucky Peterson, USMC (Ret.) appointed as one of the task force co-chairs.
- The goal was to expand educational opportunities for veterans and active duty service members within California public higher education.
- Formed task groups: (1) Communications/marketing and website; (2) veterans outreach; (3) admission/credit articulation/financial aid; (4) partnerships (5) best practices.
- Student Academic Support in the CSU Chancellor’s Office (CSUCO) participated on various task force committees and supported Col. Peterson’s efforts.

April 2007

- Chancellor Reed and President Ruben Armiñana (Sonoma State) formally make an arrangement for Col. Peterson to work as a representative of the CSU via a Memorandum of Understanding – July 25, 2007. (Document 1)
- CSUCO Student Academic Support leads campuses through discussions of challenges, best practices, needs, etc.
- CSU campuses develop a communication and service model, assign a campus veteran lead office/department/point person, participate in monthly conference calls, and work through challenges faced on campuses.
- Campuses begin focus groups/discussions with veteran/active duty military students.

April 2008

- CSUCO Student Academic Support begins meeting with campus veteran leads/teams once a year.
- CSUCO Student Academic Support provided an update on the statewide effort – April 29, 2008. (Document 2)
• Campuses continue efforts to maintain discussions/host focus groups with transitioning veteran/active duty military students.
• A survey and inventory of veterans’ enrollments and program activities on CSU campuses is conducted. ([Documents 3 and 4])
• A summary report of the task force for the period of June 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007 is issued. ([Document 5])
• Department of Veterans Affairs issues proposed rules for Post 9/11 GI Bill. ([Document 6])

2009

• Chancellor Reed directs all campuses to develop comprehensive programs.
• Chancellor Reed agrees to the CSU Special Admission Program based on commanding officer recommendations (now called the CSU Troops to College Admission Program). ([Document 7])
• CSUCO Student Academic Support conducts a second assessment/inventory of campuses. ([Document 8])
• New Post 9/11 GI Bill goes into effect significantly changing certification due to the CSU tuition structure and CSU issues direction to campuses on how to proceed. ([Document 9])

2011

• CSU campus veteran teams develop, coordinate and implement first annual professional development conference (CSU Fullerton).
• CSUCO coordinates comprehensive systemwide assessment and issues a report. ([Document 10])
• CSU and Military Leader Summit held in August at Camp Pendleton.
• Department of Defense (DoD) issues Tuition Assistance Program MOU’s for signature.
• CSUCO staff did not recommend campuses to sign the MOU due to its complicated nature. CSU staff were concerned about the ability to comply with the MOU.
• Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Ephraim Smith issues memo to campus presidents on internal activities. ([Document 11])
• Governor Brown signs Executive Order B-09-11 that established the California Interagency Council on Veterans (ICV) to identify and prioritize the needs of California’s veterans, and to coordinate the activities at all levels of government. He requests that the CCC, CSU, and UC leadership appoint a representative from their respective systems to serve as members of the ICV.
• Chancellor Reed formally appoints Col. Bucky Peterson to the ICV.
2012

- Col. Peterson provides an update on state efforts to Governor Brown’s staff. (Document 12)
- DoD re-issues Transition Assistance MOU for signature without addressing concerns raised by universities across the nation. CSUCO staff continues to recommend that our campuses NOT sign the MOU.
- CSU overhauls Veteran/Troops to College website: http://www.calstate.edu/veterans/
- CSU campuses host annual professional development conference (San Francisco State).
- CSU provides annual Troops to College Admission Program Guidelines.
- CSU conducts ACE training for campuses and CCC’s to over 200 participants.
- Col. Peterson announces retirement and is replaced by Col. Casey Roberts effective March 1, 2013. An updated position description was developed. (Document 13)
- President Obama signs Principles of Excellence Executive Order; CO staff review and make recommendations. (Document 14)
- DoD, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issue a request to sign an MOU that includes both the Principles of Excellence and the Transition Assistance Program.
- Military begin a pilot of the Transition Assistance Program.
- Dec. 2012, DoD reissues the MOU with significant improvements and removes the Principles of Excellence section. CSU staff agrees to review and provide a recommendation to campuses in early 2013.
- A review is conducted of admitted versus enrolled CSU Troops to College applicants from 2009 to 2012. (Document 15)
- A systemwide survey indicates 17 campuses have veteran centers or dedicated space. (Document 16)
- CalMHSA grant identified the veteran population as a recipient of services.
- CSUCO begins identifying the most common courses submitted by veteran students on their SMART Transcripts to begin discussion with campuses for application of similar credit across all campuses.

2013

- CSU campuses begin planning annual professional development conference to take place at CSU Los Angeles.
- Campuses begin admission process for Troops to College Admission Program (only Navy and Marines have submitted names to date).
- CSU staff are in the process of reviewing the latest version of the DoD MOU and will be providing a recommendation to campuses.