

Veterans First Program



**Going Beyond
Benefit Certification:
Successful
Programming for
Returning Veterans**



Las Positas College *Veterans First* Program

is designed to ease the transition of a serviceman or woman from military life into college and to assist them with educational, financial and other forms of support as needed to improve their chances of success at college.

BACKGROUND

LPC Student Veteran Population

- 275 Veterans – Fall 2010
 - Approx. 30% are OIF/OEF Veterans
 - No services, programs, resources were available (limited to certifying benefits only)
- 385 Veterans – Fall 2014
 - Approx. 82% are OIF/OEF Veterans
 - Comprehensive Veterans Program
 - Veterans Resource Center
 - Strong Community Collaborations



Saluting Those Who Serve

- Expand definition of service to veterans
 - Beyond certification
- Acknowledge and honor the Student Veterans experience and the transition challenges they face
 - Combat experience
 - Physical and psychological challenges
 - Correlating military experience and training to civilian career direction
 - Loss of camaraderie with their fellow servicemen/women
 - Budgeting, rent, food, school supplies – with limited income
 - Relationship issues



Network of Community Support

Local Veteran Organizations

Veterans Foreign Wars, Blue Star Moms, Operation Sam, Pleasanton Military Families, Swords to Plowshares, Valley Veterans Foundation, Sentinels of Freedom, Mission Continues

Local Support Agencies

Camp Parks, Livermore VA Hospital, Concord and Oakland Vet Center, Employment Development Department, One-Stop Center, Palo Alto VA

Community Support

Livermore Rotary, RAVE (Rotary Assisting Veterans Education), Knights of Columbus

Partnership

Lawrence Livermore Lab, Safeway, Comcast, The Englander, Eight Bridges Brewing and many others

Building a Comprehensive Veterans First Program



.25 (10 hours) Certifying Official	Fall '06
Student Service Program Review	Spring '07
Book Loan	Spring '07
Information/Orientation Day	Summer '07
Foundation Grant (\$20,000)	Fall '07
Gala Fundraiser	Spring '08
VFP Scholarship Program	Spring '08
Veterans First Program (official)	Spring '08
Student Veteran Org established	Fall '08
VF Program Coordinator (FT)	Spring '09
Veterans Business Plan	Spring '09
Veterans Office	Spring '09
Veterans "Hub" (first VRC)	Spring '09
Student Veteran Mentor	Spring '09
Operation Gateway (Orientation)	Summer '09
Readjustment Counseling (Oakland/Concord)	Fall '09
Sentinels of Freedom (partnership)	Spring '10
Priority Registration	Fall '11
Veterans Resource Center, Bldg 1000	Fall '11
Rotary Assisting Veterans Education formed	Spring '12
VA Palo Alto Healthcare (on campus)	Spring '12
LLNL Internships	Summer '13
Veterans Engineering Tech Cohort	Summer '14
Veterans Resource Center, Bldg 1310	Fall '14

Where we are now

Mission continues.....

- Over 400 student Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, Dependents/Spouses of Veterans
- Over 230 w/ VA federal benefits
- Veterans Book Loan Program
- Veterans Text Book Borrowing Program
- Annual Honoring Veterans Day Event
(USS Arizona – WWII Veterans, Tuskegee Airmen, WASP Pilot – Maggie Gee, Ted Moore – Air American Pilot, 9/11 Observance-10 year)
- **3rd Annual Honoring Women Veterans Event**
- Operation Gateway 7 – Summer 2015 (over 50 Veterans)
- **Vet Center Readjustment Counselor on Campus – every other week**
- EDD Veterans Rep on campus in the VRC – every other week
- Palo Alto VA Health Care – Every other week
- Engineering Tech Program–Veterans Co-hort. Second cohort starts in Fall 2015
- **Over 40k will be awarded to LPC Veterans – through local LPC Veterans scholarships**
- Fundraisers – Englander Golf Tournament, Cycling 4 Veterans, End of the year dinner/recognition, Veterans First merchandise sales
- 25k award by a single donor – Safeway
- **Veterans Resource Center–(3 offices, computer lab, study workroom, lounge area)**

VETERANS FIRST PROGRAM

