

Report on Measure G Programs: Veterans Support

- 1. Provide a brief description of your program/service (50 words or fewer).**

Veterans Support is aimed to assist veterans with their successful reintegration into civilian and academic settings by creating a supportive learning-centered community. We offer support services such as certification of educational benefits for veterans and dependents through the VA Certifying Official, academic/career advising with a VA Counselor, and programming via Veteran's Resource and Opportunity Center (VROC).
- 2. Is the college contractually obliged to provide your program/service? Explain.**

All colleges and universities are required to have a Veterans Certifying Official to assist veterans and dependents utilizing their GI educational benefits. In having veterans, we are not contractually obligated to provide services, however we would consider it to be our institutional obligation to provide services to this particular population.
- 3. Is the college obligated to provide your program/service in order to meet accreditation requirements? Explain.**

Although, accreditation does not specifically address veterans, Standard IIB3 states, "The institution researches and identifies the learning support needs of its student population and provides appropriate services and programs to address those needs." As a result of the college accepting veterans and dependents, we have identified "needs" of our veterans and dependents and are providing services to enrich their experience and path towards completion.
- 4. How does your program/service specifically support objectives of the Educational Master Plan or other strategic plans?**

While the educational master plans and other institutional plans do not specifically address veterans, veterans services is working towards meeting objectives such as:

Completion Objective 2.3: Improve connections with potential students by conducting an engaging, well thought out orientation program that provides students with a thorough understanding of college requirements and financial aid.

Completion Objective 2.6: Improve progress through increased intentional counseling and other services to guide students to completion of their goals.

Completion Objective 2.8: Improve progress by creating opportunities for faculty-student and student-student (peer mentorships).

Community Connections Objective 3.3: Integrate Service learning and Internship opportunities for students into academic and student life.

- 5. How many students (headcount) per semester are served by your**

program/service in an academic year?

Currently, there are a total of 100 veterans and dependents who are self-identified through CCCapply and are attending Cañada. Approximately 45 of the 100 are utilizing their educational benefits and are certified by the VA Certifying Official. On a weekly basis, there are a between 10-15 different veterans and dependents who utilize VROC's services including free printing, academic counseling, eat & greets, and communal space.

While there are 100 self-identified veterans and dependents, we are aware that there are veterans and dependents who have not self-disclosed their status.

- 6. Does your program/service provide for the needs of a special population of students?** Yes, our services provides for the needs for student veterans and dependents.
- 7. What is your evidence of program success?**
We will be working with the Planning and Research department to implement Data Dashboard to evaluate program success.
- 8. What measures would be required in order to accommodate your current students if your program were to lose funding?** We would need to continue a program services coordinator position in order to accommodate our current students and services provided.
- 9. What specific measures of cost savings to your program/service can you propose? What are the consequences of implementing these measures?**
While the needs of the veterans/dependents population are diverse, as a cost savings measure, we are working on collaborating with local veteran services and programs such as the Peninsula Veterans Center and our sister colleges. The Peninsula Vet Center provides bi-weekly re-adjustment services and will be providing monthly therapy sessions in VROC beginning in Fall 2014. By partnering with our sister colleges, CSM and Skyline we are working towards providing shared workshops addressing vet-specific needs. Additionally, to increase vets' awareness and access of academic services, both the VA Counselor and VA Certifying Official visit VROC on a weekly basis. Although, we will continue to explore additional off-campus resources to meet the needs of our veteran students.

Implementing these measures can lead towards a difficulty in providing specific services, a decentralization of services, and a decrease of veteran students enrolled at Cañada.

10. What other possible sources of funding might be available to fund your program/service?

Alternative sources of funding may be provided through Fund 1, possible grants, or private donations.