



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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California Community Colleges Veterans Summit III In Newport Beach Expands To Include CSU, UC Systems

Chancellor Brice W. Harris says sold-out, two-day event will help state's student veterans

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – More than 300 California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California faculty, staff and administrators have descended on Newport Beach for the California Community Colleges Veterans Summit III, a two-day meeting to hear how the state's higher education professionals can best serve returning veterans who are seeking a college education. The summit runs from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. today and will conclude tomorrow at 3 p.m., but not before sessions are held at the Newport Beach Marriott on topics dealing with student veterans' issues such as academic counseling, apprenticeship opportunities and postsecondary degree attainment through credit for prior learning.

For the first time since the Veterans Summit was launched in Northern California in 2011, representatives from the CSU and UC systems were invited and sessions over the two days have been tailored more broadly to reflect issues student veterans face at all three systems. The summit is jointly sponsored by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Veterans Summit III is supported by generous donations from JP Morgan Chase and the Land of the Free Foundation.

"It's nice to see all three California systems of higher education embrace these summits because the issues facing our returning veterans are no different from campus-to-campus – each student veteran just wants to get a degree or certificate for a well-paying job, or to graduate from a community college and then transfer to a California State University or University of California campus - and it's our job to help ease that transition from military to civilian life," [Chancellor Brice W. Harris](#) said. "These summits go a long way in helping our colleges to better serve those who have served their country and, as always, I'm proud that our system is leading the way."

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Chancellor [Dr. Jannett Jackson](#) will deliver the keynote address at 12:45 p.m. today. Dr. Jackson spent three decades in the U.S. Army and is a decorated veteran who served in the Persian Gulf and Iraq Wars. She retired as a colonel and became the district's chancellor in June. Tomorrow's keynote speaker is [Assemblymember Rocky Chavez](#) (R-Carlsbad). Chavez also has three decades of

military service in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of colonel and was assigned as chief of staff for the 4th Marine Division before retiring in 2002.

Representatives of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and the American Council on Education have joined the summit for the first time to examine the issue of awarding academic credit for military service and experience.

“The Academic Senate is excited to participate in an event designed to support veterans and help them succeed as community college students,” said Beth Smith, president of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. “Faculty plays the primary role in ensuring academic quality for all students, and we need tools and options to match skills and knowledge from prior learning with the requirements of today's demanding academic programs.”

The Veterans Summit continues to expand in scope and popularity. The first summit was a one-day event held in December 2011 in San Diego with just seven breakout sessions but it grew to a two-day event last year in Redwood City with 12 sessions. This year's event sold out in early November and a 45-person waiting list was formed. Twenty sessions will be conducted over the two-day summit this year and having two keynote speakers – one each day - is a Veterans Summit first, as well.

“Improving educational services to military veterans is a local, state and national imperative and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges is once again honored to co-sponsor the third annual statewide Veterans Summit,” said the association's executive director Jonathan Lightman. “This summit has focused meaningful attention on our military veteran students and as the number of these students continues to increase, the significance of this event grows ever stronger.”

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.3 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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