



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### PRESS RELEASE

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### California Community Colleges Hosts Fifth Veterans Summit in City of Industry

*California Community Colleges serves between 60,000 and 70,000 veterans and active duty military members annually*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Hundreds of California Community Colleges faculty, staff and administrators, along with other professionals who work with veterans, are attending the California Community Colleges Veterans Summit today and tomorrow in City of Industry. The purpose of the summit is to share information and best practices to better help veterans transition to higher education.

“This is a terrific opportunity for higher education professionals from across the state to work together to help veterans achieve their college goals,” said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. “The California Community Colleges remains committed to serving those who have served our country. Veterans often face a unique set of challenges when it comes to transitioning to life after service, and these summits are just one way our colleges are working together to best understand their needs to help them succeed.”

This year’s summit features 20 panel discussions. Some of the topics of the summit include: campus-based career development programs, earning college credit for prior learning experiences, promoting financial aid/scholarships to veterans and understanding transition experiences of women student-veterans at community colleges.

The Thursday keynote speech was delivered by Eldonna Lewis Fernandez, a retired Air Force veteran with 23 years of honorable military service. Fernandez is now the CEO of Dynamic Vision International Inc., a training and consulting firm, as well as an award winning speaker and an accomplished author. The Friday keynote will be delivered at 12 p.m. by Dr. Wes Beavis, a registered psychologist with the United States Veteran’s Initiative. Dr. Beavis is a best-selling author with a passion for helping veterans succeed in life through positive and intentional personal leadership.

This is the fifth summit focused on student veterans’ issues hosted by the California Community Colleges. The first occurred in San Diego in 2011, followed by summits in Redwood City in 2012, in Newport Beach in 2013 and in San Jose in 2014.

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. It is supported by donations from the Land of the Free Foundation. For a schedule of events, visit:

<http://www.veteranssummit.org/agenda.html>.

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 113 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges>, or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.*

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