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Fall 2019

### SSD Newsletter (Fall 2019)

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Main Website

Workability IV

PDC SSD



**John F. Kennedy**

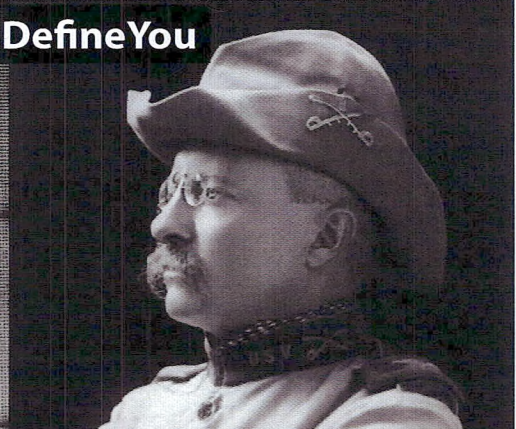
35th U.S. President  
U.S. Navy Veteran  
Purple Heart Recipient



**#AbilitiesDefineYou**

**Tammy Duckworth**

U.S. Senator  
Assitant Secretary of Veteran Affairs  
U.S. Army Combat Veteran



**Theodore Roosevelt**

26th President  
Medal of Honor Recipient  
U.S. Army Veteran, Rough Rider



SSD and WA-IV salute our nation's service members and veterans.

WE DEFINE THE *Future*

Honoring our Four-Legged Companions



Military Working Dog Conan

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition that has affected service men and women throughout every military conflict. Yet military personnel are not the only military members affected by PTSD; military working dogs can suffer from canine PTSD. According to a 2014 report authored by Dr. Walter F. Burghardt, Chief of Behavioral Medicine at the Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, about 5-10% of military dogs deployed in conflict have shown signs of having PTSD. Gina, a military working dog, served a six-month tour of duty in Iraq from 2008-2009. Over time, Gina became unable to perform her duties due to having jitters and panic attacks. She was diagnosed with canine PTSD.

Military working dogs have been used in almost every war to support our troops yet weren't officially recognized until March 13, 1942 when "Dogs of Defense" was established recruiting public dogs for the U.S. Military War Dog Program. By the end of WWII, over 18,000 dogs were trained for service. Sadly, 4,000 dogs served in the Vietnam War, but only 200 would make it back. Even in today's fight on terrorism, working dogs support our armed forces. Most recently Conan, a Belgian Malinois,

took part in the Syria raid to capture ISIS leader Baghdadi.

Although we recognize Veterans Day as a day to honor former military members, we must not forget our four-legged friends that bravely served alongside them throughout every campaign and like our veterans, suffer from PTSD, other mental health conditions and physical injuries.

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## Workforce Recruitment Program

The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP), coordinated by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the U.S. Department of Defense, is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private sector employers with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to showcase their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs. Annually, WorkAbility IV (WA-IV) staff coordinates and prepares students for this exciting opportunity. To date, 54 students have registered and 50 students have completed their applications and will be participating in mock interviews in preparation for interviews with a federal recruiter the first two weeks of November for a possible full-time paid internship/job. On October 8, 2019, WA-IV staff facilitated a workshop on WRP and Internship Preparation, where seventeen students learned how to seek, prepare, and secure internships including WRP, HACU, CSUSB department internships, and other internships in the community. Four students attended the same workshop at the Palm Desert Campus (PDC) on October 10, 2019.

## Jonathan Burnette Receives Prestigious WRP Award

Jonathan Burnette, a CSUSB WA-IV alumnus, was hired by the Department of the Navy last October and was recently accepted into the Navy Post Grad School to pursue the Master of Systems Engineering program. Last July, he received the Judith C. Gilliom Award as one of the outstanding Workforce Recruitment Program participants.

According to Burnette, "The Workability IV program got my foot into the door for an opportunity to intern with the Navy. Before my interview, the folks at Workability IV assisted me with my interview preparation and gave me the confidence needed to face a tough interview board. I can't say enough good things about this program and Leigh Connell in particular. In short, Workability IV helped get me my dream job working with Cyber Security and Information Technology Engineering at the Naval Information Warfare Center. I highly recommend this program to anyone who is interested."



*Jonathan Burnette receives the Judith C. Gilliom Award in Washington, D.C.*

## WorkAbility Job Placement Circle at the Palm Desert Campus



*Recruiters Conducting Mock Interviews with Students*

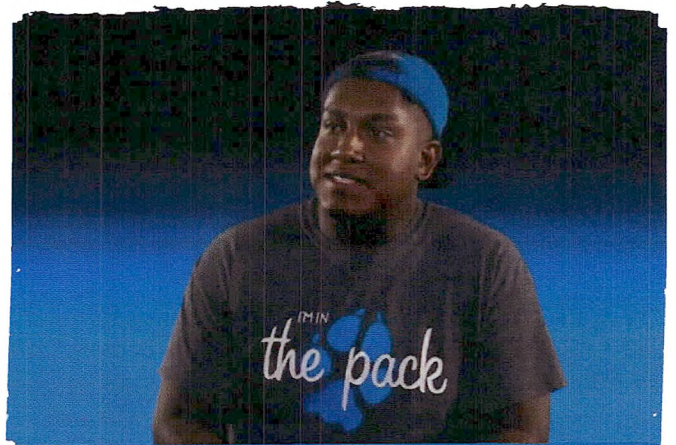
WA-IV collaborated with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Inland Empire District, Palm Desert Branch, and College of the Desert's WorkAbility III program to host a Job Placement Circle for students with disabilities on October 24, 2019 at the Palm Desert Campus. Students interviewed with nine HR recruiters from Coachella Valley Lighthouse, Cathedral City, DesertArc, Robert Half, Desert Best Friend's Closet Coachella Valley, California Department of Rehabilitation, and Stars Behavioral Health Group. WA-IV students dressed to impress and came highly prepared as most participated in a mock interview in advance of the event. Students were informed about how to apply for specific jobs, which matched their major. Thirteen students attended and CSUSB students participated in over 30 interviews.



## SSD and WA-IV Receive High Marks

### SSD and WA-IV Present at the 2019 CAPED Convention

On October 13, 2019, Marci Daniels, SSD director, Elizabeth Perez, WA-IV program administrative coordinator, and Robert Beam, WA-IV computer lab technician, co-presented "Transitioning to Higher Education: An Exploration of Factors that Contribute to Student Success" at the 45th California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) Convention in Long Beach, CA. CAPED is the state's preeminent association advocating for and with students with disabilities in postsecondary education. The 75-minute interactive workshop examined the challenges students with disabilities face transitioning from two- to four-year institutions, explored the differences in applicable laws, advocacy roles, and academic expectations and their impact on transitioning students, engaged in discussion about the skillsets necessary for students to thrive at the university-level, and provided suggestions to assist community colleges in forging intentional transition programs with universities to better serve students. The session also featured video segments of two SSD students and an alumnus who spoke about their experiences transitioning from the military, high school, and community college to CSUSB. Click [here](#) to hear what our students had to say about their experiences. Over 75 participants attended the standing room only session.



*Daniel Carr's testimonial about the transition from high school to higher education with a disability*

### WorkAbility IV Site Visit

On August 29, 2019, Jason Smith, Lead Specialist, California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Cooperative Programs Section, joined Sushma Lal, Associate DOR Governmental Program Analyst and Contract Administrator, three DOR supervisors and three counselors, and WA-IV staff for a site review. Nine cooperative members attended. WA-IV staff provided a presentation on services and programs offered over the 2018-2019 school year. The site review covered referrals, staffing patterns, reconciling client lists, billing, documentation, and a tour of the WA-IV offices. Mr. Smith was highly impressed remarking that CSUSB's WA-IV program was a best practice model and took several pictures and asked for a copy of the presentation to show other contractors.



*Cooperative Members, DOR Staff, and WA-IV Staff attend DOR Site Review (lt. to rt. John Decker, Jessica Chavez, Rodrigo Mercado, Kenneth Jacobs, Robert Beam, Leigh Connell, Jason Smith, Tania Reyes, Henryetta Andrate, Joel Harris, Cynthia Bryan, Conrad Shayo)*

### SSD Presents at the College of Extended and Global Education

On September 18, 2019, SSD and WA-IV provided a presentation to 250 students consisting of undergraduates, graduates, and ESL students during the International Student Orientation facilitated by the College of Extended and Global Education. The goal of SSD's outreach program is to raise awareness of the services and options available at California State University, San Bernardino for students with disabilities. The program included a presentation on SSD and WA-IV services; an introduction to assistive technology available to students; how SSD and WA-IV help students achieve success in college; and why it is important to utilize the resource as soon as you can.



## Student Affairs' Multicultural Festival



On October 16, 2019, SSD and WA-IV participated in the Student Affairs' Hispanic Heritage Month Multicultural Festival representing the República del Ecuador. Each department was asked to showcase a different South American Country. SSD and WA-IV chose Ecuador in part because of President Lenín Moreno who helped implement a variety of programs for people with disabilities, passed inclusive labor laws, began installing curb cuts and accessible crosswalks throughout Ecuador, and created a fund to pay monthly stipends for people with disabilities who are unable to work.

Solidarity and social justice have been a guiding principle of Moreno's political life. "Solidarity – not as charity, but rather as recognition of others as equals – is the basic pillar for initiating social inclusion," he wrote in 2012. Liliana Guzmán, a ruling party congressional representative, who coordinates the Manuela Espejo program in the Azuay province, noted that before Lenín, families kept disabled relatives hidden away. "It took

a man with a disability to help include them in society and stand up for their rights," she said. Susan Schaeffer, SSD's notetaking coordinator, tabled at the event and provided personal insight about Ecuador and her experiences as a study abroad student there in addition to providing information about SSD and WA-IV services.

## Chaffey College 10th Annual Disability Awareness Fair

SSD participated in Chaffey College's 10th Annual Disability Awareness Fair held at their Fontana, Chino and Rancho Cucamonga campuses the week of October 15, 2019. The fair was an excellent opportunity for SSD staff to meet with prospective transfer students with disabilities to provide them with information about SSD and WA-IV services and CSUSB admission processes. The fair also featured free food and drinks, raffle prizes, a DJ, and community resources.



Christeena Johnston, SSD's Finance and Administrative Coordinator, provides important information about services to Chaffey College



SSD Director Marci Daniels Catches Up with Alumna Therese Cheers at Homecoming

## 2019 CSUSB Homecoming

On Saturday, October 19, Cal State San Bernardino students, staff, alumni and community members came together to celebrate Homecoming. SSD was honored to participate in this proud tradition and showed its Coyote pride by tabling at the event. SSD interacted with students, staff, and community members and enjoyed great food, music and fun followed by the volleyball game. Go Yotes!