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CSUSB Veterans Success Center

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Issue 26

Nov. 2015

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[Facebook.com/VSC.CSUSB](https://www.facebook.com/VSC.CSUSB)

or search for

**CSUSB Veterans
Success Center**

Air Force and Navy Birthday Celebrations a Success!



Air Force ROTC cadets at the celebration

invocation, followed by the cake cutting ceremony. The T-34 flyover was awe-inspiring, not only over the campus but directly over the event multiple times. Air Force veteran and ROTC Cadet Michael Kampbell emceed the event and provided the closing remarks.

The Veterans Success Center (VSC), in collaboration with CSUSB AFROTC Det. 002, hosted a successful celebration in honor of the Air Force Birthday on Oct. 9.

Lt. Col. Charles Peterson gave the welcoming remarks, followed by a keynote address by Col. Douglas Weskamp. Chaplain Maj. David Sarmiento gave the

The VSC also celebrated the 240th U.S. Navy Birthday. "This celebration is always great, and it's getting bigger and bigger. I love the way the campus comes together to support our Navy student veterans," remarked Jaime Espinoza. "I also really enjoy how Mr. Tossetti, our volunteer, wears a shirt that states, 'Go Navy, Beat Army.'" These elements bring joy and excitement to our events, and each year there are new elements. For example, this year, a red carpet entrance with bullet rope dividers was added and looked amazing. Elizabeth Perez, a new Navy mom, was one of the participants in the Ringing of the Bell Ceremony. "I cannot express how overwhelming it was to be even considered," remarked Perez. "I am extremely proud of my son's courage to serve this country, and I am proud to have been part of this ceremony." A special thank you to all who attended and to our special volunteer Mrs. Darcie Tossetti for all the help she provided in making this event a memorable one.



Navy cake cutting ceremony

News from Melissa McQuead, Your Certifying Official

We are well on our way into the start of a new academic year. I would like to take the time to remind you of some things that will help you keep your VA educational benefits coming in a timely manner.

If you are in receipt of Chapter 30, Chapter 33, Chapter 35, Chapter 1606, or Chapter 1607 benefits, you need to fill out a new “statement of responsibility” form each quarter that you attend. You do not fill the form out until after you register for classes. You may request this form from me via e-mail at mmcquead@csusb.edu, by phone at 909-537-5213, or download the form at <http://registrar.csusb.edu> under Veteran Certification. You are also always welcome to come in person to UH-171 to request it as well. The form can be returned to me via e-mail, faxed to 909-537-7064, or turned in at the

Information Counter in UH-171. Those individuals who receive benefits under Chapter 31 or who receive the Cal Vet College Fee Waiver do not have to turn in a “statement of responsibility” form.

Always remember to keep me informed any time you increase or decrease your units, completely withdraw from school, or change your major. I prefer that you e-mail me these changes because I need a written record.

If you are a Cal Vet College Fee Waiver student, you will need to make sure you have a current 2015/2016 fee waiver on file with our office. If you haven't applied yet, you can do so at any county Veterans Service office. The waiver will waive your tuition, but you will still be responsible for paying the mandatory campus fees. You must meet the California residency

requirements of your school in order to receive this benefit. The goal is to have your fee waiver on file with our office by the time tuition and fees are due.

I suggest that everyone check the www.gibill.va.gov website frequently for benefit updates and/or changes. If you haven't already set up an eBenefits account, I strongly encourage you to do so. This can be done at the same website.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or issues with your VA educational benefits.

Have a great academic year!



Graduating Student Veterans, Order Your Graduation Stole Today

Call the Veterans Success Center at (909)537-7196 or e-mail Jaime Espinoza at jespinoza@csusb.edu to receive your free graduation stole.

Make sure to include your full name, email address, phone number, and branch of service.



The Veterans Gradation Celebration will be held on December 4, 2015 at 5 p.m.— 7p.m. in the Obershaw Dining Room. Dinner will be provided.

The CSUSB Vet Hunter



Ericka (fourth from the left) with her shipmates.

Ericka Saucedo is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and a 12-year coyote veteran who started out in Accounts Payable as an Accounting Clerk. Ericka has spent the last nine years working in the John M. Pfau Library as an Accounting Technician II, maintaining the library materials budget, as well as assisting with library exhibits, and promoting the library through the Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD) and the Latino Baseball History Project. She is also a member of the Association of Latino Faculty, Staff, & Students (ALFSS).

Ericka served five years in the Coast Guard as a Store Keeper, Petty Officer Third Class (SK3). Initially stationed on the CGC Jarvis (WHEC-725) in Honolulu, Hawaii, she deployed to the Bearing Sea and the South Pacific Ocean. Selected by her command, Ericka was reassigned as the driver for the Rear Admiral at District 14 before finishing out her enlistment at the Integrated Support Command (ISC) in San Pedro, California. Ericka was honorably discharged from the USCG in 2003.

“The Coast Guard gave me direction and purpose. The skills and training I acquired made my transition into the civilian work force an easy one. Getting my degree hasn’t always been as smooth. Working full time plus having a family to take care of have prolonged the completion of my degree, so I know how hard it can be for veterans out there to do the same. The Coast Guard is a small service where your shipmates become an extension of family, and that’s an unbreakable bond. I see that same bond here at Cal State; there is a strong sense of community here. That’s what the Veterans Center is doing for our veterans. It makes me proud to be a veteran and proud I work for an organization that understands the sacrifices these men and woman made for our country and I look forward to working with the Veterans Center and helping my fellow veterans in any way that I can,” stated Saucedo.

Marine Corps Birthday Nov 20

The student Marines of CSUSB are hosting a Marine Corps Birthday Celebration on Friday, Nov. 20. Registration begins at 6 p.m., and the event concludes at 9 p.m. There will be an authentic Marine Corps birthday ceremony, dinner, and dessert. The birthday celebration is open to all, free-of-charge. This event allows those who do not have a military affiliation to observe unique military customs and traditions that have been passed down by Marines from generation to generation. The great things about birthdays is that they occur annually, so if you are unable to attend this beautiful birthday this year, you are more than welcome to attend the celebration next year! Ensure that you RSVP as soon as the invitation is sent out, as the event reached maximum capacity within the first week and a half of release last year. “Last year, a good time was had by all, and the Ball proved to be the best one yet, and we want to exceed that for this year,” remarked Kenneth Jacobs. If you or your organization would like to volunteer or help at out our event, please contact Jaime Espinoza at jespinoza@csusb.edu. We had many volunteers last year, and it really helped the event run smoothly!



Need Free Tutoring for Midterms and Finals?



Hello! My name is Vivek Kumar Muthusamy, and I am currently working on my business degree here at CSUSB to master global strategy for international business. I received my master's in biotechnology from University of Texas, San Antonio and a bachelor's in industrial biotechnology from Anna University in India. I am very passionate about science and technology, and I enjoy teaching it as I get to learn through the process as well. I have taught advance-level labs for graduate students and can tutor bio-related subjects such as biochemistry, biology, and chemistry. I can also tutor math subjects including calculus, statistics, algebra, and trigonometry. My tutoring and contact information is below. Feel free to contact me whenever!

Tutoring Hours

Monday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information

Cell: (909) 702-0555

E-mail: muthusav@coyote.csusb.edu

PDC VSC

The Palm Desert Veterans Success Center opened its doors in November 2014. A year later, the center continues to make its presence and military support known on campus. The Palm Desert Campus currently has 52 enrolled veteran students. The Veterans Success Center offers our military veterans a comfortable and engaging studying environment as well as a more direct and easy referral process to our San Bernardino campus and many local services. Our center strives to ease the access to these resources by limiting the strenuous and often confusing contact processes, which further aids the transition from military to academic settings.

Our unique placement as the only four-year university in the Coachella Valley is of great importance to this community's high military population, including local veterans in the area, local ROTC programs, and our nearby 29 Palms Marine Corps base. The Veterans Success Center is here to serve the needs of our current students as well as any prospective Cal State San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus military-affiliated students. We look forward to the many activities and stories of success that will be formed by our students in the upcoming academic year and welcome you to visit our center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Palm Desert Health Sciences Building, Room 105.

SVO Community Service Opportunities



**STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION
AT
CSUSB**

The Student Veterans Organization is under new leadership with Jordan Gallinger leading the charge. The SVO's goal is to get active both in volunteering and social events outside of campus this year. The club has planned many campus and community engagement events for this academic year. The SVO will also be prevalent at the Marine Corps Ball on Nov. 20, scheduled to be held at the Upper Commons, Obershaw Dining Room. If you are interested in joining, or would just like more information on our organization, feel free to visit our website csusbstudentveterans.org, or contact the SVO President at svo.csusb@gmail.com or Vice President James McGuire at Mcguirej@coyote.csusb.edu.

Welcome New Students!

Jonathan Tran **U.S. Navy Reserves**



My name is Jonathan Tran; I am a Sailor in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and I am majoring in computer science. It is my goal to design my own game or help in the design of a game some day. But every journey starts with a step, and that step was into CSUSB. Originally I enlisted in the reserves because I felt I wasn't ready for college just yet; I felt a bit too childish. Once I came back from training, I questioned whether or not I was meant to go to college. Now that I am here, I have no regrets, and I love it here. This quarter, I will strive to be the best student I can be and network with other students.

Sean Maddux **U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate**



My name is Sean Maddux; I am 20 years old. I have just recently transferred to CSUSB this fall quarter. I am currently majoring in criminal justice. I want to go into Law Enforcement once I get out of the Marine Corps. I am a Marine Corps Officer Candidate and completed my first portion of Officer Candidate School this past summer. I fly out July 5th of next year to go back again and complete my training. Then all I have to do is receive my bachelor's degree, and then will receive my commission as a second lieutenant in the Marines. So far CSUSB is an outstanding school. The VSC has been an amazing resource throughout my time here so far. I want to join the Marines for many reasons, but some of those reasons are that my father served in the Marines as an infantryman. Also, I love everything the Corps stands for: their traditions, heritage, and brotherhood and honor, courage, and commitment. I would like to leave you with a quote from Aristotle, "You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor."

Tracy Pittsley **U.S. Navy Veteran**

I am a returning, high-energy CSUSB student. I returned late June 2015 from studying Chinese for ten months at National Taiwan University. Prior to that, I completed my second CSUSB SLIP Program for Chinese; initially I had completed the one for Arabic. Prior to completing the Chinese SLIP, I spent three months studying abroad in Amman, Jordan, at Qasid Arabic Institute during Spring 2014. In December 2015, I will be graduating with my bachelor's in Arabic. My intention is to become CELTA certified since I am already TESOL certified. I am also intending on pursuing my master's in Education through CSUSB. I am a volunteer English tutor and Arabic tutor, and I do volunteer work in support of the Center for International Studies Abroad Office and the Veterans Success Center. I am the secretary of the Student Veterans Organization. I do tandem language exchange Arabic for English and Chinese for English, and vice versa, and love networking.

