Spotlight on Student Services

November-December 2015





Veterans Education and Transition Services (V.E.T.S.)

Contact:

Osvaldo Torres, Veterans Counselor Debbie Ayers, VA Certifying Official

Phone: 619-660-4282

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

One Stop Student Services Center, A-200

For more information and updates, visit the V.E.T.S webpage:

http://www.cuyamaca.edu/services/veterans/default.aspx

Serving Those Who Serve Us

Veteran Resource Center

Phone: 619-660-4060

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Student Center, I-121

Student Veteran Organization (SVO)

Monthly meetings are held at the Veteran Resource Center, I-121. Meeting schedule for the spring semester will be posted in the V.E.T.S webpage.

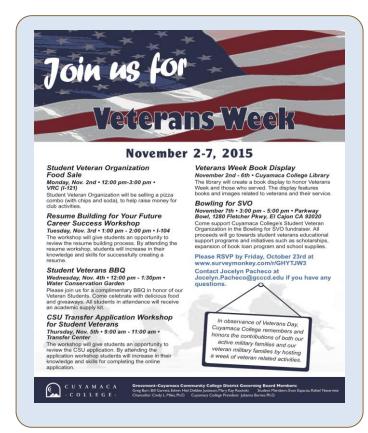
In the Spotlight:

The Veteran Resource Center in I-121 is available to all student veterans. Students have access to computer stations, printer (print up to 10 free pages), relaxation space (with T.V.), on and off campus resources, and kitchenette space. This is a great space for studying and/or relaxing.

"A Review" Highlights from 2015 Fall Semester

- Veterans Services celebrated their open house on May 27, 2015 by giving a tour of their installations and sharing delicious treats.
- Vet Net Ally Seminar took place, October 23, 2015. This half-day event focused on the needs and concerns of military service members and veterans studying at Cuyamaca College. Those who successfully completely the seminar where given a decal to display in their workspace to shoe they are Allies to Cuyamaca College student veterans.
- Veterans Week was celebrated from November 2-7, 2015. Vet Week events included, the Student Veteran Organization Food Sale, Resume Building workshop, Student Veterans BBQ, SCU Transfer Workshop, Veterans Week Book Display, and a Bowling Fundraiser.





Student Success



To do list:

- 1. Complete the Spring Semester Worksheet to receive VA benefits on time. No appointment necessary, walk-ins welcomed.
- 2. The Book Loan Program is available to all student veterans. Contact the V.E.T.S office for a list of available books.

Coming Spring 2016:

Boots to Books Scholar Initiative Workshops

Workshops to aid in the academic transition of student veterans will be held once a month beginning Spring 2016. Students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives who will provide information, tips and resources.

Debbie Ayers: Former Professional Bowler Now Helping Veterans at Cuyamaca College



With a father who served with the Navy during the Vietnam War and a grandfather who served with the Army in the Korean War, Debbie Ayers feels right at home with Veterans Services at Cuyamaca College as an Admissions and Records Specialist. "It makes the job more special to me," said Ayers. "I enjoy working with student veterans and helping them succeed in reaching their educational goals. It's really rewarding seeing them succeed in their educational endeavors and moving on to a new career." Her duties include certifying that GI Bill benefits will pay for classes in which veterans are enrolled, advising student veterans

about needed paperwork, and talking to them about the process needed to graduate.

Ayers, who grew up in El Cajon and graduated from Granite Hills High School, worked at Southwestern College, from where she graduated with an associate degree in business management, and for 13 years as a residency specialist in the Admissions and Records Office.

Then she took a couple years off to pursue her dream of becoming a professional bowler, capturing 13 titles on the Women's Professional Bowlers Tour at tournaments from California to Connecticut before the effort fizzled due to a lack of sponsors. "I've been bowling since I was 5 years old," Ayers said. "I grew up three minutes from El Cajon Bowl, where my mom worked doing everything from working the front desk to tending bar." When she was a junior at Granite Hills, Ayers competed in Australia's Koala Cup, a tournament for juniors in which she took first place in the singles, mixed doubles, and team events. After leaving professional bowling behind, Ayers came to work at Cuyamaca College, where her daughter is a student. She still finds herself competing in weekend tournaments in Nevada, however.

"Cuyamaca College is wonderful," Ayers said. "It's small, not as intimidating as some of the bigger colleges, and it is very student oriented. And I'm very proud of our department. We work together well to make sure veterans are getting the services they need and the benefits they've earned."