



# VETERANS UPWARD BOUND SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Newsletter	Fall 2013	Volume 1	Issue 2
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## Fall 2013 Academic Boot Camp Starts November 4, 2013

Veterans, are you planning to enroll in Math or English in the spring? The VUB program can help!

The Veterans Upward Bound Program is proud to announce the 2013 Fall Academic Boot Camp. This course is an academic skills program for veterans that will refresh their Math and English skills in preparation for the 2014 spring intercession and the regular spring semester.

The "Boot Camp" will run from November 4 through December 13, 2013 and offer day or evening courses. This is a six-week course (Monday through Thursday) which can help veterans place above the remedial Math or English levels. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran who would like to return to college but needs some assistance we can help. Contact the VUB program office today!



VUB Staff, Marisol Sanchez and Summer Boot Camp Graduate Hector Grajeda

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## U.S. Bank Donates \$15,000 to SAC Foundation for Veterans Financial Literacy Program

The Santa Ana College Foundation has received a \$15,000 donation from U.S. Bank. This charitable gift will provide resources to train, educate, and conduct one-on-one counseling in financial literacy for returning military veteran students.



(left to right) SAC Foundation Board of Directors: David Valentin, Ken Purcell and Eric Alderete; US Bank Community Affairs representative Ana Gonzalez; SAC President Erlinda Martinez; Associate Dean of Student Life Loy Nashua

"We are excited about this partnership with U.S. Bank," said Kristin Crellin, president, SAC Foundation Board of Directors and executive director, school and community relations at Schools First FCU. "Returning veterans need financial literacy education to

adjust to civilian life. They need to learn how to manage the cost of living, including covering the costs of rent, mortgage payments, food, utilities, transportation, insurance and medical coverage—all things that the military provided for them."

The financial literacy program will teach veteran students basic skills such as balancing a checkbook, understanding a credit score and its effects on future loans, understanding credit card APR's, how various loans work, and how to anticipate time gaps in GI benefits funding and civilian employment paychecks.

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Santa Ana College Veteran's Upward Bound



SAC VeteransUB





State Senator Lou Correa leads the opening remarks.



Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez addressed the forum via video feed.



Veterans, families and community partners in attendance listen in on the most current issues affecting veterans and their benefits.

## Senator Lou Correa, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and the VUB Program Host G.I. Bill Forum at Santa Ana College

In response to federal changes in the Post-9/11 Bill and the Montgomery G.I. Bill, State Senator Lou Correa and Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez in collaboration with the Veterans Upward Bound Program at Santa Ana College hosted the G.I. Bill Forum on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> on the college campus.

Senator Lou Correa remarked, "With the recent changes to benefits available to our veterans including those supplemented by our state it is important that we keep our men and women who have served our country informed of the changes in their existing or new qualifying veteran program benefits".

The G.I. Bill forum featured a panel discussion to answer questions on the changes of the Post-9/11 Bill and the Montgomery G.I. Bill Benefit Program for Veterans. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill provides financial support for higher education and housing to individuals who serve at least 90 days of service or discharges with a service connected disability.

The forum gave veterans, families and community partners a chance to hear from panel experts, Samantha Sanchez, Chapman University; our own Dorothy Swayne, Certifying Official-SAC; Gabe Caganap, CalVet; and Jorge A. Prado of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program—L.A. Consortium, on important changes to current benefits and issues and updates to legislation related to veterans.

"Ensuring our veterans have access to education and transitional services has always been a priority in my legislative career. However with the progress being made with the VA backlog and access to the GI Bill and tuition assistance at an all-time high, now is the time to focus on informing and updating our veterans about their benefits to keep them sustained and competitive in our recovering economy" said, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

The Veterans Upward Bound Program and the Veterans Resource Center at Santa Ana College are committed to serving our veterans and assisting them with the transition into higher education.



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## VUB YEAR IN REVIEW

The Veterans Upward Bound Program has successfully completed our first year! We would like to thank all of our veteran participants for making this year a success! Without your hard work and dedication, our program would not exist. We would also like to thank those students, staff, and faculty that supported our program. Your contributions mean that our veterans will be successful in higher education. Finally, thank you to all of the community and veteran organizations. Your expertise and knowledge in supporting veterans was a crucial component in the success of our first year. Here are a few highlights we would like to share:

**Fall 2012:** Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez presented a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the new Veterans Upward Bound program at Santa Ana College. The first months of the grant were extremely busy in developing the programmatic components, community outreach, student recruitment and development of the academic program.

**Spring 2013:** The program is launched with its full complement of staff; VUB Coordinator Joseph Alonzo (U.S. Marines, Veteran), Program Specialist Abel Arredondo (U.S. Army, Veteran) and Senior Clerk Marisol Sanchez worked hard to ensure the program had a strong start. Program orientations started in late April and we were able to recruit forty-two veterans by June and a total of sixty-six veterans by late August for the Summer Program.

**Summer 2013:** The summer academic program, also known as the “**VUB Boot Camp**”, was a collaborative effort between the Math Department, the English Department, and the VUB program. The academic component was composed of developmental Math and English workshops of varying levels and is designed to improve the student’s skill and understanding of these subjects.

Student Veterans who participated in the Summer Academic Boot Camp program showed a **ninety-four percent overall improvement on their Placement Test score** while **sixty-eight percent advanced one subject level higher** as evidenced by their pre and post placement test scores.

On June 15, 2013 the VUB took part in the 10th Annual Orange County Veterans Fair held at the Elks Lodge in Garden Grove. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez was in attendance to speak to veterans on the importance of serving our veterans.

**Fall 2013:** In late August, the VUB program was relocated to the Veterans Resource Center in Russell Hall, Room R-101. The move was a vast improvement over the former location allowing both programs to coordinate services for our veterans. The VUB counselors, John Acuña (Veteran U.S. Army), Jose Turner, and Erik Moberly have worked diligently to ensure our veterans have an education plan that will ensure their success. Diane Steele was brought in as a volunteer Program Assistant and our representative in the South County area.

**Second Year (2013-2014):** The VUB is currently recruiting 2013 and 2014 veteran participants. The Fall Academic Boot Camp program begins on November 4, 2013. It will consist of a six-week English and Math Course (HSS-144) which will help prepare veterans for the spring semester.

For more information, please contact the program office.



VUB Staff Left to Right: Jaime Lopez, Joseph Alonzo, Abel Arredondo, Marisol Sanchez



VUB Volunteer  
Diane Steele



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"U.S. Bank is delighted to partner with the Santa Ana College Foundation and the Veterans Resource Center to play a part in easing veterans' transition from combat to classroom. We believe it is vitally important that returning veterans learn to make informed and effective decisions about their finances to better plan how to attain their ultimate educational objectives," said Eric M. Alderete, member of SAC Foundation Board of Directors and vice president and senior corporate counsel at U.S. Bank.

Santa Ana College serves nearly 400 veteran students through its Veterans Resource Center (VRC).

## November is

### Veterans Appreciation Month

Veterans Day is officially observed on November 11 and is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the United States in all wars.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving.

It is marked by parades and church services and in many places the American flag is hung at half mast. A period of silence lasting two minutes may be held at 11am.

#### History

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In proclaiming the holiday, he said "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. U.S. Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through Congress. President Dwight Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954.

Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

# NOVEMBER

## Veterans Events

- Nov 7 Career & Technical Education Program Fair 2013 at Santa Ana College (Quad) 10:00—1:00pm
- Nov 7 VFW Hall Anaheim Clean-Up Volunteers Needed 8:00am to 5:00pm (two shifts available) Lunch will be served
- Nov 9 USS Iowa Clean-Up Volunteers Needed (two shifts available) 8:00am to 5:00pm Lunch will be served
- Nov 11 Motorcycle Run to the Veterans Day Celebration at the O.C. Fairgrounds 10:30am 309 N. Rampart St., Orange, CA 90731
- Nov 11 Veterans Day Celebration at the O.C. Fairgrounds 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Nov 14 Flag Raising Ceremony and Veteran Career Fair-Employment Development Department (EDD) Santa Ana Train Station 8:30am - 1:00pm
- Nov 19 "Job Fair for Success" at the V.A. Long Beach Healthcare System

Call the VRC for more information (714) 564-6050



Santa Ana College

### Veterans Upward Bound Program

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