



Nine community colleges land grants to serve veterans

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Nine community colleges will receive \$100,000 each from the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Wal-Mart Foundation through its Success for Veterans Award Grants program.

The grants were awarded to 20 institutions across the U.S. that operate model programs advancing access and success in higher education for veterans and their families.

The grants will support efforts to create online veterans-specific orientation programs, expand on-campus veterans service centers, enhance prospective student outreach efforts and increase capacity for counseling and psychological services.

The two-year colleges, and their projects, include:

- Fresno City College (California) will build on a partnership with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to train veterans for employment, including preparation for pre-employment testing and access to counseling.
- Los Angeles City College (California) will create a formal mentoring program, publish a veterans' handbook and train faculty and staff to increase awareness of the challenges confronting student veterans.
- Southwestern College (California) will establish a veterans' welcome center to provide more comprehensive counseling, support services, job placement and faculty development.
- Empire State College (New York) will expand and enhance educational support services and improve training of faculty, mentors and staff to create awareness of challenges faced by student veterans.
- Onondaga Community College (New York) will establish visible presence to welcome veterans, increase awareness and knowledge of unique veterans' issues, expand and enhance services to current and prospective veteran students and communicate best practices to other campuses.
- **Clackamas Community College** (Oregon) will expand outreach to veterans and develop standards for awarding credit for military training and experience.
- Lane Community College (Oregon) will expand its Lane Integration of Vets in Education (LIVE) program to deliver first-year experience, including

- learning communities, advising, supplemental instruction and early intervention systems.
- Trident Technical College (South Carolina) will create Project VETS (Veterans' Educational Transition Services) to provide a continuum of services from pre-college through graduation, including veterans-specific orientation program, faculty and staff development, veterans' task force and veterans' student club.
 - Madison Area Technical College (Wisconsin) will create the Success and Access for Veterans Education (SAVE) project, which will provide streamlined veterans services, veteran student orientation and expansion of programs and services to veteran families.

"The institutions receiving these grants currently enroll nearly 25,000 veterans," said ACE President Molly Corbett Broad. "When the expanded GI Bill benefits become available in August, we anticipate that these numbers will increase by approximately 20 percent, giving these institutions the opportunity to serve nearly 30,000 veterans this fall."

Over the past year, the Wal-Mart Foundation has awarded more than \$3.6 million in grants to organizations in support of programs that provide educational assistance for veterans.