

Letters to the Editor: Saturday

March 05, 2010, 7:55PM

Resources for vets

You did an excellent job of articulating the challenges our soldiers face as they return from deployment this spring ("Job well done over there . . . now where's the job back here?" Feb. 28.) Indications are that 51 percent of the 41st Brigade will be unemployed upon return.

At Clackamas Community College, we have increased our outreach to veterans, as well as active military and family members. In November we opened the Veterans Education and Training Center at CCC, where veterans can access information about educational and training benefits as well as important community services.

Assisting veterans can mean much more than simply connecting them with benefits. A few weeks ago, a veteran student came in very distressed because he was hungry, tired and his electricity had been shut off. I shared my lunch with him and referred him to service providers, who helped him on the spot. The next day, he came back to the VET Center, I was able to talk with him about other more serious and personal issues and connect him with counseling services.

CCC will join the Oregon National Guard and Team Clackamas, a partnership of more than 35 county and regional agencies and service providers, to host the Veterans Career and Benefit Fair on Saturday, June 26. Many community partners are working together to make sure our veterans find success on the home front.

GREG MYERS
West Linn

The writer is the Veterans Affairs Coordinator at Clackamas Community College.