



Veterans Center Opens on Canyon Country Campus

In order to better serve the growing number of veteran students looking to enroll at College of the Canyons each semester, COC officials have established a Veterans Center on the college's Canyon Country campus.

Located in Quad A, Room 1B — situated in the current counseling office in the campus' main administrative quad — the facility provides a comfortable atmosphere for veteran students to begin navigating the various departments, procedures and support services associated with a successful college experience.

The Canyon Country campus Veterans Center is open for walk-in hours and appointments Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These students can use the Center to:

- Meet with a veteran benefits advisor to conduct an assessment interview
- Learn about and request VA educational benefits
- Receive information about the college's various associate degree, certificate and job training programs
- Submit college applications and navigate the college website
- Order transcripts and make counseling appointments
- Learn to apply for financial aid
- Get help accessing various online and on campus support services

The Center also serves as a hub for veterans to learn about other off-campus resources and community organizations that may be able to

provide additional assistance on their educational and career path.

"A growing number of veteran students are attending classes at the Canyon Country campus, so we knew it would be beneficial to open a Veterans Center there," said Linda Clark, interim director of Reentry & Veterans Programs at the college. "We want to make sure our returning veterans are able to easily access their services no matter which campus they take classes at."

The Canyon Country campus Veterans Center opened in spring 2011. In just its first semester of existence, the Center served 15 veteran students. However, there are more than 125 veteran students taking classes at the campus in any given semester.

Among those students who have taken classes at the Canyon Country campus are the Center's two staff veterans benefits advisors, Rene Munoz, who is also an active member of the California Army National Guard, and Christopher Carr, who is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

"The Center is a great place for any veteran or reentry student to start their college experience," said Munoz. "There are a number of benefits that are just waiting to be taken advantage of, but you have to know where to start."

Both Carr and Munoz began taking



Above, COC staff veterans benefits advisor Rene Munoz, who is also an active member of the California Army National Guard, meets with a student at the Canyon Country campus Veterans Center. Munoz, who began taking classes at the college in 2010, has been able to apply his own knowledge and experiences to fellow veterans who visit the Center seeking educational guidance and assistance.

classes at COC in fall 2010, and are now able to apply their own knowledge and experiences to fellow veterans who visit the Center seeking educational guidance and assistance.

"If I hadn't come to the Center, I wouldn't have even known how to register for classes," added Munoz. "But this office deals with veterans on a daily basis. We know what veteran students need, and what they need to do to get there."

For more information about the Canyon Country campus Veterans Center or to schedule an appointment to meet with a veteran benefits advisor please visit www.canyons.edu/offices/VA or call (661) 362-3815.

You can also "like" the College of the Canyons Veterans group on Facebook to receive up-to-the minute news and updates about Veterans related events and programs happening at COC.

