Round-table event to focus on vets’ challenges

Military veterans returning from deployments face a plethora of problems in readjusting to civilian life. That’s especially true for combat vets who come back and attend college.

Sacramento State plays a pivotal role in that adjustment with several programs designed to ease the transition. A case in point is the upcoming Veterans Roundtable event from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, in the University Union, California Suite.

Professor D.J. Sekany, who served in Vietnam, is spearheading the event, which will feature five speakers who are intimately aware of the complex issues facing those who have served their country.

- Army veteran Tonja Ochonma, whose traumatic wound in Iraq prompted a neck fusion, will discuss wounded warriors reclaiming their lives.
- Leroy Acosta, who served in the Marines, will delineate the challenges facing disabled veterans.
- Kevin Cameron, CEO of the Alpha K-9 program, will talk about the psychological toll of post-traumatic stress syndrome. His company trains service dogs for veterans struggling with PTSD.
- Brian Adkinson, who served in the Air Force, will discuss his role as a coordinator of the VA suicide prevention program.
- Marine veteran Chris Corbett will represent the Student Veterans of America, detailing the issues of those transitioning from combat zones to campus.

Sekany, who began as a criminal justice instructor, was asked by the Division of Social Work to teach a veteran studies class. This is his third round-table event with a view toward raising awareness of the many challenges facing veterans.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller
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