June 4, 2014

New training program available to student veterans

Sacramento State’s Student Veteran Orientation will host approximately 120 new students on Thursday, June 5, in the University Union Ballroom and will introduce a new training program. The number of participants represents a 23 percent increase over last year, which solidifies Sac State’s position as the second-largest veterans program in the California State University system.

The program will include:

• General Education and graduation requirements advising from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.
• A campus tour from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
• A Veterans Success Center presentation from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
• Lunch from 12:30 to 1:20 p.m.
• Major advising from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.
• Registration for fall classes and complete/submit education benefits and assessment from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

President Alexander Gonzalez will welcome the veterans and present them with Challenge Coins from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.

This year’s orientation also will feature Veterans Career Pathways, a new program to help ensure that veterans who earn a college degree can get well-paying jobs upon graduation. Thanks to a $75,000 grant from Wells Fargo, the Veterans Success Center will select a cohort of 80 new and current students to undergo a phased training program to make them more employable. It will emphasize interviewing skills, résumé writing and other tips on choosing a career to their liking and making them especially attractive to employers.

The pilot program will be overseen by the center’s director, Jeff Weston, and graduate students Monica Daniel and Brad Zivov, who are specializing in career counseling. Daniel is a dependent of a disabled Navy veteran and wants to give something back to the men and women who have served their country. Zivov is committed to that cause as well and has published a paper citing the need for vet-specific counselors.
Veterans Career Pathways is a work in progress, and its website should be launched by week’s end. Weston is determined to provide veterans with the two things they want when coming to Sac State: an education and a shot at getting a good job. He wants ultimately to select about 20 vets for internships that will lead to employment. Virtually all the grant money will go toward scholarships and stipends, and will be carefully scrutinized by Weston as well as Ed Mills, interim vice president for Student Affairs.

“I believe that our pilot program is unique to California,” Weston says.

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

Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.

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