

San Juan College Veterans Center

Veterans Center History

- 2011- Designated Military Friendly School Veterans Advisory formed.
- July, 2012 - created the Veterans Center on campus with mission:
“serve those who have served through guidance, support, and achievement for success in academic and life goals”
- July, 2012 - agreement with Department of Veteran Affairs to comply with Executive Order’s Principles of Excellence.
- 2012 - Benefit certifications completed through Veterans Center

Veterans Center staff members

David Drake, Coordinator Veterans Center

Chris Bodley, Outreach Coordinator for TRIO Veterans Upward Bound

Brad Maxwell, Coordinator Rural Veterans Program, Rural Veterans
Coordination Project

Veterans Center Services

- Informational hub for Active duty, veterans, and dependents
 - College entrance and financial aid application processes
- Adjustment into post-secondary lifestyle, and academic success strategies.
- Coordination and advisement on career goals, academic planning, GI Bill and financial aid benefits, personal guidance, and educational support services

Services cont.d

- Liaison with Veteran specific assistance offices and programs
- Conducts outreach efforts, promotional events, and offers special programs and enrichment activities.
- Focal point for GI Bill information and processing of benefits.

Veterans Center Visitation

| | Veterans 2014-2015 | Dependents 2014-2015 | Monthly Totals | Monthly Visits |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| July | 58 | 5 | 63 | 134 |
| August | 56 | 8 | 64 | 193 |
| September | 46 | 3 | 49 | 202 |
| October | 44 | 6 | 50 | 168 |
| November | 59 | 7 | 66 | 320 |
| December | 52 | 5 | 57 | 126 |
| January | 76 | 12 | 88 | 260 |
| February | 52 | 7 | 59 | 200 |
| March | 51 | 6 | 57 | 175 |
| April | 57 | 9 | 66 | 220 |
| May | 53 | 5 | 58 | 105 |
| June | 37 | 4 | 41 | 160 |
| 2014-2015 Total Sign in Center Visits | | | | 2173 |

Certifications for GI Bill

| Year | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Spring semester | 182 | 190 | 175 | 202 |
| Summer semester | 56 | 74 | 102 | 92* |
| Fall semester | 172 | 190 | 209 | |

*Semester in progress

Military Friendly School Criteria Results San Juan College

- Retention Rate for all students after one year – 64%
- Retention Rate for all students after two years – 54%
- Retention Rate for Active Duty Military students after one year – 73%
- Retention rate for Active Duty Military students after two years - 45%

Retention rate defined as % of full-time cohort from prior year minus exclusions that re-enrolled as either full or part-time in the current year

Veteran Upward Bound Program

- Trio Program to support veterans to go to college, assisting veterans overcome the strain of developmental classes
- Tutoring through an online program, Ed Learn, to work on weak areas of math at student's own pace and provides coordinator to monitor
 - Provides week long boot camps to work on math skills
 - Provides veteran services information.

Rural Veteran Collaborative Program (RVCP)

- New Mexico Department of Veteran Services/San Juan College partnering research grant; applicable to all of rural New Mexico.

Three main objectives:

- Transportation in rural New Mexico for veteran health care and other services including education
 - Women Veteran issues in rural New Mexico
- Development of faculty and staff training to educate and support veterans in higher educational classrooms and on campus

RVCP and SJC Veterans Center Collaborative

- Increase coordination and availability of services to community and student veterans through creation of a transition center which provides workshops, trainings, services, and support groups.

