MJC Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success
ABSTRACT

Modesto Junior College, in the heart of the California Central Valley, will develop a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success. The focus of the three-year project is to serve veteran students and build capacity for a sustainable Center that continues after grant funding ends. A comprehensive training program for college staff and faculty will be implemented to improve service related to veteran academic issues; a Veteran Student Success Team will be established on the two campuses of the college to increase coordinated service, “Green Zones” for veterans will be labeled and housed in faculty offices, community veteran agencies will provide services on campus, enhanced assessment and academic planning support will be developed, and a new skills-based work study program for veteran students will be implemented.

Three goals are developed to establish the Center of Excellence:

1) Increase campus capacity to assist veteran students through training and the establishment of an administrative and faculty network to serve veterans
2) Develop an outreach program and partnership with community agencies to increase the number of veterans who pursue a college education
3) Expand capacity to provide rich individual assessment, planning tools and services for veteran students that help them enroll in, excel in and complete college programs

Specific outcomes are designed to measure improvement in veteran student access and success: Sixty-five percent of surveyed students demonstrate satisfaction with support services; Five percent increase in retention rates per year; Twenty percent increase in enrollment rates of veterans; Seven percent increase in Hispanic veteran students; Fifty percent earn a degree, certificate or transfer. The comprehensive training and services proposed enable these outcomes.