



# Spring 2020 Mission: S.E.R.V.E. Newsletter

Semester Newsletter. Mission: S.E.R.V.E. – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education  
Please send comments/feedback to [lpveteransfirst@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:lpveteransfirst@laspositascollege.edu)

## MVP Mixer & 2.2 for 22/5K Recognition Event

To kick off the Spring 2020 semester, the Veterans First Program hosted an MVP (Mentoring Veterans Program) Mixer & 2.2 for 22/5k recognition event at the end of January 2020. There were over 100 attendees who came out to either be recognized for their hard work during the 2.2 for 22/5k event, veterans who were honored for their service to their country and local community, and/or welcomed to the Mentoring Veterans Program (MVP). It was a lively event with various community members networking and engaging in thoughtful questions.



A highlight of the event was a special presentation to our very own LPC student veteran, Mr. Ron Payne, who was gifted a special Quilt of Valor. The Quilt of Valor is a lifetime award to recognize the extraordinary work of service members who were “touched by war.” Many veterans service organizations expressed their gratitude to Mr. Payne for his diligence, persistence, and dedication to his country. The event concluded by the program providing many thanks to all those who help to elevate the veteran experience at Las Positas College.

## Stay Connected

Facebook: [Lpc Veterans](#)

Twitter: [@LpcVeterans](#)

Instagram: [lpcveteransfirstprogram](#)

LinkedIn: [LPC Veterans First Program](#)

## MISSION: L.U.C.

### Leadership, Updates, & Conversation

Paving the way, Mission: L.U.C. gave student veterans an opportunity to share their experiences as a veteran and student at Las Positas College. Unfiltered and uncensored, our leaders made time to connect with student veterans. Conversations were inspiring. Thank you for making the time for student veterans!

#### January 2020: CLPCCD Trustee Ed Maduli



#### February 2020:

#### Amy Mattern, Dean of Arts & Humanities



#### April 2020 : Dr. Dyrell Foster, President of Las Positas College

Virtual Zoom Session



Las Positas College | Veterans First Program (VFP)

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## Dr. Miatta Snetter Flex Day Guest

On March 10, 2020, Dr. Miatta Snetter, highly respected life-changing psychotherapist, consultant, guest speaker, and educator visited Las Positas College during Flex Day to offer excellent resources for faculty on how to support student veterans in the classroom. For the last 13 years, Dr. Snetter has enjoyed her primary clinical focus with combat and non-combat veterans of various combat eras. In her many years of working with veterans, she has stated that “veterans generally find it easy to serve and to give; but they frequently struggle with then being served and given to.” She spoke to a classroom filled with LPC faculty during flex day providing tools for working with men and women who served in the military, as well as helped raise awareness about invisible trauma and mental health challenges.



The group had an opportunity to discuss a case scenario and exchange different strategies for engaging students who served in the military. Following flex day events, Dr. Snetter met with a group of women veterans for women veterans to hold space and discuss personal challenges of pursuing a college career after serving in the military. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Snetter for spending the day with us at Las Positas College.

## #WESERVE! Honoring Women Veterans Event March 11, 2020



On March 11, 2020, the Veterans First Program welcomed over a hundred guests which included students, faculty, administrators and local veterans support organizations to honor women veterans. Lt. Colonel Jennifer Nolan, Garrison Commander of Camp Parks, is an excellent role model and leader who graced the podium as the keynote speaker. Special guests included Lindsey Sin, Deputy Secretary, Women Veterans Affairs, and Xóchitl Rodriguez Murillo, Deputy Secretary, Minority & Underrepresented Veterans, California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Miatta Snetter, respected psychotherapist, moderated the discussion with student panelists where they shared their decision to join the military, experiences in the military, and advice for future women considering joining the service. Following the panel discussion, competitive scholarships were presented to LPC student veterans. The Safeway Foundation was also invited to present a \$40,000 grant to the Veterans First Program.



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## Free Workshops to Ensure Student Success and Retention at Las Positas College

Throughout the months of February and March, the Veterans First Program hosted several workshops for student veterans, reservists, and dependents to equip students with the skills to succeed at Las Positas College.

Workshops included a special presentation from the Chabot Federal Credit Union on “Saving for a Rainy Day” by President Christine Petro. Ms. Petro provided an in-depth review on financial literacy, students options on how to pick the best interest rates, and how to save for a rainy day.



### Library Workshop:

We also welcomed Ms. Frances Hui, Librarian, on “Research Tips and Resources” from the Las Positas College Library. She offered expert tips on researching topics, reviewing powerful free resources like The New York Times and Grammarly Premium, and how to get help when students need it most.

### Financial Aid Workshop:

Lastly, students met individually with Ms. Catherine Alfaro-Gomez from the Office of Financial Aid on applying for financial aid. Ms. Alfaro-Gomez provided detailed answers to questions during confidential one on one sessions with students for financial aid.



Each of these representatives provided invaluable experience on how to navigate through their college experience. Each topic was aimed to equip students on how to get the most out of the resources that LPC provides.

To Donate:

<https://www.lpcfoundation.org/investing/make-an-investment/>

Program Name: VETERANS FIRST INITIATIVE

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Night

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Night was held on February 12, 2020 at the Nest to honor local heroes. LPC Men and Women College Basketball challenged district rival Chabot College. Admission was free for the tri-valley community, local heroes, student veterans, and the LPC campus community. Pleasanton Military Families collected donations for their annual pack-out events, and the Student Veterans Organization held a fundraiser at the snack shack.

LPC President Dr. Foster welcomed visitors to the event, including 100 year old, Pearl Harbor survivor, Mickey Ganitch.



Special thanks to the Athletics Department and Veterans Service Organizations in the community who supported this event.



## Kick Off Your Career Workshop

Kick Off Your Career Workshop was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Livermore. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Dennis O’Brien for bringing together professionals from various industries to work with student veterans. Industry leaders provided excellent advice on networking, how to dress for the interview, and practicing for the interview. In the session, student veterans were paired with professionals to practice interviewing skills, resume review, and networking.



Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Livermore for hosting our Spring “Kick Off Your Career Workshop.”

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## Our Commitment to You, Our Student Veterans Virtual Services during Shelter in Place Directive

<p>Veterans Resource Center Virtual Reception Desk</p>	<p>1) Visit our Virtual Reception Desk on ZOOM during office hours. Login to <a href="https://zoom.us">https://zoom.us</a> Meeting ID #: 321 904 784 (password: vetfirst)</p> <p>(2) Call our Virtual Reception Desk phone number: 925.236.0196 and leave your name, student ID number, phone number and message. We will call or email you with an answer or connect you with resources to help you.</p>
<p>Request a Virtual Appointment with a Veterans Counselor</p>	<p>Visit the Veterans First Program website: <a href="http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/">http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/</a></p> <p>Left navigation, select Veterans First Program &amp; Services &gt; Requesting an Appointment</p>
<p>Q&amp;A Session on VA Educational Benefits, Certifying Courses, &amp; Registration Questions</p>	<p>Visit the Veterans First Program website: <a href="http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/">http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/</a></p> <p>Left navigation, select Zoom Workshops &amp; Sessions</p>
<p>Student Veterans Peer Chat Hour</p>	<p>Login to <a href="https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97028587649">https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97028587649</a> Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs from 12-1 pm Meeting ID #: 970 2858 7649 (Password: veterans)</p>
<p>Virtual Tutor Sessions for Math, Science, ENGL1A, Statistics</p>	<p>Visit the Veterans First Program website: <a href="http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/">http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/</a></p> <p>Left navigation, select Tutoring</p>
<p>VA Course Certification Form 2020</p>	<p>Visit the Veterans First Program website: <a href="http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/">http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/</a></p> <p>Left navigation, select Forms &gt; VA Course Certification Form 2020</p>

## Gratitude!

*Special thanks to our Veterans First Team (work study and tutors) for their commitment to serving fellow student veterans, and our amazing Mission S.E.R.V.E. team!*

**Mission S.E.R.V.E. team:** Christopher James, Ron Payne, Viviana Martinez, Destiny Goddu

**Veterans Tutorial team:** Kevin Feaster, Destiny Goddu, Kelsey Bentley, Alejandra Quezada-Sereno, Steven Smith.

**Veterans Work Study team:** Aaron Traynor, Adriana Santos, Andrew Velasquez, Brad Hauptert, Cory Dufour, Rodrigo Saucedo, Jacob Williams, Carlos Orozco, Derick Samonek, Shaun Keepers, Stephen Porter, Tim Leach.

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