



ISSUE

40

### Look What's Inside...

- New Staff Photo
- Military Appreciation Night
- Women's Veterans Day
- Open House Celebration
- Yellow Ribbon Campaign
- Student Veteran Highlights

# NEW STAFF PHOTO

California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and the Veterans Success Center take great pride in serving all of its active duty service-members, reservists, retired veterans, National Guard troops, dependents, and ROTC students.

The implementation of the Veterans Success Center (VSC) in 2012 has allowed hundreds of student veterans to receive the assistance and guidance necessary to excel in their academic careers. Some of the people who make this possible are the staff of the VSC: Director Agustin Ramirez, Veterans Success Adviser Jaime Espinoza, and Events Coordinator Deborah Buck. They are constantly creating new and different ways to help veterans transition into civilian life. Their center offers tutoring, a place to study, assistance with education benefits, disability benefits,



Pictured above: Staff members of the CSUSB VSC.

psychological assistance, and even a place to make new friends.

When the 2017-18 academic year came to an end, a new wave of students graduated and moved on to the next chapter in their lives. A portion of these graduates were veterans who have earned the titles of Marine, Sailor, Soldier, Airman or Coastguardsman. After serving in the United States military, these students made the commitment to devote their time to academic studies. Many of them have succeeded, some of which who have done so with the help of the VSC staff. Each member of this spectacular team has played a significant role in fulfilling the CSUSB mission for veterans — their efforts are recognized as one of the best in the state. In 2018, CSUSB was evaluated as one of the most veteran-friendly colleges, and we are hoping to keep up the good work. The future is bright for veterans here at CSUSB, and the staff members are always eagerly awaiting new arrivals!



[Facebook.com/VSC.CSUSB](https://www.facebook.com/VSC.CSUSB)

or search for  
CSUSB Veterans Success Center



Pictured above, from left to right: Agustin Ramirez, Deborah Buck, Jaime Espinoza.



# Military Appreciation Night at CSUSB



Army ROTC Color Guard prepares to present colors at the CSUSB vs. CSUDH basketball games. (Credit: Army ROTC Facebook)



Three prospects raise their right hands and make the decision to be a part of the United States Army.



JROTC members unroll a giant American flag as part of a presentation between games.

The Veterans Success Center hosted its annual Military Appreciation Night in January to honor veterans and the sacrifices they make in order to be a part of the United States Armed Forces. They also celebrated those who are making the decision to officially enlist or commission as service members.

Hundreds of veterans and students enjoyed free food and drinks during a tailgate party in the Coussoulis Arena while the CSUSB men's and women's basketball teams warmed-up to play against Cal State Dominguez Hills. ROTC cadets presented colors for the opening of the basketball games, and Natascha Bolden sang the National Anthem. The games tipped off with the women's basketball game. The women's team grabbed the lead and never let go as they overtook the Toros 89-71.

Between games, a collection of JROTC teams from Arroyo Valley, Chaffey High School, Kaiser High School, Rialto High School, and Rubidoux High School unfurled a large U.S. flag to the cheers of the audience. Prospective U.S. Army recruits were assigned the privilege of swearing-in in front of the audience. These prospects held up their right hands and swore an oath to protect our country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Afterwards, a medley of patriotic songs was provided by the Inland Sound Acapella group.

The men's basketball game followed the intermission. The Coyotes never trailed the Toros, and led with as many as 21 points during the game. The Coyotes overtook the Toros 74-55 to resounding cheers!



# WOMEN'S VETERANS DAY

MARCH 15, 2018

CSUSB and the Veterans Success Center celebrated its first-ever Women's Veterans Day on March 15, 2018, in conjunction with the Governor's Proclamation of Women's Military History Week. This week is dedicated to recognizing the sacrifices many women make in order to serve our country and contribute to protecting our freedoms.

Women are currently the minority group of the United States military, making up less than 25 percent of active duty service members. Thanks to this holiday, they will now be receiving the recognition they deserve every year.

As part of this celebration, the VSC created a video of female military profiles and invited a panel of female service members from the San Bernardino campus. Panelists included: Marci Daniels, U.S. Army veteran and director of SSD/Workability IV; Command Sergeant Major Windsome Laos, U.S. Army Reserves and administrator in the Office of Academic Personnel; Erika Saucedo, U.S. Coast Guard veteran and analyst at Pfau Library; Yajaira Trejo, National Guard member and CSUSB alumna; and Laura Gonzalez, U.S. Navy veteran and CSUSB alumna. Panelists answered questions from the audience about their motivations, experiences, and takeaways from the U.S. Armed Forces. Panelists were also given certificates of appreciation from Darrell Frye, district representative for Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes (CA-47).



A panel of female service members fielded questions from the audience about their time in the military, their experiences, and what they plan on doing next.



The panel of female service members received certificates of appreciation from Darrell Frye, district representative for the Office of Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes.



The panelists cut into a cake to share with everyone.



# Yellow Ribbon Week



Office of the Registrar



Undocumented Student Success Center

In May, CSUSB and the Veterans Success Center honored each branch of the military and celebrated all California active duty service members on Armed Forces Day. Student organizations, departments, faculty, and staff participated in the Tie A Yellow Ribbon Campaign by decorating trees with yellow ribbons. These ribbons remind us that soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, and guard members are deployed around the world, and we await their safe return.

Armed Forces Day was created on August 31, 1949, to celebrate the service of military members across all branches (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). Ribbons have typically been used as a symbol to display our remembrance for those serving in distant areas of the world.

Ceremonies were held on both campuses, followed by lunch and tree decorating. At the San Bernardino campus, Dr. Ryan Keating, associate professor of history, delivered the keynote address. Afterwards, 35 trees were decorated. At the Palm Desert Campus, the keynote address was delivered by Luis Castaneira, a Marine Corps veteran and recent graduate of CSUSB. Twelve trees were decorated. Together, all of the trees on both campuses represented more than 49,000 California service members who are currently deployed around the world.

This year's Yellow Ribbon Campaign winners on the San Bernardino campus are the Children's Center, the Undocumented Student Success Center, and the Office of the Registrar. The winners on the Palm Desert Campus are the Rancho Mirage Student Center and the Student Fitness Center. Congratulations!



From left: Children's Center, Rancho Mirage Student Center (PDC), and the Student Fitness Center (PDC).



# VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER

## OPEN HOUSE

### THURSDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

TOUR OUR CENTER TO LEARN ABOUT  
OUR SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
WHILE ENJOYING AN AMERICAN-STYLE  
BBQ AND ENTERTAINMENT.

SAN BERNARDINO CAMPUS  
VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER  
COYOTE BOOKSTORE, LOWER LEVEL

★ FOOD ★ MUSIC ★ FUN ★

FOR DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS (72-HOUR NOTICE REQUIRED),  
PLEASE CALL DEBORAH BUCK AT (909) 537-5195  
OR EMAIL [DBUCK@CSUSB.EDU](mailto:DBUCK@CSUSB.EDU)  
VALID CSUSB PARKING PASS OR \$6 DAILY PASS REQUIRED.

WE DEFINE THE  
*Future*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SAN BERNARDINO  
Veterans Success Center

# STUDENT PROFILES



Giancarlo Rodriguez, 25, is a Marine who served with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He served four years as a 0621/Field Radio Operator and had the opportunity to see different parts of the world during Operation Enduring Freedom and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan. Giancarlo is now a graduate of CSUSB. He graduated in spring 2018 with his BA in communication studies: public relations. Throughout his college career, he utilized the Veterans Success Center as a place to study and relax during downtime between classes. He thanks the VSC staff for their hard work and determination to help all veterans who are attending CSUSB.

Rachel Ingram, 25, is a recent graduate of CSUSB with her BA in anthropology. She currently resides in Redlands, CA and is pursuing a second bachelor's degree, then a master's degree. Rachel has an outstanding love for all animals, enjoys the outdoors, and has a passion for traveling to new places. Her father served in the United States Air Force for 20 years before retiring and pursuing a career in commercial flight. His time in the service allowed Rachel to attend CSUSB at a low cost, and she took full advantage of these benefits to earn a higher education. Throughout her academic career, she was able to access the Veterans Success Center for help with study materials and dependent benefits, and she even attended some VSC events. Rachel was able to excel in her studies through hard work and determination, along with the help of the VSC staff.

