



NAMING OPPORTUNITY:

# Mt. San Jacinto College Veterans Resource Centers

*Transforming the Lives of Veteran Students*



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## Overview

Welcome to the forefront of transformative education and innovation. Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC) invites you to embark on a journey of impact and legacy by becoming a key partner in supporting the college's critically important Veterans Resource Centers through the college's 60th Anniversary Naming Rights Initiative.

We invite you to join us in shaping a brighter tomorrow for our region's veteran students, where education fuels innovation, and every investment paves the way for generations of success.

“Veterans Resource Centers at community colleges are one of the most important and beneficial opportunities for the region to better serve veterans.”

Inland Empire State of Veterans Report (March 2024)

## Serving Those Who Have Served Us

The Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC) Veterans Resource Centers are dedicated to the success of all veterans as they navigate their educational paths. MSJC is the only community college in the state with two veterans resources centers, one on the Menifee Valley Campus and one on the San Jacinto Campus. Additionally, a dedicated space has recently been created exclusively for veterans at the Temecula Valley Campus facility.

Serving nearly 1,400 students who are veterans and their families each year, the centers partner with veterans to implement their GI Bill® education benefits and provide opportunities to forge connections with others who have served in the armed forces.

The number of veterans served at MSJC is the fifth most among the 116 community colleges in California. The graduation rate among veteran students at MSJC is 94% among those utilizing the benefits of the Veterans Resource Centers. Most of them earn an associate degree and many also earn specialized certifications. The average number of veterans graduating is more than 140 every year.

The MSJC Veterans Resource Centers provide educational guidance, specialized programming, and opportunities that explore and honor the unique position and experiences of each veteran and their family. The typical amount of time MSJC veterans have spent in the military before enrolling ranges from four to five years; their average age is 23.

As the number of veterans seeking higher education in our College District continues to increase, providing support and resources through the MSJC Veterans Resource Centers is essential to honoring those who have served and sacrificed.

# Helping Students Who Are Veterans Succeed

It is imperative for a campus veterans organization to help service members feel fully engaged in student life. A sense of being involved is a key indicator of whether student veterans will be academically successful. The MSJC Veterans Resource Centers are one stop shops dedicated to supporting students both in the classroom and beyond.

At MSJC, services and support provided by the Veterans Resource Centers help increase student retention, engagement, and graduation rates by:

- **Connecting service members and veterans to their VA education benefits**
- **Providing staff and peer mentorship**
- **Hosting military and veteran engagement activities and events**
- **Offering scholarship opportunities**
- **Recognizing and celebrating veterans during graduation events**



## The Need and Demand for Veterans Services

For years, our nation's veterans have served selflessly during times of war, deploying overseas and operating in challenging conditions. After leaving military service, many settled in the Inland Empire, a hub for returning veterans, including those from the most recent Middle East engagements. Now, these veterans are integral parts of our community, working, worshiping, and raising families alongside us. However, the transition to civilian life can be complex and challenging.

“Compared to neighboring Los Angeles County, Riverside and San Bernardino counties combined have almost double the veteran population.” *Inland Empire State of Veterans Report (March 2024)*

The MSJC Veterans Resource Centers will continue to support military-connected students to see them through to graduation. We can only achieve our goals with your help.

At MSJC, we recognize the pressing demand to assist veterans in accessing higher education opportunities at our campuses. Here's why:

### Proximity to Military Installations:

- Camp Pendleton, with its 50,000 Marines, and March Air Reserve Base (AFB), predominantly serving reservists, are close to MSJC campuses.
- Reservists often juggle civilian jobs alongside their military service, making flexible educational options crucial for their success.

### Ideal Living Environment:

- MSJC campuses are situated in what veterans consider "safe communities," making them attractive places to reside.
- Lower housing costs in these areas compared to coastal regions make them particularly appealing for veterans seeking affordability and stability.

### Access to Opportunities:

- The growth of Menifee and surrounding areas provides not only affordable housing but also ample job opportunities, complemented by the educational offerings at MSJC.
- Veterans see MSJC as a gateway to career advancement, blending educational pursuits with employment prospects in a supportive environment.

# MSJC Veterans Resource Center Goals

## **GOAL 1: Secure Additional Unrestricted Funding to Increase Access for Veterans**

It is a common misconception that VA education benefits cover the full cost of education. Often, veteran students run out of benefits before their last year of schooling when seeking a four-year degree or higher education.

To help our region's veterans effectively transition to civilian jobs in our growing regional economy, our first goal is to secure new sources of revenue to help enrich the educational experience and resources available to veterans, active-duty service members, and their families at MSJC.

The MSJC Veterans Resource Center team works with donors to secure scholarship funds to facilitate the completion of educational goals. Scholarships benefit students who are either veterans or dependent children and/or spouses of veterans. Additional help is needed to expand resources to meet growing demands for help.

## **Goal 2: Fund Experiential Learning Opportunities**

MSJC believes in education that provides real-world, hands-on learning opportunities. The VRC program helps veteran students translate their military experience into marketable civilian skills. The VRC program wants to expand partnerships with MSJC alumni, local entrepreneurs, and veteran-friendly businesses to develop internship opportunities and job fairs for veteran and military-affiliated students.

## **Goal 3: Expand Capacity**

Support for enhanced spaces, technology, and services will ensure that quality programming, support, and scholarships are available to students this year and for decades to come. Donations will provide the stability and momentum to support military-connected students in perpetuity. Endowing the center will ensure that quality programming, support, and scholarships are available to students for decades to come.

# Veteran's Resource Centers At-A-Glance



**1.35 MILLION**

Veterans Living  
in California

**45,000**

Veterans and Active Duty  
Members Enrolled in California  
Community Colleges

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



**1,400**

Number of students  
each year who are  
military connected

**140**

Military-connected students  
who graduate each year

Source: Public reports and  
Institutional Research



**94%**

Graduation rate for  
veterans who are  
students enrolled  
in the MSJC Veterans  
Resource Center  
Programs

**As many as 10,000**

Number of veterans who are  
students and their family  
members helped during  
the last decade

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Dalton Denis' Story

Following in his father's footsteps, Dalton has a passion for engineering. After earning his AS degree he transferred to the University of California, Irvine.

"Hands down, the veterans center staff and support are the main reasons this transition to college and now transfer went smoothly," Denis said. "They helped me through the VA process, assisted with paying bills, and guided me through my education. It truly is a community."

As Dalton embarks on the next chapter of his life, he attributes his academic success to MSJC and the people who supported and guided him.





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## One Stop Shop Veterans Resource Centers

Mt. San Jacinto College is the only community college in the state with two full-service veterans, one on the Menifee Valley Campus and one on the San Jacinto Campus. An additional dedicated space recently opened at the Temecula campus.

All three spaces are in need of more and improved space, added technology and dedicated computer labs, and increased funding for counselors and peer mentors.

The Veterans Resource Centers naming initiative will provide funding to address these critical facility, program and service needs for veterans and their families.



*For more information about how you can help, please contact*

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or visit our website at

[msjc.edu/foundation](http://msjc.edu/foundation)