

Veteran Resource Center

February 2018

Welcome back!

Now that the holidays have passed and the New Year has begun, it's time once again for another semester at MSJC. If you are a first-time student to MSJC, welcome! If you are a returning student, welcome back! On behalf of our faculty, staff and student community, we are honored that you have made the choice to join us at MSJC.



Shanae Williams, Mayor Scott Miller, Martina Moncada, Dr. Roger Schultz, Dr. John Colson

As you may know, MSJC takes great strides to ensure a supportive and welcoming environment for our military-affiliated students. We recognize and value your contributions to our country and believe that it is our duty as an institution to provide you with the appropriate services to help facilitate your success. We provide supportive services directly through our two (2) Veterans Resources Centers, one at our Menifee campus (Building 1017) and the other at our San Jacinto campus (Building 1560). Our office hours are generally Monday - Thursday 0800-5:30 p.m. You may also contact us by email at veterans@msjc.edu.

If at any point during your time at MSJC, you have questions, ideas or concerns regarding your experience as a military affiliated student, please contact the students and staff in our VRCs. In addition to helping you navigate MSJC, the students and staff there can connect you with support services both on and off campus or you can stop by to hang out to study, use our computers, or simply for some camaraderie.

Welcome and welcome back to the MSJC Community!

Welcome Back

1

In the News

2

Resources

3

Graduation
Honor Wall

4

SCO Corner

- If you add or drop classes, please remember to stop by the VRC to complete a Statement of Responsibility form. VA benefits are based on a student's course load, a reduction or increase may impact your eligibility for benefits. A reduction without notification might result in a VA debt. You may also stop by the VRC prior to dropping a course to determine the impact of the drop.
- Continuing students utilizing VA educational benefits must submit all previous college transcripts prior to the end of their second semester.

MSJC Launches First Pop-Up Food Pantry Event

More than 80 bags of groceries were gone in less than 30 minutes during MSJC's first Pop-up Food Pantry event held on November 21, 2017. Current research shows that one of five students sit in their classrooms hungry and we are hoping to be part of the initiative to lessen the gap of food insecurity by offering food distribution at least once a month or more to help for our MSJC students," said Dolores Smith, Dean of Student Services. Dean Smith understands the complexity of feeding populations and is part of the MSJC "Food for Thought" taskforce. The Pop-up Food Pantry event helps but the taskforce is interested in long term solutions (i.e., establishing permanent food pantries on MSJC campuses). Additional pantries are scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st. Check your email for additional information!



Administrative Associate III, Paula Moua; CalWorks Director, Lisa Campbell; Dean of Student Services, Dolores Smith; Director of Student Life and Development, Maya Cardenas; Director of Student Equity, Pamela Wright

Important Dates

Spring 2018 Important Dates

Check Out MSJC Important Dates [here](#)

February 4th Sunday United Service Organizations (USO) Birthday

February 16th Friday President's Day Holiday College Closed

February 19th Monday President's Day Holiday College Closed

February 19th Monday Coast Guard Reserves Birthday

March 3rd Saturday Navy Reserves Birthday

March 9th Friday Last day to apply for Spring 2018 Graduation and Certificate of Achievements

March 15th Thursday American Legion's Birthday

MSJC Athletics Provides Annual Pass to All Student Veterans

On behalf of MSJC student-athletics, staff and faculty, Dean of Athletics and Physical Education, Patrick Springer has generously offered all MSJC Student Veterans an annual pass to all Athletics regular-season home games "for all you have done for this country." The annual pass is a token of appreciation and recognition from the Athletics department. "This is an offer we would like to extend every year. I believe that attending our intercollegiate athletics events can provide a great opportunity for socialization and camaraderie with other MSJC students. One of the powerful attributes of intercollegiate athletics is that it has the potential to bring people together and build community and I believe that there is no better or more deserving group than veterans benefit from attending Eagle Athletics home games." If you are interested in an annual pass, visit the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at either the Menifee or San Jacinto campuses. Full schedules of sports events may be found on the MSJC Athletics page www.msjc.edu/athletics and all home games may be found on the MSJC event calendar <https://calendar.msjc.edu>.

Part-time Employment Opportunity

Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services is desperately seeking VA work-study students.

If you're a full-time or ¾ time student using your VA education benefits, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. If you are interest in this working with the VA in Hemet, please contact:

Riverside County Department of Veterans' Service
749 N. State Street
Hemet, CA 92543
By Phone Delena Jones (951) 766-2566
By Email: DEJones@rivco.org



Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services

VA Resources for Veterans At-Risk of Homelessness

If you face the possibility of losing your residence, please call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838), visit the nearest VA Medical Center (or Regional Office) and ask to speak with someone from the homeless program, or visit va.gov/homeless. If you are at imminent risk of homelessness, you may also contact a local Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provider.

Local SSVFs include:

- United States Veterans Initiative - 951.293.2003
- Lighthouse Treatment Center - 951.571-3533
- Community Catalysts of California - 1.800.974.9909

A complete list of SSVF providers may be found at https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/for_homeless_veterans.asp

SSVF providers can provide services and financial assistance if you qualify.



Interested in supporting our Student Club?

We're looking for members–Veterans and Dependents to help lead our club and MSJC students to join us plan and participate in fun activities on campus and throughout the community. If you're interested in learning more about our student club.

Contact Debra Gleason (dgleason@msjc.edu)
Terry Russell (trussell@msjc.edu)

Ninth Annual

FREE!

PASS AREA VETERANS EXPO

honoring

ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY

Saturday ★ January 27, 2018 ★ 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Beaumont Civic Center ★ 550 E. 6th Street ★ Beaumont, CA

Open to the Public

Explore many services and benefits available to Veterans and/or their families through different agencies and organizations that will be present.

Refreshments Available

VETERANS EXPO SERVICES

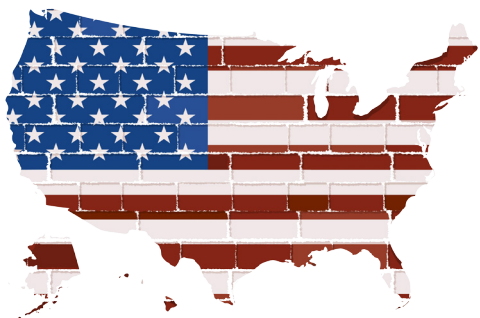
For more info: 951.769.9858 / abirdr82@aol.com

VA Launches Online Map for Wait Times

The VA recently launched a new website which gives Veterans the ability to see average wait times for appointments at their VA medical facilities. The web tool has the capability to break down appointment times by a number of factors including first-time appointments, mental health, women's health and other specialty care. The new map also offers a comparison to local non-VA wait times for 30 locations across the country, using data collected by Merritt Hawkins. Moving forward, VA will be partnering with Merritt Hawkins to get more non-VA facility wait times measured for comparison purposes. The VA will continue to make improvements to this tool based on the feedback it receives from Veterans. The Access and Quality Tool can be found at www.accesstocare.va.gov.

The website is updated on a weekly basis. Click here to see wait times in your area.

<https://www.accesstopwt.va.gov/>



Wall of Honor

Are you planning to graduate or transfer? Are you a Student Veteran? All Student Veterans are encouraged to participate and support MSJC's "Wall of Honor." The Wall of Honor has been a VRC tradition since the 2013-2014 academic year and was created to honor our graduating Student Veterans. One Wall of Honor is located at our Menifee VRC and the other at our San Jacinto VRC. The Wall of Honor is Veterans Services way of honoring and celebrating the success of our Student Veterans and serves as an inspiration to our Student Veterans.

To participate in MSJC's Wall of Honor, please provide the following information to Martina Moncada, Coordinator of Veterans Services at mmoncada@msjc.edu (we will pay to have your picture printed on a 4X4 plaque that will be hung at the VRCs at both campuses):

1. A picture of yourself (head shot or full-body shot/professional picture not required)
2. Full Name
3. Military Branch
4. Military Rank
5. Terms of Service
6. Graduation Term/Year
7. Major(s)
8. University/College Transfer Acceptance

San Jacinto
Veterans Resource Center
(VRC) Bldg. 1560
Monday-Thursday
8:00-5:30
951.487.3247
veterans@msjc.edu

Menifee
Veterans Resource Center
(VRC) Bldg. 1017
Monday-Thursday
8:00-5:30
951.639.5237
veterans@msjc.edu

