



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA ADVISORY

November 29, 2011

Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

BlackBerry: PMarlatt@comcast.net

California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott to kick off summit in San Diego focusing on the needs of student veterans

❖ **Who/What:** California Community Colleges Chancellor [Jack Scott](#) will attend a summit aimed at improving services for student veterans in the California Community Colleges. Community colleges leaders, nationally recognized experts and others will tackle issues such as mental health needs for veterans, understanding military culture and helping veterans access financial aid and other resources.

❖ **When/** **Thursday, Dec. 1 (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) through Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)**

Where:

Holiday Inn San Diego – On the Bay

1355 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, 92101

Chancellor Scott is available for one-on-one interviews to discuss how California community colleges are addressing issues facing veterans as they return home and seek higher education opportunities. Contact Paige Marlatt Dorr to schedule a time.

Why: Approximately 80 percent of California's returning veterans who utilize their educational benefits at one of the state's public higher education institutions, do so at a California community college. But these veterans often have difficulties transitioning from military life back into the civilian population. Veterans enroll in community colleges to begin their academic career and earn an associate degree, prepare for transfer to a college or university, or to receive training to obtain a high-paying job and help power the state's economy. The California Community Colleges realizes that many veterans need some level of assistance integrating back into civilian life. The purpose of the summit is for counselors, veterans services coordinators, faculty, staff and administrators to learn about some of the issues confronting student veterans, discuss best practices taking place across the system and determine how colleges can best serve the people who have served their country.

Topics of the summit include:

- Academic credit for military experience
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and re-acclimating to civilian life
- Understanding military culture
- Veterans Resource Centers
- Accessing federal, state and local resources

Guest speakers include: Congressman Bob Filner (D- San Diego), the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Peter James Gravett; Dr. Jon Nachison of National Stand Down, a homeless veterans advocacy group.

❖ **More:** *The summit is made possible by the support of JP Morgan Chase, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the Foundation for California Community Colleges.*

###