



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2012

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### **Veterans Summit will Highlight Needs, Best Practices of Serving the Educational and Transitional Needs of Those who Served their Country**

*Chancellor Brice W. Harris says two-day meeting will help California Community Colleges*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- California Community Colleges Chancellor [Brice W. Harris](#) today said that the [Veterans Summit II](#) that began this morning in Redwood City is a great way for the California Community Colleges faculty, staff and administrators to hear the concerns of returning veterans who seek a community college education and how to best serve them. The summit ran from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and will run from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday with sessions dealing with student veteran issues such as academic counseling, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, understanding military culture, creating and best practices of on-campus Veterans Resource Centers and Veteran Administration benefits and education plans.

The majority of veterans on California community college campuses are looking for a way to get job training so they can get into the workforce while other veterans attend to get an associate degree or to transfer to a California State University or University of California.

"More than 50 percent of the state's returning veterans who utilize their VA benefits attend one of our 112 community colleges," said Chancellor Harris, who gave an introductory message at 11 a.m. today. "That means our colleges have to be responsive to the unique needs of our veterans and raising awareness of how to best help them is critical. We know student veterans need information on accessing their VA benefits. But, they often need help developing an educational or career plan an assistance in transitioning from military to civilian life. This summit will go a long way in helping our colleges to better serve those who served their country and I'm proud that our system is leading the way."

The keynote speaker is former California Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher, a decorated U.S. Marine Corps. veteran. He will address the summit's participants at noon Friday. California Department of Veteran Affairs Secretary Ret. Major General Peter James Gravett will speak Friday morning at 8 a.m. Citrus College professor Dr. Bruce Solheim, the co-founder of "Boots to Books," will give a presentation on his for-credit program that has garnered national attention. Selected sections of his play, "The Bronze Star," were presented today during a reception. Several Citrus College student veterans are actors in the play that debuted at the college Veterans Day weekend.

The summit is hosted by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Education Institute and the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and is supported by a generous donation from JP Morgan Chase.

*The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.*

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