The VET NET Ally Program

The VET NET Ally program is a faculty and staff awareness program designed to:

- Educate members of the university community about the needs and concerns of military service members and veterans,
- Foster a campus atmosphere that supports the academic freedom and professional, personal and social success of service members and veterans,
- Establish a network of visible Allies to provide support, information, and assistance for service members and veterans.

Why do we need the VET NET Ally program?

- The number of military veterans expected to pursue higher education in the coming years is expected to increase dramatically as veterans take advantage of educational benefits provided by the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill.
- The transition from military life to life on a college campus can result in culture shock for veterans, so providing a network of Allies across campus can create a welcoming environment for those who have served their country.
- Historically, military veterans have been subject to discrimination and harassment at colleges and universities in the United States, especially during times of military conflict abroad. The VET NET Ally program seeks to ensure that our university will continue to be a welcoming environment for those veterans who choose to pursue their education at CSUSM.

Staff and faculty members are invited to participate in a half day awareness seminar focused on the needs and concerns of military service members and student veterans studying at CSUSM. At the end of the seminar, participants are given a decal (see image below) to display in their workspace to show that they are Allies of CSUSM’s student veterans.

The half day seminar includes:

- VET NET Ally program mission and what CSUSM is doing to help veterans
- Why I Joined – a discussion about the reasons men and women join the military
- Military and post-service culture – debunking the myths about veterans and their service
- The experience of veterans in the classroom
- Veterans’ issues in higher education
- Student veteran panel

The VET NET Ally program extends deep gratitude to the CSUSM Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and to the CSUSM Safe Zone and Education Without Borders Ally programs whose successful models provided the framework and invaluable guidance for the development of this initiative.