



Resolution to: Support the Creation of the Veterans Promise Program
Resolution 2022- 03

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Whereas, the Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) Board of Directors is the official governing body of the students of CSUSM; and

Whereas, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of California State University San Marcos is the primary advocate for students at CSUSM and is dedicated to providing services designed to create and enhance a learning-focused campus environment; and

Whereas, it is ASI's mission to serve, engage, and empower students, ASI has the responsibility to inform CSUSM students about issues that affect our student population; and

Whereas, the California State Student Association (CSSA) 2021/2022 Policy Agenda outlines priority number two as 2 "Ensure student health and safety are prioritized to enable belongingness on campuses"; and

Whereas, newly transitioned veterans without a solid support system or life after service plan are more than likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and often suicide; and

Whereas, those without life after service plans may struggle with having severe mental health concerns and loss of belonging; and

Whereas, one study states that 3 "Suicide rates after separation were time dependent, generally peaking 6 to 12 months after separation"; and

Whereas, 4 in 2017 alone 111 veterans committed suicide in San Diego County; And

Whereas, 5 as said by Dr. Franklin Executive director of the VA Suicide Prevention Office "I believe with this unique group, 18- to 34-year-old, is that they are possibly struggling with the transition from active duty to civilian life,"; and

Whereas, the SVA Census 6 "Although, student veterans face some unique challenges compared to the traditional student, they still excel academically. Four-in-five student veterans attend 4-year public and private institutions, and their cumulative average GPA is 3.39, on a 4.0 scale."; and

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Whereas, According to CSUSM website, CSUSM is home to 478 student veterans; the highest percentage per capita of any California State University campus. They also serve close to 2,000 military-connected students, which is 12% of our campus; and

Resolved, that ASI is committed to not leaving a single service member behind after military to civilian transition; and

Resolved, that ASI proposes the University to establish the Veterans Promise Program (VPP); and

Resolved, ASI believes California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) can help future veterans with a place of belonging, safety, and a life after service plan. The VPP is a Promise to all California high school graduates who join military service for a minimum of two years are pre-approved for admission to CSUSM deferred until after they have completed their military service and

Resolved, Veteran Services will require all students who qualify for this program to meet all general minimum requirements for university enrollment should be completed accompanied by two years of honorable military service; and

Resolved, this program would offer in-state tuition rates to any veteran who meets the qualifications listed in the program requirements, not just those using VA educational benefits; and

Resolved, that ASI will help to ensure that program participants will commit to graduation within a timely manner and the University staff will utilize all efforts at their disposal to ensure graduation; and

Resolved, CSUSM with the establishment of the VPP would ensure that veterans increase their career opportunities, develop new skills, learn to apply military skills in civilian life, and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families; and

Resolved, the VPP would create a steady flow of student leaders and build a dynamic culture on campus as expressed in an annual survey; and

Resolved, this would allow for CSUSM to continue to hold that percentage. CSUSM would be the first CSU to implement this program allowing for CSUSM to break new ground; and

Resolved, that ASI encourages the promote of the VPP to other CSU campuses at plenary meeting of California State Student Association (CSSA) allowing for future generation of veterans to have a life after service plan that includes Higher Education; and

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Resolved, ASI also encourages campus staff and administration to promote the VPP to fellow CSU's and the CSU system; and

Resolved, ASI urges Veteran Services and the University to commit support and promotion of the VPP to statewide high schools in support of future students' aspirations; and

Resolved, that Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM forwards this resolution to the CSUSM Office of the President, the CSUSM Academic Senate, the Cougar Chronicle Newspaper, all CSUSM Student Organizations, the California State Student Association, CSUSM Veteran Services, Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester, Ph.D., and the California State University Board of Trustees.

1. <https://www.csusm.edu/sa/planning/plans/index.html>
2. <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025>
3. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770538>
4. <https://www.kpbs.org/news/military/2018/12/14/san-diego-tops-state-veteran-suicides>
5. <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2018/sep/28/suicide-rate-among-younger-vets-jumps-latest-va-re/>
6. <https://studentveterans.org/research/sva-census/>
7. <https://www.csusm.edu/veterans/index.html#population>