



NEWS

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El Camino College Welcomes New Veteran Counselor

A new full-time academic counselor dedicated to assisting student veterans was recently hired at El Camino College, furthering ECC's goal of providing comprehensive services for students who previously served in the military.

Juan Carlos Garcia, a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps, joined El Camino College this year as a full-time counselor serving veterans. Garcia previously worked in a similar position at Cypress College and with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We are excited to have Juan join the El Camino College team," said ECC President Dena P. Maloney. "He plays a vital role in assisting our student veterans through the variety of support services and programs available to help them succeed and attain their educational goals."

Garcia works with students individually to create an educational plan so that degree requirements are met in a timely manner. For students needing a little more assistance in finding direction, Garcia said office staff can help with career research and find a path that aligns to his or her interests.

"The Veteran's Resource Center is a one-stop shop to find resources for veterans on campus or off campus," said Garcia. "We can also help locate housing, tutoring, food, and mental health assistance."

Garcia said the veterans services offered at El Camino College, coupled with other resources such as First Year Experience, MESA and the Writing Center, set students on the best path for a successful college career.

"I think the college is going above and beyond in services for students," Garcia said. "I look forward to working with veterans to help them navigate the college system."

Garcia joined the Marines in 2004, and was deployed three times under Operation Enduring Freedom with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In addition, he was able to travel to countries like the Philippines, Thailand, Guam and others.

Like the students he advises, Garcia's academic path began at a community college. He graduated from Cypress College, earned a bachelor's degree in human services from California State University, Fullerton and graduated with a master's degree in social work from USC.

El Camino College offers a variety of services for veterans, including the Veterans Resource Center. Veterans can access computers, computer assistance, a study area, workshops and referrals to resources at the college and in the community. Staff members can help students with paperwork regarding educational benefits, financial aid and help with counseling to meet academic goals.

For more information about El Camino College's veterans programs, visit www.elcamino.edu/admissions/veterans.asp or call 1-866-ELCAMINO.

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Juan Carlos Garcia photo available online at:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2016/Garcia-Juan.jpg>