

Abstract

Los Angeles Harbor College

Veterans Center Coordinator and Enhanced Operations Project

Los Angeles Harbor College requests \$360,000 in unmatched, partially leveraged funds to provide full-time professional management for its new Veterans Center and fully equip the center with furniture and lounge amenities . The center is currently staffed by two part-time student veteran workers. This project will make it possible to hire a full-time trained professional as the Veterans Center Coordinator who will assist veteran students with accessing appropriate benefits, academic and career counseling and tutoring, personal counseling and other services tailored to the needs of veterans. These and other services will make it possible to increase veteran enrollments and improve the academic performance of the veteran student population.

The coordinator will reach into the community surrounding the college where there have been 1300 deployments since 9/11 to let local veterans know about the services available at the college. Increasing enrollments a minimum of 20 full time equivalent students (FTES) will make it possible for the college to then fund the position as part of its general program when the funding period ends in 2013.

Using student services that will be adjusted to the special needs of the veteran students (including accommodations for persons with physical, mental and learning disabilities) the coordinator will increase the veteran students collective grade point average (GPA) to 3.25 from its current level of 2.85. This is an ambitious but achievable goal with appropriate tutoring, counseling and case management.