

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, and,
- 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 pursuing 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 significant culture shock for veterans, so providing a network of Allies across campus can create a welcome 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 here.

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. 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 to student veterans on campus.

The half day seminar includes

- VET NET Ally Program Overview
- Veterans by the Numbers
- Why We Joined
- Military 101 – Culture and the impact of service
- Challenges for Veterans in Higher Education
- Status Exercise – Who would you tell that you are a veteran?
- How are We Helping Veterans
- Situational Awareness – Interacting with Veterans on Campus
- Being an Ally



The VET NET Ally program extends deep gratitude to the CSULB VET NET student organization and to the CSULB Safe Zone and AB540 Ally programs whose successful models provided the framework and invaluable guidance for the development of this initiative.