

EDUCATION

VVC first in state to give disabled veterans' spouses priority registration

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VICTORVILLE — Victor Valley College has become the first community college in California to approve priority registration for spouses of disabled veterans, according to college officials.

The new policy will allow not only disabled veteran students, but also their spouses, to register for classes within Priority Registration Block 1, giving them at least a few days to enroll in courses before other groups are able to. Because they'll have first pick, they'll likely be admitted to all the classes they register for and not have to worry about being wait-listed or not being able to take the class.

The new policy, announced on Tuesday at the regular Board of Trustees meeting, is a result of the work of the Spring Valley Lakes Veterans Club, specifically member Robert Read.

"Mr. Read brought the idea to the Board of Trustees late last year and immediately got the attention of the Board as well as many of our employee veterans," VVC Superintendent Dr. Roger Wagner said. "While it took longer than anticipated, it was extremely gratifying to be able to report out at our May Board meeting that priority registration for the spouses of disabled veterans is now a reality at VVC."

Wagner, a 20-year veteran himself, said he is pleased to have been part of the initiative and hopes that other colleges and universities will follow suit.

The college's Student Success and Support Committee, chaired by VVC counselor Carey Alstadt, championed the proposal through the internal governance process.

"This was a team effort," VVC board member Joseph W. Brady said. "This was monumental."

Wagner said VVC is "the only public higher education institution in the state to have adopted this policy."

Board of trustees president John Pinkerton also noted that VVC is the first college in California to approve the measure, "and one of the first few in the entire country."

"These are the kinds of things we can make happen when we work together on important priorities, like supporting our veterans," Pinkerton said.

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