

University of California Veterans Among US Newsletter

Issue #1 | April 2025

Welcome Message

Greetings UC Veteran Employee Community,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the UC Veteran Employee Newsletter! Our goal is to foster communication, honor those who have served, provide valuable resources, and celebrate the contributions of Veterans within the University of California system. We look forward to building a strong, engaged Veteran community.

Stay connected, stay informed, and thank you for your service!

Who we are: Our Mission



[Veterans Among US \(VAUS\)](#) is dedicated to serving and supporting not only our local and military communities but also the University of California and all its locations. We aim to encourage employees to actively participate in activities and events that support veterans, military service organizations, and academia.

We are committed to enhancing the well-being of the broader military and local communities. Our mission also involves fostering inclusivity and providing support as a collective effort for Veteran employees and their families. We strive to cultivate meaningful connections rooted in armed services affiliations, encompassing personal and family ties, along with a shared admiration for the armed forces.

Veteran Spotlight: The UC Veteran Employee Associations

This month, we would like to recognize the value of the Veteran Employee Associations within the University of California (UC) community. These Associations are known for their dedication to creating a supportive work environment for all employees, while creating a shared understanding of the Veteran experience.

Our Veteran Employee Associations play a crucial role in supporting military veterans within the University of California system. These associations offer a strong network for veteran employees, providing guidance, promoting a sense of belonging, and fostering a supportive environment. They recognize the valuable skills veterans bring to the UC workforce, such as leadership, problem-solving, and adaptability, and celebrate their contributions across various roles.

These associations serve as a driving force for veteran interests, ensuring their presence is recognized while also providing valuable resources. By fostering a network of support and offering opportunities, these associations help veterans thrive within the UC system.

Overall, one of the primary goals of these associations is to build a legacy of empowerment for veterans—shaping a more inclusive and effective UC workforce while enriching the entire community with the leadership and dedication that veteran employees bring from their military service.

We would like to recognize all the current UC veteran associations within the UC community:

[UC Davis - Veterans Employee Association](#)

Chair: **Miles Thorne**
Vice / Co-chair: **Greg Stanford**

[Berkeley Lab - Veterans ERG \(VERG\)](#)

Chair: **Stephany Tone**
Co-chair: **Ayla Quesad**

[UC San Diego - UCSD Veterans Staff Association](#)

[UC Riverside - Veteran Affinity Group for Staff & Faculty](#)

[UC Irvine - Faculty and Staff Veterans Association \(FSVA\)](#)

Chair: **Dani Molina**
Vice / Co-chair: **Toma Figueroa**

Chair: **Tami Thacker**
Vice / Co-chair: **George Ruelas**

[UC Santa Barbara - Veteran Staff Association](#)

Chair: Mike Fogelsonger

[UC Berkeley - Veteran Employee Group](#)

Chair: **Tyrone Wise**
Vice / Co-chair: **Luis A. Hernandez**

Would you like to nominate a fellow Veteran or a Veteran Employee Association for our next spotlight?

Contact: Mark Romo: mromo@ucop.edu

Upcoming Events & Recognition

May 2025:

- Military Appreciation Month
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Month
- Armed Forces Day - May 20th
- Memorial Day

Resources & Support

- [CAL VET](#)
- [US Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Riverside County Veteran Services](#)
- [Military One Source](#)
- [National Veterans Foundation](#)

Crisis Lines

- NVF Lifeline for Vets – 1-888-777-4443
- VA Suicide Hotline – 1-800-273-8255
- National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Stop Soldier Suicide - 1-.800-273-8255 #1

Veteran Community: Engagement & Encouragement

Veteran Stories: Finding a new Mission: [Marine Corps veteran finds new mission at LLUH](#)



Veterans Affairs News:

[Battle Buddy program provides Veterans opportunity to connect with others](#)



Battle Buddy program provides Veterans opportunity to connect with others

March 12, 2025

Wesley Sanders, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Frost Call

[How VA is taking action to prevent Veteran suicide](#)



How VA is taking action to prevent Veteran suicide

2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report

March 15, 2025

Matthew Miller
Executive Director, Suicide Prevention

Call to Action & Feedback

How can we develop and strengthen the UC veteran employee network?

We'd love to hear from you! Share your stories, suggestions, or questions for the next issue.

Email us at

Mark Romo: mromo@ucop.edu

Martha Naber: Martha.Naber@ucop.edu

Virginia Nixon: Virginia.Nixon@ucop.edu

Edwin Soto: Edwin.Soto@ucop.edu

We kindly ask that you share this information with other UC Veterans and members of the UC community.

Thank you for being part of the UC Veteran community. Stay strong and stay connected!

— The VAUS Team