New Veterans Services Coordinator named

LaTasha Kirksey has been hired as CGCC's new Veterans Services Coordinator. She begins her new position May 1. She replaces Reda Chambers, who is now Manager of Student Services at CGCC's Williams Campus.

Kirksey has worked in the field of higher education for the past 13 years, most recently as a School Certifying Official for Arizona State University's Pat Tillman Veterans Center. She is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and she thoroughly enjoys being able to serve her fellow veterans and dependents with their academic and professional goals. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in serving student veterans.

Kirksey's office will be in Coyote Center, across from the Veterans Center. Her duties will include oversight of all of the college's services to veterans, including GI Bill benefits, the Student Veterans Organization, management of the veterans centers, and faculty/staff training in veteran awareness.

Nydia Hayes will continue to serve CGCC as the Academic Advisor for students using GI Bill benefits. All students should plan to meet with Nydia prior to registering for classes to insure your classes are eligible for VA benefits.

Veteran stoles available at graduation check-in

The red, white, and blue honor stoles that the Maricopa colleges give to graduating veterans will be handed out at check-in to the graduation ceremony May 12 at Sloan Park in Mesa.

Check-in takes place in behind sections 109 and 110 beginning at 4:30 p.m. You must check in no later than 5:15 p.m., with the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. Seating for guests opens at 5 p.m.

Not too late to attend Maricopa Veterans Convocation

It's not too late to RSVP for the Maricopa Veterans Convocation Friday, May 5, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Phoenix College Bulpitt Auditorium. The ceremony honors graduating veterans from all ten Maricopa colleges.

Sponsored by the MVETS (Maricopa Veterans Education Task Force) employee group, the convocation includes dinner and is open to guests. To attend, RSVP at maricopa.edu/convocations. Include how many guests you will be bringing.
SVO chooses 2017-2018 officers

CGCC Student Veterans Organization officers have been elected for the 2017-2018 school year. Results of the voting:

Josh Downing, Chief Executive Officer
David Hopkinson, Chief Operations Officer
Josh Graston, Chief Financial Officer
Joyce Gardiner, Chief Communications Officer

The final meeting of the current school year will take place at noon Tuesday, May 2 in CYT 2110. Meetings will resume in the fall--check future newsletters for schedule.

The end is near! Let Veterans Centers help with exam week

As we near the end of the semester, plan on spending some study time in the Veterans Centers on both the Pecos and Williams campuses. Both centers have separate back rooms with computers for quiet study. Free snacks will be provided during finals weeks (May 8-11 at Pecos Campus, and May 1-11 at Williams Campus), along with the ever-present free Seattle's Best coffee.

Once your classes are over, you might wonder what to do with those textbooks you’ll never use again. You could sell them back to the bookstore, but the price you receive often isn’t worth your time and trouble. Why not pay it forward by donating your textbooks to be used by another veteran? Donated textbooks will be displayed on our bookshelves in the Williams and Pecos Veterans Centers, free for the taking to any veteran who needs that book in future semesters.

CGCC will go on summer hours beginning May 15. During the summer, college offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closed on Fridays.

Watch your email, Student Center for canceled classes

When the college is forced to cancel a course due to low enrollment, students are notified through their Message Center on their my.maricopa.edu Student Center page. This usually happens the week before the class is scheduled to begin, but sometimes earlier.

Since the sooner you know about a canceled class, the sooner you are able to find and enroll in a suitable replacement, it is wise to make a practice of monitoring your Student Center page daily as a new term approaches. Remember, all classes must apply to your CGCC degree plan.

Turn in summer, fall paperwork; pay off spring charges

Final exams are just around the corner, and that means summer and fall 2017 semesters will be here before you know it. If you haven’t registered and turned in your Request for Benefits form yet, make sure you do so soon!

Also, for those whose tuition and fees are not paid in full by the VA, spring 2017 tuition deferments expire after May 11. If you have an unpaid balance remaining after May 11, you become ineligible (under state law) for deferments for future terms. If a deferment has already been applied, it will be removed. In either case, you risk being dropped from your summer or fall 2017 classes if your spring 2017 balance is not paid off by May 11.

This applies to all students using chapters of benefits other than Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as to Post-9/11 students whose entitlement percentage is less than 100%.
You can check to see if you owe anything to the college by clicking on Account Inquiry, then on the printer icon for your fall 2017 student account, at your my.maricopa.edu Student Center page.

If you believe you have an outstanding balance due to a VA error, please contact CGCC Veterans Services and we will research the issue.

**Action items for May:**

- If you were dropped from your summer classes, it's probably because you haven't turned in your Request for Benefits form for summer. That form is what gets you a tuition deferment for the semester. Maricopa begins dropping unpaid, undeferred classes 35 days before the start of the class, which is Apr. 25 for classes that begin May 30. You are welcome to fax or email the form to us. And while you're at it, register and submit your form for fall, too!

**Mark your calendar:**

- Psychology Club's popular Stress Release Workshop will be Monday, May 1 at 2:30 p.m. in IRN 120. Learn relaxation and coping techniques just in time for finals!

**Contact us**

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FAX 602-396-5057  
veternasservices@cgc.edu  
cgc.edu/veterans

**Contact VA**

888-442-4551  
benefits.va.gov/gibill  
"Submit a Question" to VA

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