

# 8 Keys to Successful Programs for Veterans

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# Military Affairs Team

## *Liaison to the Military Community*

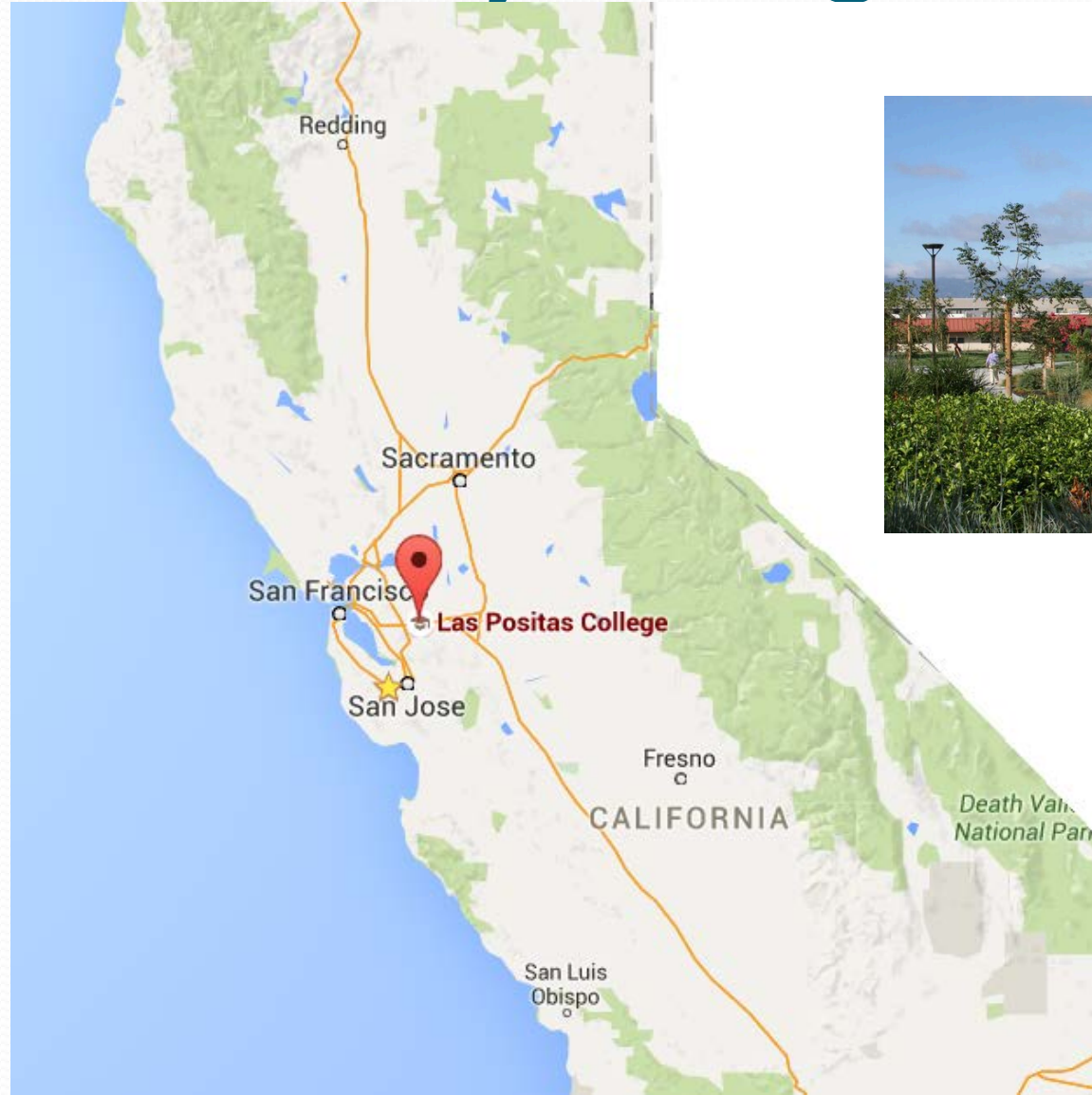


- Represents the educational interests of the military community
- Addresses early learning through postsecondary education
- Fosters access to high-quality and affordable educational programs and services

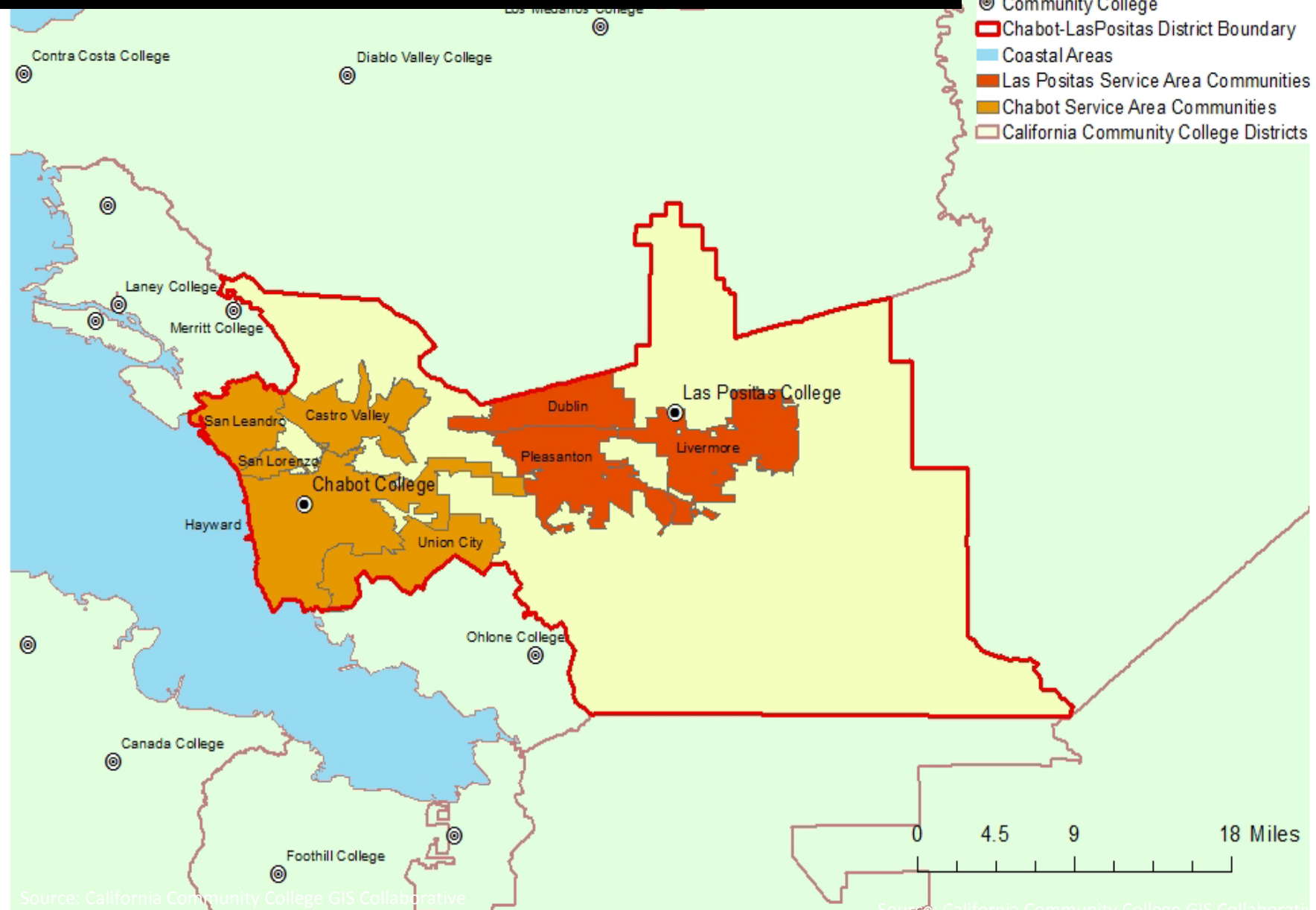




# Las Positas Community College

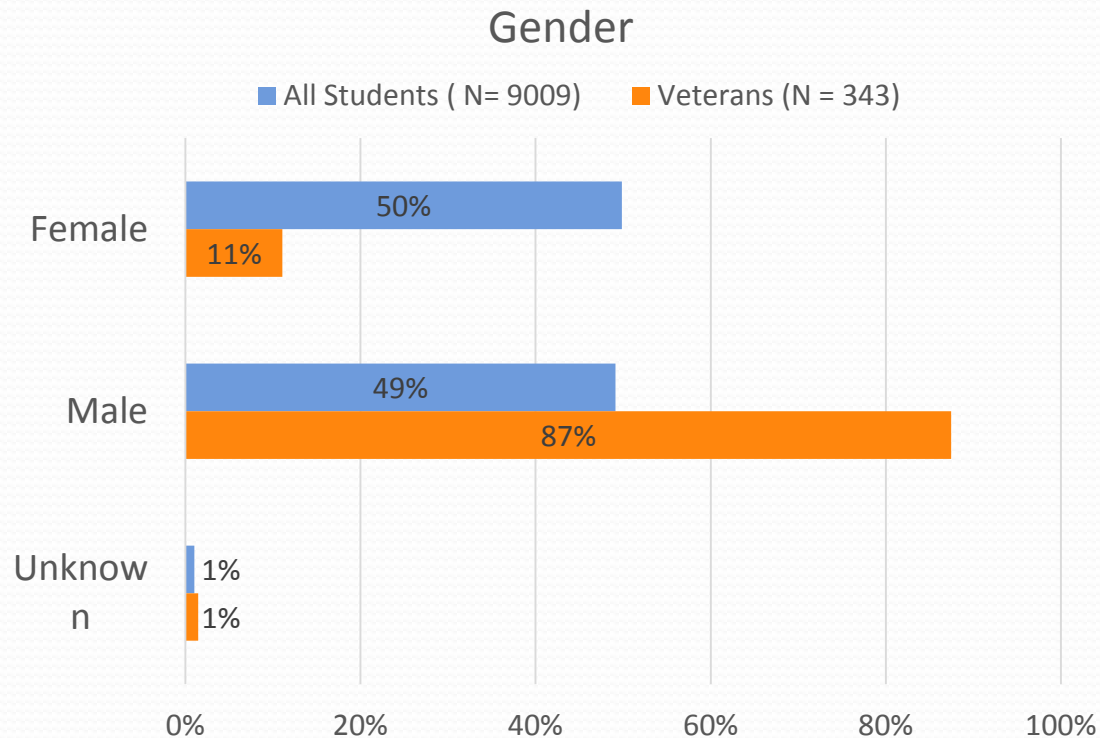


# CLPCC District Service Area

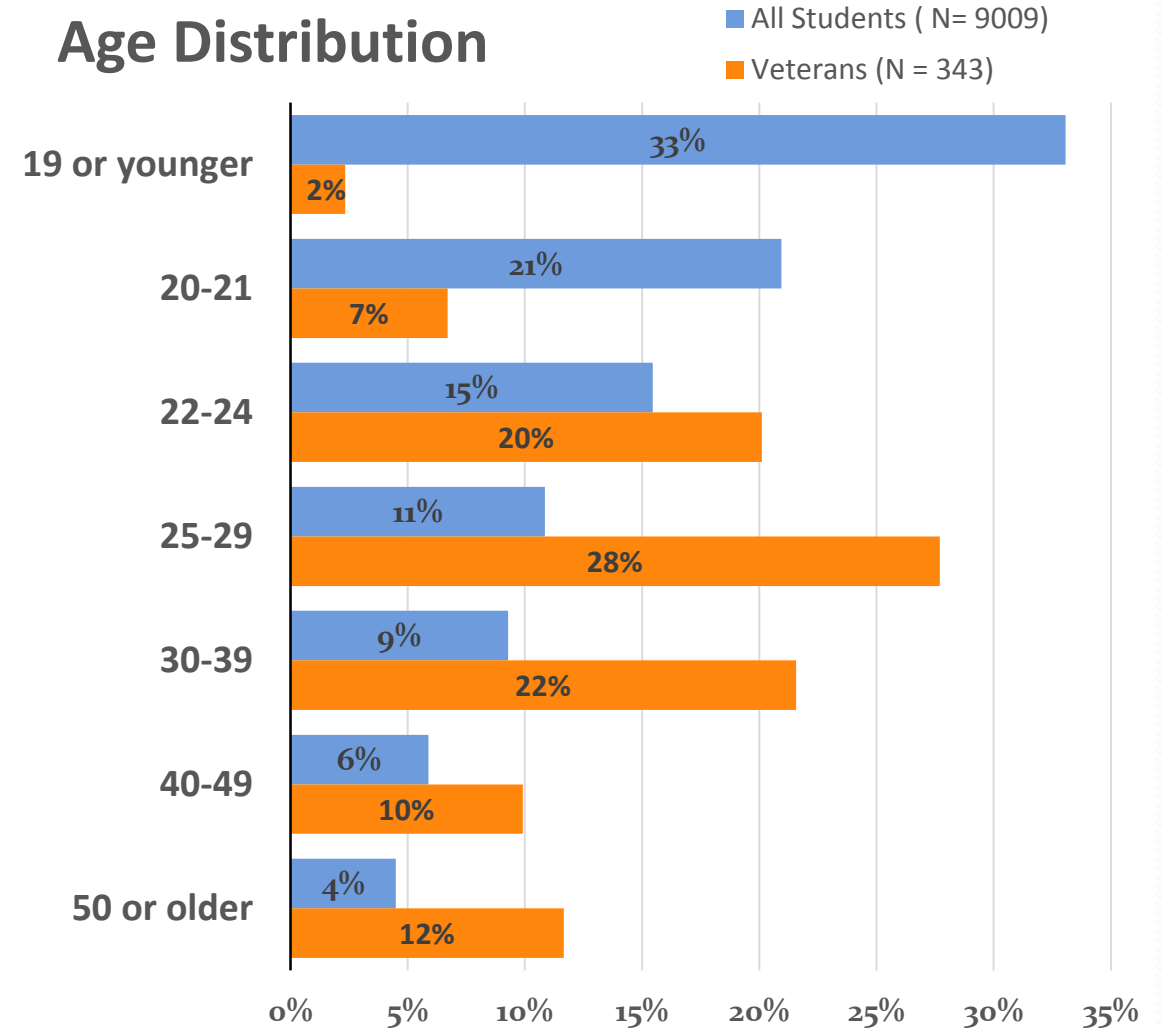


# Fall 2014 Student Characteristics

Las Positas College	Fall 2014
All Students	9,009
Veterans	343 (4%)

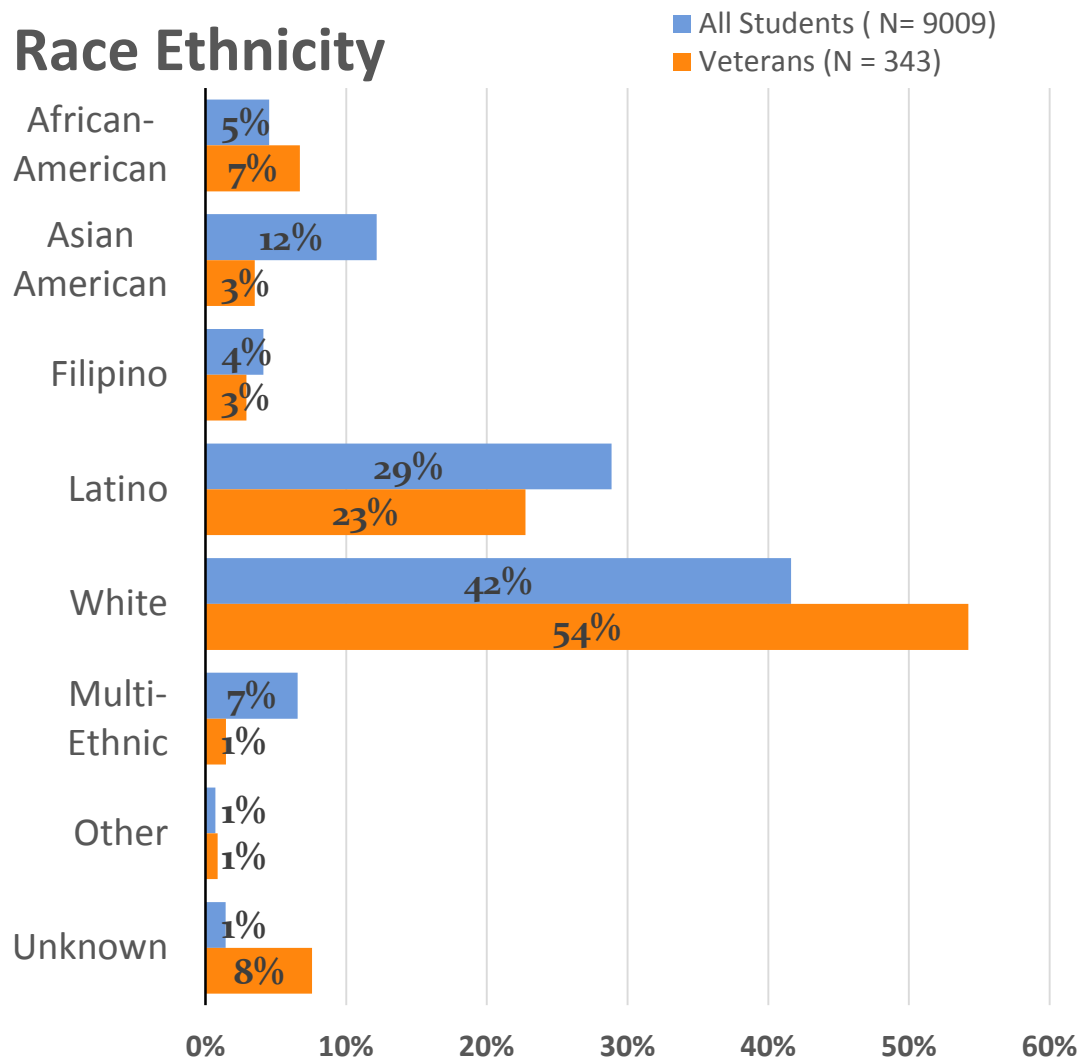


## Age Distribution

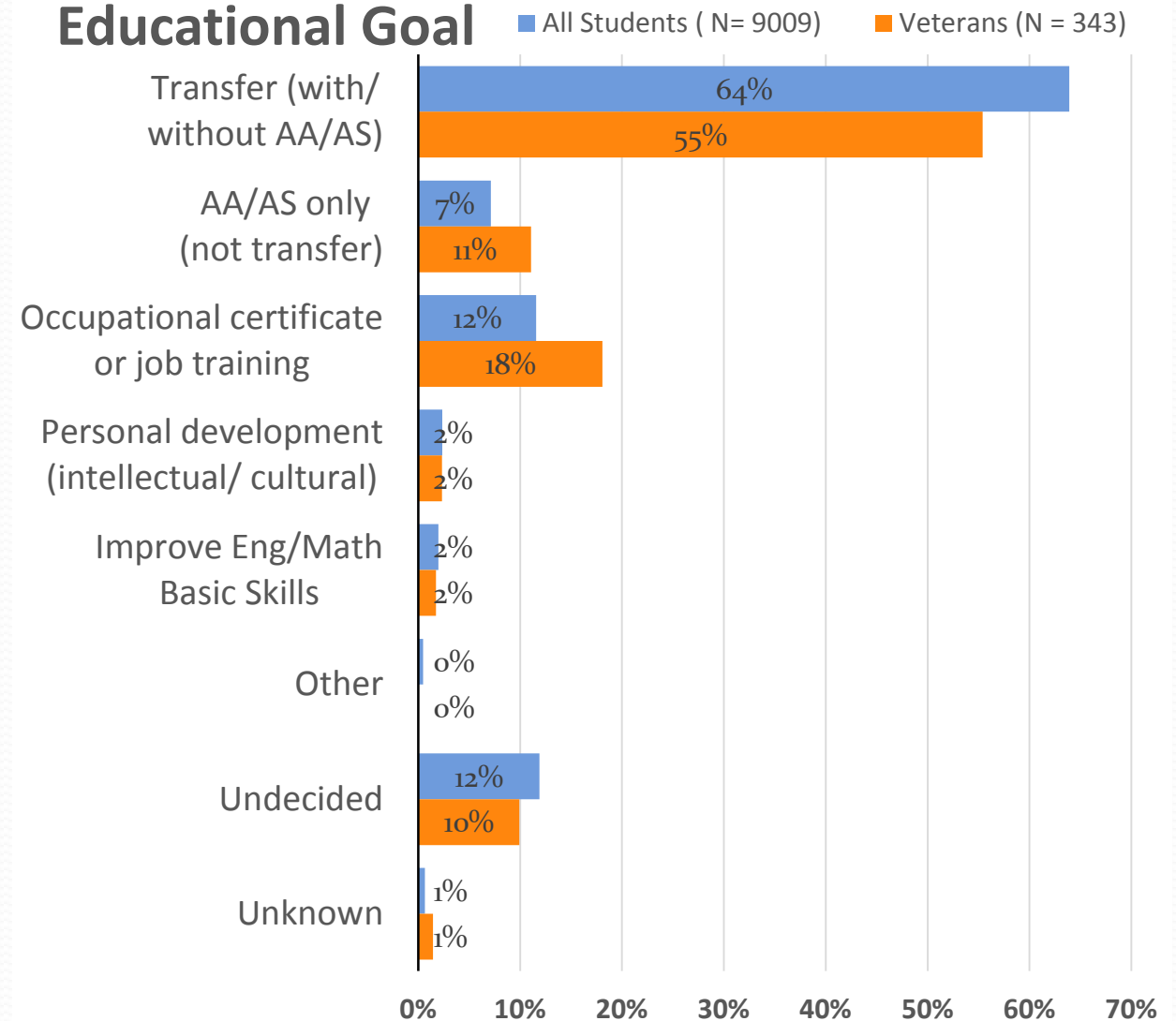


# Fall 2014 Student Characteristics

## Race Ethnicity



## Educational Goal





# Veterans' Educational Landscape

- More than **\$55 billion** has been paid to more than **1.45 million veterans** and their dependents since **Post 9/11 GI Bill** inception
- Education benefits are a powerful recruiting tool for an all-voluntary force
- Number of **service members transitioning** from the military to civilian life will increase in the coming years
- Growing number of these **veterans will enroll in colleges and universities** in the coming years
- **Information and data** about postsecondary institutions is readily available to assist veterans in selecting a high-quality institution





# 8 Keys to Veterans' Success

1. Create a **culture of trust** and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and **success for veterans**.
2. Ensure consistent and **sustained support** from campus leadership.
3. Implement an **early alert system** to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and **centralize campus efforts** for all veterans, together with the creation of a **designated space** for them (even if limited in size).

*(continued)*

## 8 Keys to Veterans' Success *(continued)*

5. **Collaborate** with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and **coordinate** various **services** for veterans.
6. Utilize a **uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans**, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
7. Provide **comprehensive professional development** for **faculty and staff** on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure **sustainability** of effective practices for veterans.

# 8 Keys to Veterans' Success In Action

1. Create a **culture of trust** and connectedness **across the campus** community to promote well-being and **success for veterans**.
  - Hosting various events such as Honoring Veterans Day at LPC, Honoring Women Veterans, 9.11 Observation, etc.
  - Having key college support staff in offices such as Admissions & Records and Financial Aid
  - Cohort learning opportunities are important to allow Veterans to build camaraderie.
  - Develop new high demand instructional programs.
  - Round tables with the College President.
  - Allow Veterans to express themselves such as Vet Stories, LPC Radio Veterans talk, student Veterans panels, and other methods.

# 8 Keys to Veterans' Success

2. Ensure consistent and **sustained support** from campus **leadership**.
  - Biggest challenge faced by institutions attempting to build a Veterans Programs.
  - Currently Veterans programs and Veterans Resource Centers are not considered a categorical program (with designated funding) by the State of California.
  - Focus on community outreach and collaboration to augment the services provided.
  - Critical activity to support services such as the book loan & scholarship program, emergency fund for veterans experiencing delayed VA benefits, and orientation (Operation Gateway – Summer bridge program).





# 8 Keys to Veterans' Success

3. Implement an **early alert system** to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
  - Past two years, the Veterans First Program has implemented mid-term progress reports with those who have in the past not met academic progress.
  - Veterans counselor
  - Veteran to Veteran, group and one on one tutoring support.
  - Various workshops from personal statement workshops to applying to scholarships have been offered in the VRC.
  - For our new student veterans - we offer 2-day orientation in the summer.

# 8 Keys to Veterans' Success

4. Coordinate and **centralize campus efforts** for all veterans, together with the creation of a **designated space** for them (even if limited in size).
  - 2,000 sq. Veterans Resource Center that houses three offices, a waiting room, a lounge, a study room, and a computer room.
  - Text book borrowing program
  - LPC Veterans scholarships.
  - Palo Alto VA Health Care (bi-weekly) for VA check- ups and Health Care sign ups
  - Oakland Vet Center Readjustment Counselor (bi-weekly) provides transitional and crisis counseling for Veterans and their families,
  - Vet Yoga (weekly) alternative methods to deal with PTS, stress, physical pain, etc,
  - Financial Advisor (bi-weekly) providing group and one on one financial guidance and planning, Employment Development Department (bi-weekly) provide assistance with resumes, job searching, etc.

## 8 Keys to Veterans' Success *(continued)*

5. **Collaborate** with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and **coordinate** various **services** for veterans.
  - Established MOUs with the Concord and Oakland Vet Centers to allow Student Veterans and veterans from the local community easier access to these valuable services.
  - A few of the groups that we have worked with since 2009:
    - Blue Star Moms, Valley Veterans Foundation, Sentinels of Freedom, Pleasanton Military Families, VFW, American Legion, local Rotaries, and many others.
  - We have worked closely and continue to grow partnerships with outside businesses and agencies such as the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, Tesla, and WorkDay. Funding support from businesses like Safeway, SAP, and AT&T.

## 8 Keys to Veterans' Success *(continued)*

6. Utilize a **uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans**, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
- Identifying all Veterans - Active Duty, Reservists, and Spouses/Dependents of Veterans.
  - Track demographics, retention, and degree completion.
  - We have recognized that we extend beyond our college boundaries in the tri-valley, but extend to over 52 cities in the bay and valley.





## 8 Keys to Veterans' Success *(continued)*

7. Provide **comprehensive professional development** for **faculty and staff** on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
  - Welcome Home events.
  - Staff and faculty attend workshops and conferences such as the CA Community College Veterans Summit, Western Association of Veterans Education Services, and others.
  - Veterans Coordinator presents and coordinates regional meetings with other colleges, including UCs and CSUs.
  - Working with a new organization called *Battle Buddies Bridge* which is growing in southern California. It is a training program to develop student Veteran mentors, but also provides training such as military cultural awareness and challenges our Veterans face in college to staff, faculty, and administration.

## 8 Keys to Veterans' Success *(continued)*

8. Develop systems that ensure **sustainability** of effective practices for veterans.
  - Dedicated space of the Veterans Resource Center with all of the programs and services within
  - Permanent staffing to work with the current Veterans coordinator such as Veterans counselor.
  - A permanent certifying official to continue the effective, efficient, and timely process and payments of VA benefits.
  - How to manage limited VA benefits as well as maximize other financial benefits such as financial aid and scholarships especially if the goal is to a 4-year program.

# Future Programs for Veterans at Las Positas

- Low-income housing project
- Volunteer opportunities
- Additional career-based programs





# AACC 8 Keys Schools

Over 500 AACC Colleges members  
have adopted the 8 Keys



# U.S. Department of Education Programs

- Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success
- Veterans Upward Bound Program
- Federal Student Aid

**Federal Student Aid**  
*An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION*



# Contact Information

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## **8 Keys to Veterans' Success**

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# LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

