



August 30, 2021

Honoring Fallen U.S. Service Members

Dear Colleagues,

Like so many across the country, we are saddened by devastating events continuing to unfold in Afghanistan. A suicide bombing near Kabul's airport last week killed 13 U.S. service members, including nine Marines and a sailor based at Camp Pendleton. Other members of our military and hundreds of civilians were killed or injured. These heartbreaking losses represented the deadliest day for American forces in Afghanistan since August 2011. Flags are flying at half-staff on our campuses as a mark of respect for these U.S. service members and other victims killed in the attack.

Many of us are connected in some way to these events, whether we ourselves have a loved one in harm's way, or as members of our global community. Our own diverse community includes employees and students from around the world, as well as veterans and active members of the military, some of whom have served in Afghanistan. The U.S. has evacuated more than 100,000 people out of Afghanistan in recent weeks. More continue to flee, including some local families. Our region is also home to some of the largest concentrations of military personnel and veterans in the United States.

We want to again offer our support and highlight resources available during this difficult time.

Below are some links for more information:

VETERANS:

- Grossmont College – Visit the [Veterans Resource Center](#) or email grossmont.veteransresourcecenter@gcccd.edu.
- Cuyamaca College – Visit the [Veterans Center](#) or email cuyamaca.veterans@gcccd.edu.

And for those who would like to contribute to the efforts to assist those in need:

AFGHANISTAN:

- [International Rescue Committee](#) is offering support to Afghans in crisis.
- [Donate to Afghanistan | International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\) \(icrc.org\)](#) has been present in Afghanistan since 1987. ICRC staff have worked to protect and assist those in need in Taliban-controlled areas for years.

Please join us in recognizing the sacrifices of our service members, and in thinking of those working to reach safety around the world.

Respectfully,

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D., Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

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