

From the Chancellor's Desk



A sad day

August 26, 2021

KCCD Colleagues:

Today is a sad day. [12 Marines lost their lives](#) in the aftermath of two bombing attacks outside of the Kabul airport. Another 15 Marines have been injured and dozens of Afghans were killed or injured, as well. The news coming out of Afghanistan in the last few weeks, culminating in today's attacks, has been painful, and particularly so for our veteran men and women who have served in the region over the last 20 years, and for their families.

I am proud to say that our three colleges, PC, CCC, and BC, together serve over 800 student veterans. The veterans services teams at all of our colleges are dedicated to securing resources that our returning veterans need to be successful in their courses and transition to a rewarding career. Our advisors understand what veterans have been through and can provide the mentoring that they need.

To my dear student veterans – the faculty and staff of the Kern Community College District are standing by your side. Please know that our college campuses are a safe and supportive space for you to share your struggles and find comfort in a community of your peers. To the faculty and staff of KCCD – please let your student veterans know about the programs and resources that are available to them. Also, check in on your faculty and staff colleagues who are veterans. Let's all work together to continue building a better life for our returning veterans, one person at a time.

If you know a veteran who may be having a difficult time, please direct them to the [mental health resources available through the US Department of Veterans Affairs](#), which helps family members assist a veteran in crisis, access immediate care, and/or book a mental health appointment.

On August 18, US Marine Corps General David Berger and Sgt. Major Troy Black issued a powerful statement in support of our Marines who served in Afghanistan. Here is an excerpt:

You answered the call to serve, proudly carrying the torch of so many generations of Marines before you. You put the good of others before yourself. You fought to defend your country, your family, your friends, and your neighbors...You never, ever gave up. You lived with purpose, with intention. Whether you realize it or not, you set an example for subsequent generations of Marines - and Americans - by living our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Student and employee veterans, from all of us at KCCD, thank you for your honor, courage, and commitment.

Sincerely,

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Sonya Christian
Chancellor, Kern Community College District

