



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**November 9, 2017**

### **Santa Ana College**

**Contact:** Melissa Utsuki

**Office:** (714) 564-5527

**Email:** [utsuki\\_melissa@sac.edu](mailto:utsuki_melissa@sac.edu)

### **AT&T**

**Contact:** Ryan Oliver

**Office:** (310) 200-2773

**Email:** [ryan.oliver@att.com](mailto:ryan.oliver@att.com)

## **AT&T Contributes \$25,000 to Santa Ana College's Veterans Resource Center to Support Student Veterans**

*Santa Ana, Calif.* – AT&T\* and the Santa Ana College (SAC) Foundation teamed up at an on-campus event today to celebrate and support student veterans at Santa Ana College. The event is part of AT&T's *Thank Our Heroes* campaign, which recognizes our nation's heroes and supports the SAC Veterans Resource Center (VRC) for its efforts to serve student veteran, active duty military personnel and their families with a contribution of \$25,000.

"We're taking a moment to say 'thank you' to our nation's servicemen and women. Not just on Veteran's Day, but every day, we should remember those who have done so much to protect our country and freedoms," said Richard Porras, Assistant Vice President, AT&T. "AT&T has a long history of supporting our military and first responders. And this contribution is one small way we can express our thanks."

The SAC VRC was established in 2009 to help student veterans transition from soldiers to scholars. Through grant funds, the work of the SAC Foundation, and collaboration with public and private entities like AT&T, the SAC VRC assists hundreds of veteran students to achieve their academic and career goals through four main initiatives:

- **Veterans Affairs Office** to certify GI Bill® benefits
- **Veterans Upward Bound**, a college preparation program for any veteran wanting to attend any college or university
- **Veterans Student Support Services** for current SAC veteran students
- **Strength in Support**, which provides transitional counseling and off-campus support

“The SAC Foundation is proud to philanthropically work hand-in-hand with the College’s academic programs and services,” said Christina Romero, Executive Director of Advancement, SAC. “We are fortunate to have a Veterans Resource Center that provides a comprehensive program strategically designed to prepare veterans to enroll and succeed in college. It is extremely humbling to be selected and participate in AT&T’s #ThankOurHeroes campaign.”

Today’s event and contribution are part of a \$500,000 total contribution AT&T is making to local organizations across the country who serve veterans and active duty military personnel. AT&T is also hosting community volunteer events across the country with local organizations serving active military personnel, veterans and their families.

AT&T encourages everyone to participate in the #ThankOurHeroes social media campaign to show their appreciation. The public is encouraged to upload messages, photos and videos showing their gratitude to veterans using #ThankOurHeroes. AT&T and veterans’ organizations’ handles will share these posts throughout the month. To learn more about AT&T’s commitment to veterans, [click here](#).

*Meet a few of our SAC Veteran Students:*

**Jason Lamb** is a United States Army veteran. After re-enrolling in higher education for the fourth time, he was struck by a car while walking across the street. Jason was bedridden, suffered 15 fractures and had nine stitches in his back, but was determined to complete his coursework and take his finals. He earned his associate’s degree at SAC in June 2017, and now continues to volunteer his time at the SAC VRC while pursuing his bachelor’s degree at California State University, Fullerton.

**Jonathan Medina** is the first in his family born in America. He felt pressure to become a doctor or lawyer, but was never interested in school. Jonathan joined the Marines and returned to civilian life older, wiser, and with a hunger for knowledge. He spoke with numerous community colleges but Santa Ana College and its Veterans Resource Center stood out among the rest. He immediately noticed that staff go above and beyond to make sure veterans are always taken care of and have access to academic and personal resources, such as financial planning. Fellow veterans at the VRC are now like family to Jonathan, and he looks forward to graduation day with them.

To learn more about the Santa Ana College Veterans Resource Center, visit [www.sac.edu/VRC](http://www.sac.edu/VRC).

\*AT&T products and services are provided or offered by subsidiaries and affiliates of AT&T Inc. under the AT&T brand and not by AT&T Inc.

***About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T***

*AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. The company's signature philanthropic initiative, AT&T Aspire, drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and beyond. With a financial commitment of \$400 million since 2008, AT&T is leveraging technology, relationships and social innovation to help all students make their biggest dreams a reality.*

***About Santa Ana College***

*Santa Ana College (SAC), which turned 100 years old in 2015, serves about 18,000 students each semester at its main campus in Santa Ana. The college prepares students for transfer to four-year institutions, provides invaluable workforce training, and customized training for business and industry. In addition, another 11,000 students are served through the college's School of Continuing Education located at Centennial Education Center. Ranked as one of the nation's top two-year colleges awarding associate degrees to Latino and Asian students, the college is also recognized throughout the state for its comprehensive workforce training programs for nurses, firefighters, law enforcement and other medical personnel. SAC is one of two comprehensive colleges under the auspices of the Rancho Santiago Community College District.*

###