



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Veterans Day Message from the Office of the President

November 11, 2022

*"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
Joseph Campbell*

Dear Pacifica Community,

From Pacifica's creation to support Vietnam veterans and untie the knots in the human heart formed from the cultural upheaval of the 1970s, our work has evolved into our current mission of helping a broader audience by tending soul of and in the world.

On this, the eleventh day of November, we rightly acknowledge the brave military men and women for their fearless and selfless service to their fellow Americans. Although our veterans have served in different eras, they all share common experiences that deserve our respect, compassion, and support. As the mental health crisis looms, notably with a disproportionate number of veterans, there continues to be a drastic shortage of licensed professionals to assist those with emotional and psychological needs. We need more professional counselors, psychologists, and therapists, as the demand for professional service does not seem like it will diminish anytime soon. Pacifica's depth therapists, clinicians, and resources can help flatten this curve, and we send acknowledgment and appreciation to all those engaged in this work in their communities and with our veterans.

As an employer, educational institution, and support network, Pacifica is committed to attracting, developing, and retaining America's military veterans - highly skilled individuals with much to offer. We are fortunate to have active and veteran service members within the Pacifica community, including over 30 veterans currently enrolled, many of whom are receiving VA benefits. We are proud to state that Pacifica has certified more than 100 students for VA benefits over the years.

In addition, we are proud to support and partner with organizations that focus on building relationships between employers and veterans. Our Alumni Association (PGIAA) continues to provide resources and services by professional counselors through their [PGIAA Support Network](#) for individuals in need of assistance, within our Pacifica community and beyond, including with their [CareLine \(805-679-6163\)](#) and Return the Gift initiative. Please also take a moment to read our [Alumni Spotlight on Eduard Uzumekis, Ph.D.](#) (Mythological Studies class of 2011), a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. To see all of PGIAA's work and initiatives, visit <https://pgiaa.org>.

Through the [Yellow Ribbon program](#), Pacifica provides scholarships each year for qualifying veterans under the Post 9/11 GI Bill® on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students in the M.A.

Counseling Psychology program will qualify for up to \$6,500 per year, M.A. Depth Psychology and Creativity will qualify for up to \$5,400 per year, and those in the doctoral programs will qualify for up to \$7,800 per year. For more information on how Pacifica supports veterans, visit: <https://www.pacifica.edu/financial-aid/pacifica-yellow-ribbon-scholarship-program/>.

Lastly, throughout November, please consider taking a moment to:

- 1) Connect, listen, and learn the stories of our brave men and women and share them with our youths.
- 2) Write a thank you note, share a story, or express gratitude through our [Connect Form](#), and we will feature it on the new Office of the President's webpage.
- 3) For employees, use your ADP login to indicate your veteran and disability status. The information will be confidential and used only by the Human Resources department for federal reporting purposes. Your participation is strictly voluntary and will not affect your current employment. Employees also have access to our *Employee Assistance Program* for services such as emotional and mental health well-being, relationship issues, substance abuse issues, and other concerns or resources you may have. Please refer to the HR department or previous communications sent out with how to access these resources available to staff, faculty, and their families.

On this Veterans Day and all days, our deepest gratitude is with all who serve and are serving our country with selflessness and integrity.

Dr. Leonie H. Mattison, Ed.D
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