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Veterans Day Note to VCCS System Office Staff

This letter was sent to VCCS System Office staff on November 11, 2021.

Dear VCCS System Office Colleagues: Happy Veterans Day! It is a pleasure to write to share my appreciation for those that have served our country, especially the dozen of our System Office colleagues who have proudly worn our nation's uniform.

When I was growing up, military service and postsecondary education were often presented as a choice. One could pursue either path but rarely, if ever, both. Much has changed since those days, and I like to think that community colleges are a big reason for that.

By the time I became a community college student, I shared the campus with countless students who were military veterans, mostly from the Vietnam War. We took the same classes, served in the same clubs and organizations, and became good friends. Having already lived through the adult experience of uniformed service, they found the rhythm of campus life comfortable, the career-focused programs appealing, and the class schedule convenient. In other words, the community college was an adult place through which they could enjoy adult pursuits.

We've only improved since then when it comes to asking what veterans and military-related students need, and what our community colleges can do to serve them. I'm grateful for all that you do to keep these important students top of mind as we seek innovations, like more expansive credit for prior learning, to connect them with high-demand career opportunities.

Like you, I am proud of the work we do to bring the community college mission to life. And I can think of no higher honor, and no more satisfying experience, than serving those who proudly served America. Thank you for everything you are doing to serve the students of Virginia's Community Colleges.

Sincerely,

Glenn DuBois

