

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SDSU Launches Education Program for Military and Veterans to Prepare for Jobs in High Growth Fields

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SAN DIEGO, Monday, January 12, 2009 – San Diego State University is launching a first-of-its-kind online professional graduate program - tailored for veterans and active duty military and preparing them for high-paying, high-demand jobs in science and technology. The program is a partnership with California State University San Marcos, military education experts from Southern California, and industry leaders in the region.

“Our military and veterans have the background and skills that make them ideal candidates for these jobs but lack the opportunity for professional training that connects them directly with employers and focuses on the skills needed in high growth science and technology fields,” said Stanley Maloy, dean of SDSU’s College of Sciences.

“These are rigorous, high-quality academic programs that will provide great opportunities in areas of the economy that draw on the expertise these men and women who have served our country typically develop through their jobs in the nation’s technically advanced military service.”

The professional science master’s and certificate programs will draw on this technical expertise and will be offered online, allowing flexibility for veterans and active duty military stationed around the world to participate. The programs, which will initially focus on two areas: regulatory affairs in the life sciences and computational and computer sciences, are designed to lead to jobs in biotechnology, medical devices and diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, computer sciences, information technologies, and many other science and technology sector jobs.

“The majority of education programs for our veterans focus on bachelor’s degree work. This program is unique because it provides great opportunities for those who’ve already completed their undergraduate work and who have the background and experience to help meet the region’s ongoing need for professionals skilled in science and technology,”

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said Joe Shapiro, dean of SDSU's College of Extended Studies, through which the courses will be offered.

Veterans and military can utilize their veteran's benefits, tuition assistance and other sources of financial aid for both the master's and certificate programs.

The programs are delivered in collaboration with corporate partners who offer internships for individuals who continue from Certificates into Master's degree programs. The PSM initiative is an important component of "Troops to College," a statewide initiative among the Governor's Office, the United States military, the California State University system, University of California and community colleges to enhance opportunities for active-duty military and veterans to attend college in California.

This program is distinct in its emphasis on opportunities for these individuals to rapidly transition to careers in leading fields where the nation will need large numbers of skilled professionals over the next two decades. More information about the program is available at www.neverstoplearning.net/military.

SDSU's College of Extended Studies reaches out to the greater San Diego community through a wide variety of lifelong learning classes, seminars, and certificate programs. Career advancement courses are offered in many areas of management, leadership, and quality improvement while self-enrichment courses range from astronomy to web design. Additionally, the College offers over 35 certificate programs, online courses, and many other learning opportunities. To register or for more information, call (619) 265-SDSU (7378) or log on to www.neverstoplearning.net

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