

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Veterans Day has been celebrated in one form or another since 1918, when it was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson to honor the veterans of World War I, “The Great War.” It has had various names (e.g., Armistice Day) and dates, but it has been known as Veterans Day (no apostrophe) and celebrated on November 11th since 1975. Whatever it is called and no matter when it is celebrated, it has always been intended to honor the men and women who have served in our military forces both in war time and in peace, overseas and within our borders, in whatever role and capacity. We know that our nation is better, safer, and stronger because of their service and I hope all of you will join me in honoring all of our nation’s veterans and, particularly, the thousands of students and the hundreds of CCCS employees who have served or are currently serving. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. Our political world has never seemed so divided and we sometimes view our neighbors with suspicion, or even hostility. The pandemic has transformed our jobs and upended our lives, often separating us from our friends and family, and, of course, hundreds of thousands have lost their lives. Through all of this, and through past national crises, our men and women in uniform have done all that was asked of them to keep us safe. They have endured long periods away from their families and the comforts of home that most of us take for granted. They have done so without complaint, and without wavering from their mission. And, when they returned home, if they returned home, they did so with no expectation of praise or reward. They simply returned to their communities, their families, and their jobs, and they brought their spirit of commitment and dedication with them. For that we are grateful, and CCCS and all of our member colleges are better off.

Please keep all of our veterans and all those who are still deployed around the world in your thoughts, and , whenever you get a chance, thank them for their service.

Happy Veterans Day,



Joe Garcia
Chancellor



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