Effective August 1, 2009, a new program called Post-9/11 GI Bill, also known as Chapter 33, will provide Veteran Affairs (VA) Educational Benefits to eligible veterans and service members, who served at least 30 continuous days on active duty after September 10, 2001, as well as certain qualifying dependents.

Many colleges and universities, including Los Angeles City College (LACC), are anticipating a huge influx of veterans who will attend college. The following tips should help faculty members assist veterans as they transition to civilian life:

**TIP #1: LEARN ABOUT POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)**

PTSD is a debilitating condition that can occur after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened.

Symptoms of PTSD include social impairment, detachment, loss of interest, memory deficits, hyper-vigilance, avoidance behavior, numbing, anger outbursts, sleep disorders, and concentration difficulty.

**TIP #2: UNDERSTAND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)**

TBI is caused by a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. This condition is very common among veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Symptoms of TBI include insomnia, impaired memory, poor concentration, depression, anxiety, irritability, headache, dizziness, excessive fatigue, noise and light intolerance, ringing in the ears, and vision change.

**TIP #3: BE RESPECTFUL**

Treat veterans with respect. Veterans expect to be treated as adults and dislike having someone “talk down” to them.

**TIP #4: KNOW ABOUT THE OFFICE OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

Student veterans who need assistance or a safe place on campus should be referred to Ms. Melody Meldrum, our LACC Veterans Representative. The Veterans Affairs Office is located in Student Services Village 126 and can be reached at (323) 953-4000 Ext. 2024.