

Veterans Resource Center Grand Opening

Hello and welcome to the grand opening of the new Veterans Resource Center at UC Riverside.

My name is Brian Haynes, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Before we begin, I'd like to take a moment and acknowledge the caretakers of this land.

We at UCR would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize our responsibility to the original and current

caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Cahuilla [ka-wee-ahh], Tongva [tong-va], Luiseño [loo-say-ngo], and Serrano [se-ran-oh] peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. Today this meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples from all over the world, including UCR faculty, students, and staff, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these homelands.

Thank you to each of you here today in support of our veteran students.

It is exciting to celebrate a grand opening such as this in honor of our students who have served or continue to serve our great nation. This new facility reminds each of us of how wonderful growth can be and the opportunity for continued collaboration and respect for one another.

As we look at the current world stage and the ongoing war, let us

not forget those who have fought for our incredible freedoms.

We are truly blessed to live in a country that values and respects the rights of all individuals.

I have no doubt that this new facility will only enhance and transform the student experience for many. I hope each of you will take a tour and revel in the dynamic space.

For more than twenty years, Mark Takano has worked to improve the lives of Riverside County residents,

both as an elected official and as a teacher at Rialto High School.

Born and raised in Riverside, Mark's commitment to public service began at an early age.

He currently represents the people of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Jurupa Valley and Perris in the United States House of Representatives.

He serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and as a member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Please join me in welcoming
Congressmen Mark Takano.

[Applause]