9/9/09
KCOY

College Students Saluting Veterans

NEAR SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cuesta College saluted its veterans on Wednesday with the dedication of a new Veterans Affairs Center.

For years, they were served at a walk-up window, but now they get an entire building.

An existing building on campus has been transformed into a center for the more than 200 veterans attending the college near San Luis Obispo.

At the center they can get classified for the post 9/11 G.I. Bill that allows them to be a full-time student, free of charge.

It also serves as a support system.

"We're just a central resource, a spot to go with your needs and come away with an answer," said Joshua Shepherd, ASCC President and Navy veteran. "Being able to come and meet fellow student veterans, you have an instant rapport with those individuals and it really eases the transition."

The idea for a dedicated space for veterans was formalized after being studied in the 2008-2009 academic year by a committee headed by Dr. Linda Fontanilla.