

## Rick Hopcraft Memorial Veterans' Scholarship 2022 Recipient



**Michael Bañuelos**

**A U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, and currently Team Leader for VetForward and Graduate Assistant at the CSU Fullerton Veterans' Resource Center, Michael will use his scholarship, to pursue his master's degree in Social Work.**

**"Too many veterans lose their lives each year to suicide. I hope to provide effective community mental health services for my fellow service veterans."**

Michael graduated from Northview High School in Covina and entered the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He was highly decorated for his military service, including achievements during the global war on terror as Navy Seal. Michael received multiple awards during his service.

Michael has been a leader in assisting student veterans, serving his residency as administrative chief of the Student Veterans Association. He is CSU Fullerton's 2021-22 Student Veteran of the Year.

"The life skills and work ethic I learned from the Marine Corps have stayed with me since I exited in 2019. The money from this scholarship is going to help me tremendously on my academic journey to be a social worker. The support this scholarship has given us veterans is incredible."

