The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced revitalized collaborations with Brentwood School and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. An agreement with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), VA’s academic affiliate at the West LA VA campus had been announced in January of this year. Consistent with the Framework Draft Master Plan these agreements secure more robust in-kind services, increased financial compensation, and additional opportunities aimed at benefitting Veterans and their families.

**UCLA**

In addition to a strengthened academic affiliation to benefit our nation’s Veterans, UCLA has committed to providing $1.65 million annually in support of new programs and services, this includes:

- $300,000 a year in fair-market rent for continued use of Jackie Robinson Stadium for a term of ten years.
- $750,000 annually to design and implement a UCLA-VA Family Resource & Well-Being Center and a Homeless Mental Health and Addictions Center for Excellence
- $400,000 annually for a UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic at the West LA VA to serve Veterans there
- $200,000 annually of in-kind services such as recreation, establishment of new fellowship programs, campus safety and beautification and new leisure, and therapeutic activities for veterans and their families at Jackie Robinson Stadium;

“Beyond research and teaching, UCLA’s other core mission is service and I can think of no better way to serve our community than through an even stronger partnership with the VA,” Chancellor Block said. “Secretary McDonald’s commitment to transform the West Los Angeles campus into a truly veteran-centric place that modernizes programs and offers greater opportunities has inspired UCLA to explore new ways to work with VA. We’re confident that together we will make a bigger difference in veterans’ lives than either of us would alone.”
Brentwood School

Brentwood School will continue its longstanding partnership with VA; it is a relationship with expanded services that directly benefit Veterans and their families and will help us to achieve the goals that are consistent with the Framework Draft Master Plan. The 22-acres that Brentwood School uses as an athletic complex will remain a flexible green space for Veteran recreational and athletic activities. VA’s revitalized agreement with Brentwood School includes a robust financial commitment from the school of more than $1.7 million per year. Through the creation of the Veteran Center for Recreation and Education at Brentwood School (VCRE), the school will offer expanded recreational, vocational, educational, and wellness services. Already, Veterans and their families have utilized the athletic facilities, attended special programs, and benefitted from educational opportunities. Most recently, Brentwood School provided 120 full scholarship slots to Veteran children during its 2016 Summer Camp program, and all spaces were filled in less than 30 days’ time. Adult educational and vocational opportunities will continue to be an ongoing part of the school’s community-service support. Brentwood representatives responded by adding that adult educational and vocational opportunities will continue to be an ongoing part of the school’s community-service support. Enjoying more than 45 years of partnership with VA, they say its students and academic projects have dedicated countless hours to veteran programs. “We know that our continued and strong relationship with VA will directly benefit even more veterans and their family members,” said Head of School Dr. Michael Riera. “This will help us all achieve the objectives and goals of the VA Master Plan, resulting in more benefits to the entire community. Students and faculty are excited about the opportunity to become even more engaged with Veterans.”

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Barrington Park, now re-named “Veterans Barrington Park,” consists of approximately 12 acres of land on the West Los Angeles VA Campus. Under a renewed license agreement with the Department of Veteran Affairs, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks has agreed to provide maintenance and upkeep of the existing community park, provide beautification and on-site recreational activities, build a memorial to honor and recognize the service of American Veterans, reduce then work to re-locate the existing dog park to another nearby site, and ensure that Veterans will have priority access to the park. Additionally, under the terms of the lease, the Department of Recreation and Parks will provide up to $200,000 in in-kind consideration to advertise, promote, and hire Veterans with the City of Los Angeles.
Other Updates

- Capacity studies regarding utilities on the campus are underway. Reports are anticipated in late 2017.

- West Los Angeles National Cemetery Columbaria Expansion is currently in design and solicitation for construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2017.

- VA continues to review current land use and service agreements to ensure the campus is principally Veteran focused. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Implementation of these agreements is conditioned on passage of federal legislation authored by U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu, currently entitled the “Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act.

For more details around the new initiatives and services available for Veterans, please visit: http://www.losangeles.va.gov