

ARNG Education News

Excellence Through Education

A Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Communiqué

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What Is the Council of College and Military Educators?

A History of the Council of College and Military Educators

By Dr. Fred Huber, President Emeritus

Historical Research by Evelyn Hardin, CCME Past President 1993

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) had its beginning in California. A group of Education Services Officers (ESOs) gathered in the early 1970s to exchange ideas on how to best serve the needs of military personnel who desired a college education. From this early beginning, it was decided that they would meet annually in early February. They further decided that educational institutions providing education for the military, both on and off base, should be invited to send a representative to the conferences. It was in 1973 when the first annual conference of California Community Colleges and Military Education Association (CCCMEA) met with John Harmes as the group's chairman. At the annual conference in San Francisco in 1994, the organization was renamed Council of College and Military Educators to more accurately reflect the membership and

its role in military education. Conference sites over the years have included Santa Barbara, Long Beach, Palm Springs, Monterey, San Diego, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle, Albuquerque, and Tampa.

The first conference held outside California was in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the second in Seattle, Washington. It was evident that ESOs from across the nation, as well as educational institutions, were benefiting from membership with CCME. It was also significant that participation from the Department of Defense, Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) and the Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support (DANTES) was very much apparent by the appearance of their representatives.

CCME continues to demonstrate its ability to address the ever-changing landscape in the well-established partnership between the military services, colleges and universities. Each annual symposium provides a forum for discussions concerning the rising cost of education within constrained military budgets, the increasing reliance on outsourcing and contracting in the education services community, and the resulting serious implications on the services and institutions, and, ultimately, on the military student.

CCME Conference To Be Held in Monterey, California in January 2007

The time is drawing near for the 2007 CCME Symposium and I hope you are as excited as I am. Monterey is a beautiful city and promises to give us the perfect backdrop for our annual symposium. The Portola Plaza is right on Fisherman's Wharf where you can hear the sea lions barking and feel the crisp breeze coming in from the Bay. There is an abundance of restaurants, quaint little shops, and historical sites to capture your attention. Not to mention some of the most beautiful golf courses in the world, for you golfers.

When you tear yourself away from all that, I think you will find a fabulous opportunity for professional development and networking with friends and associates at the CCME Symposium. As usual, we have a full agenda planned for you, but we have built in time for you to conduct those all-important side meetings and discussions.

Our theme this year, "Joint Patriots ... Driving Transformation," centers round our military service members. You will notice a decided military focus to the symposium (after all, I am the "military" president). Whether you are employed by the military, an institution, or a corporation, you are a part of the transformation that is taking place in military voluntary education. Representatives from DoD, DANTES, SOC, and each of the military services will give you their perspective on the changes that are taking place. We will also cover a wide

array of topics on concurrent sessions day (Wednesday) that I believe will spur much thought and discussion.

All of this could not be possible without the fabulous group of people you have working for you on the CCME Executive Board. This group of twenty (including elected officers, committee chairmen, and ex officio members) has worked diligently to make the 2007 Symposium an event that will enlighten you, enhance your communication with each other, and plant seeds for future growth and collaboration in the military voluntary education world.

I'm sure you can appreciate that a lot goes on behind the scenes to make a symposium of this magnitude come together. In addition to planning the symposium, the Board has worked hard to make needed revisions to the bylaws, re-vamp our registration process, promote our scholarship program, and select deserving individuals and institutions for this year's CCME Awards.

Thanks to all the employers of our Board Members for allowing them the time and the financial support to serve CCME.

And thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of CCME. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Monterey!

Sherri Sims
President
Council of College and Military Educators

Six Regional Coordinators Set To Expand Services To Veterans At Minnesota's Colleges And Universities

By Melinda Voss

Reprinted with permission from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System

A new initiative has begun assisting thousands of military veterans returning to Minnesota's colleges and universities to complete a higher education program and successfully resume civilian life.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs received a \$600,000 annual appropriation from the Legislature to establish and run six regional veterans assistance offices. Donald Pfeffer, who developed the veterans center at Central Lakes College, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, will direct this statewide effort under a contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. The initiative is being funded for five years.

The regional offices, which opened Aug. 14, will assist all 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota and other colleges enhance services and programs for veterans and their families. Specifically, the veterans assistance offices will provide information, resources and referrals about veterans benefits, the Montgomery GI bill, psychological assistance and physical injury support.

Six regional coordinators will work with faculty and staff to identify and remove barriers for veterans to successfully completing a college education.

"Often, veterans who attend college have unique issues that deserve some special attention," said Clark Dyrud, Minnesota's commissioner of veterans affairs. "Coming back from combat is especially challenging. With the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' excellent track record in serving veterans, this approach offers an efficient way to meet the needs of the men and women who have served in our military, and particularly the individuals returning from Iraq and Afghanistan."

The six regional offices will be based at Minnesota State University Moorhead, Lake Superior College in Duluth, St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota State University, Mankato and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

"Although the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have a long and proud history of serving veterans, we are grateful that the Legislature provided additional funding for us to improve existing services," said Chancellor James H. McCormick. "Many veterans face personal, relationship, education and employment issues upon complet-

ing a tour of duty in the military. The enhanced services will go a long way toward ensuring that veterans adjust to college and return successfully to civilian life."

Each of the six institutions housing an office will make its own significant investment by providing office space, supplies and equipment. Some institutions within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system have established veterans centers or clubs. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities opened a veterans center in 2005.

Donald Pfeffer, coordinator of the Central Lakes College veterans center, has been hired to direct the statewide effort. "The need to expand programs and services for veterans coming to our campuses has become increasingly apparent," Pfeffer said. "Veterans' families also may need help while their loved ones serve overseas and when they return home. By supporting that family, we support the military member." An estimated 70 percent of the members of the military are married.

"Our colleges and universities can help veterans connect with each other. Sometimes, just talking with others who have been in the military and share common experiences can ease their transition," Pfeffer added.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 8,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard have been mobilized for overseas duty. At least 3,000 Guard members are expected to return from Iraq next spring, which will be the largest one-time release in the state's history. Thousands of other Minnesotans who have been in the regular branches of the armed forces or in military reserve units also are completing their service and going to college.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system comprises 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 240,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 130,000 students in non-credit courses.

Excelsior College Offers Homeland Security Certificate

If you're interested in a career in homeland security, a new certificate program from Excelsior College can help you reach that goal. There's never a better time to pursue an opportunity to be part of this growing and vital field to ensure the safety and security of your country, its infrastructure, institutions, economy, and most important, its people.

The online Homeland Security Certificate will introduce you to domestic and international terrorism issues and strategies for countering terrorist threats. In addition, you'll learn ways to identify best practices for successful security planning and threat assessment. The key principles of emergency

management and disaster planning will be presented as you learn to deal with both man-made and natural threats.

Developed by a group of national experts in the field of Criminal Justice, this Certificate program offers you five 3-credit courses for a total of 15 undergraduate credits. The Homeland Security Certificate is an online, distance-learning program, allowing you to complete your studies at a time and place convenient to your life. The credits earned can also be applied toward an Excelsior College Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice major or toward the Bachelor of Science, Liberal Studies degree.

Course terms begin every two months and you can apply for the Certificate program at any time using the downloadable application form available at:

<https://www.excelsior.edu/>

follow the "School of Liberal Arts" link.

For more information, contact the Admissions office toll free phone: 888-647-2388 (press 2-7 at the automated greeting) or Email admissions@excelsior.edu.

SOCGuard Events

This quarter, SOCGuard has been involved in several events in support of Education Services in the Army National Guard. In October, SOCGuard staff presented an overview and information on Activation and Mobilization at the Education Services Course at PEC in North Little Rock, AR. We visited with college representatives on campus at the University of Little Rock-Arkansas, and met with administrators at Central Baptist College, and Pulaski Tech located on post at Camp Robinson. As a result of those meetings, Pulaski Tech and Central Baptist College have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the ARNG to partner with the Education Support Center (ESC). National University in California has also signed an agreement. The programs from these three institutions will soon be available to ARNG soldiers interested in beginning, continuing, or completing a degree through the ESC.

In November, SOCGuard and the LAARNG conducted a college workshop at Louisiana State University in Alexandria, and at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. The purpose of these workshops is to bring together representatives from schools around the state to learn about new policies and procedures for processing ARNG education benefits.

Also in November, the SOCGuard Program Manager participated in a presentation on "What Military Students Look for When Returning to College" at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The presentation highlighted differ-

ences and similarities between the Soldier's and the traditional college student's view of college and how the attendees could leverage their SOC membership to increase their effectiveness in working with the military. In addition, he and CPT Carl Meredith, State ESO, visited the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to encourage them to join SOC and to review the procedures for processing FTA.

We will be involved in many more activities in the coming months including college workshops and fairs, higher education conferences, campus visits, and recruiter training.

Be sure to give us a call if you would like to conduct a college workshop, visit the colleges in your state, if you have issues to troubleshoot, and anything else with which SOCGuard staff may assist you. We're committed to help to make your education program a success! Visit our web site at:

<http://www.soc.aascu.org/socguard>.

You can also reach the SOCGuard staff toll free at 1-800-368-5622.

We look forward to working with you.

To learn more about ARNG education
go to:

<http://www.virtualarmy.com/>
and follow the "Education" link.