Happy Holidays Everyone!

Time has surely passed quickly this year. It’s hard to believe we are only two months away from our annual symposium is Nashville. So, now is the time to register for the symposium and make hotel reservations, if you haven’t done so already.

“Early bird” registration for the symposium ends in a few weeks on 31 December. CCME members can register now at the discounted rate of $325. Non-members can register at a cost of $375. Registration after 31 December will increase to $450 for both groups after this date. Also, although the Renaissance was very generous in providing 40% of the rooms at the government rate, we have been informed that the block has been completely sold out. For those seeking a government rate, please contact the Marriott Courtyard (a few blocks away) at 800-321-2211. Please don’t delay, register now. Federal employees and military personnel using their government issued credit cards can choose to defer payment until 1 February 2010 on the payment option screen during the registration process.

As in the past, our Nashville symposium is shaping up to be the premier professional development event of 2010 for all of us working in the military voluntary education business. Committed speakers include: Jack Tilley, former Sergeant Major of the Army and co-founder of the American Freedom Festival; Keith Wilson, Director of Education Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs; Pat Shanaghan, MyCAA Program Director; Carolyn Baker, Chief of DoD Education, and we’ll have several engaging panels comprising the Services Education Chiefs and college presidents. There will also be over 20 distinct concurrent sessions covering a variety of informative and relevant topics, including two Post 9/11 GI Bill Question and Answer sessions with Keith Wilson. It doesn’t get any better than this!

This year will also be a first for CCME as entertainment will be provided at both the President’s Reception on Monday evening and the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening. The Tennessee Army National Guard 129th Army Band, “Direct Hit” will perform during the President’s Reception. For you country music fans, don’t be surprised if you bump into someone who looks like Minnie Pearl or Garth Brooks – so have your camera ready! Our Awards Banquet will be equally entertaining with Tim Watson and the Black Creek band performing during and after the banquet and comedian Dick Hardwick who has toured with many top acts, including a trip to Iraq to entertain the troops.

Well, that’s all for now. Please don’t procrastinate and register now for the symposium. The annual symposiums have proven to be great events and our Nashville venue promises the same.

On behalf of the entire CCME Board of Directors, I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you in Nashville. Register today!

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“THE LEGENDARY” DR. JEFF CROPSEY LEAVES DANTES

After more than 40 years of service to the Department of Defense Dr. Jeff Cropsey will be leaving DANTES and the Federal Service effective 2 January 2010.
Cropsey began his military career in August 1969 as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. After attending Military Police Officer training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, he spent the next 3 years as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He left as a Captain in 1972. In July 1972 Dr Cropsey began his career in Voluntary Education. For the next 37 years he worked in Army, Air Force, Navy and DANTES Voluntary Education positions around the World. For the last almost 5 years Cropsey has served as the Director of DANTES.

According to Cropsey, “It has been such a blessing to work with so many wonderful people from all the Services over these 40 years. I am proud of what we have done together in the Voluntary Education Community to help the members of the Armed Forces achieve their educational goals and I look forwarded to continuing that service in the future.”

A luncheon honoring Dr. Cropsey is planned for 18 December at the Mustin Beach Officers Club at NAS Pensacola. For additional information contact Ms. Nell Mock at 850.452.1111 x 3150 or doris.mock@navy.mil

**THIS YEAR’S ENTERTAINMENT**

**TIM WATSON & MORE**

You may have seen Tim performing with some of the top country music artists over the years. He has worked for many stars like Tammy Wynette, Randy Travis, Willie Nelson and many more.

Or you may have seen him on Good Morning America, The Today Show, Nashville Now, Prime Time Country, or Hee Haw.

Tim has performed multiple times at the Grand Ole Opry over the last 25 years. He had the #1 show at Opryland theme park for over 5 years and has had the #1 show in Nashville for the last 10 years aboard the world’s largest showboat the “General Jackson.”

He is known as one of the best fiddle players in the world and will have everyone completely entertained with his crazy antics and incredible band of some of Nashville’s best musicians.

In addition to Tim Watson and the Black Creek Band, you’ll also enjoy a few laughs with Comedian Dick Hardwick and during the President’s Reception, enjoy the Tennessee Army National Guard 129th Army Band, “Direct Hit.”

**SOC’S BURNING ISSUE SUMMIT II: MILITARY STUDENT RETENTION AND DEGREE COMPLETION – MEASURING SUCCESS**

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) invites college and military educators to participate in a "Burning Issues" Summit on Monday, February 15, 2010, 1:30-3:30 p.m. as a pre-conference event at the 2010 CCME Symposium. The meeting room (yet to be confirmed) will be in the Nashville Renaissance Hotel.  **(Check at the CCME Symposium registration area at the hotel for the assigned meeting location.)**

**The Issue:** Given the high operations tempo of military students, the demands of their mission, and their diverse attendance patterns:

- What promising practices might institutions adopt to demonstrate military student persistence toward program or degree completion?
- What are realistic retention rates for this sub-population of adult learners?
- What metrics would help us understand the retention and degree completion patterns of this population of learners?
The Department of Defense’s tuition assistance policy provides educational funds for servicemembers to enable them to pursue off-duty education opportunities that support their academic, technical, intellectual, personal, and professional development, thereby contributing to the readiness of the Armed Forces as well as the quality of life of servicemembers and their families. In recent years, the military services have placed greater emphasis on student retention and degree completion rates as indicators of program success. Priorities have shifted from individual course enrollment to program completions at the certificate, diploma, or collegiate degree level.

This Burning Issues Summit will provide an opportunity for SOC Consortium member institutions to identify pervasive challenges and showcase promising practices in retaining military students and supporting them in their academic endeavors.

- Panel discussions highlighting existing policies, practices, and tracking systems will provide promising models for measuring persistence toward degree completion.
- Roundtable discussions will provide an opportunity for dialogue among institutions on successful retention and degree completion strategies.

According to Kathy Snead, “We envision this summit as an opportunity to identify potential solutions, exchange success stories and best practices, explore partnering opportunities, and hopefully generate policy resolutions or recommendations that will be communicated with DOD Continuing Education Programs and Voluntary Education Service leadership.”

**Burning Issues Summit Agenda**

1300-1330 The Issue: Measuring Military Student Retention and Completion Rates
1330-1400 Panel: Promising Practices of Distance Learning Providers
1400-1430 Panel: Promising Practices of Campus-centered Providers

1430-1440 Break
1440-1530 Roundtable Discussion: Retention Strategies with Military Student Populations

The Burning Issues Summit will be hosted by SOC. For more information about the event, contact Sonja Ferguson at (800) 368-5622, (202) 667-0079, or fergusons@aascu.org.

**DOES YOUR STATE HAVE AN ACME?**

On Monday, Feb. 15, most, if not all, of the state ACME’s will be holding their regional meetings. Please visit the CCME Website for a link to your state ACME. See agenda for Monday’s schedule.

**CCME’S NEW WEBSITE AND INDTAI**

Special thanks to the pro-bono efforts of our friends at Indtai, Inc., and their Military Community Academic Explorer platform for the new look and feel of the CCME Website. Future plans call for a Discussion Forum that will allow members to engage in conversation with their colleagues on key issues in the realm of higher education. We’re all passionate about what we do, and this will be a great virtual meeting place to share ideas, address issues, and network with those sharing common interests. A special shout out to Erik Kovacs who is the “man behind the website.” We welcome suggestions to continue to make the website more user-friendly and of value to our membership.

**CCME MEMBERSHIP**

The CCME Annual Membership is valid from March 1 through February. So, your 2009/10 Membership allows you the reduced registration rate for the 2010 Symposium. Your membership status also provides you the opportunity to vote for your 2010/11 CCME Executive Board during the CCME Business meeting slated for Thursday morning, Feb. 17.
Visit the website to learn about this year’s nominees.

If you’re not yet a member or plan to renew visit the CCME website and Join today! As a member of CCME, you belong to the largest international organization dedicated to promoting, encouraging, and delivering quality education to servicemembers and their families in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The annual symposium attracts 1,000 or more attendees and facilitates networking among key leadership across that nation.

CCME 2010 Agenda
February 15-18, 2010

Sun, Feb. 14 Pre-Conference Meetings

1500-1900 Registration Open

1600-2000 State Advisory Councils for Military Education (ACME) Presidents’ Reception
CCME President’s Suite, Renaissance Hotel (Invitation only)

Mon., Feb. 15 Pre-Conference Meetings

0800-1600 Army Day
Renaissance Hotel

1300-1500 SOC’s Burning Issue Summit II:
Military Student Retention and Degree Completion—Measuring Success

1700-1800 Guest Speakers’ Reception
(all general session presenters invited)
CCME President’s Suite, Renaissance Hotel

1800-2100 President’s Reception, Exhibit Hall Opening, and Education Fair
Convention Center
(all attendees invited)

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

0700-0800 Continental Breakfast
Renaissance Hotel

0700-1200 Registration Open

0700-1700 Exhibit Hall Open

0800-0830 Opening Ceremony

0830-0845 Welcome – Mayor Karl Dean (invited)

0845-0930 Keynote Speaker – Jack Tilley
Sergeant Major of the Army (retired);
Co-founder of American Freedom Festival

0930-1015 Carolyn Baker
Chief, DoD Continuing Education

1015-1045 Break and Refreshments
Convention Center Exhibit Hall

1045-1145 Distance Learning Quality Panel
Moderator: Dr. Michael Herberling
President, Baker College Center for Graduate Studies

1200-1700 Exhibit Hall Set-up
Convention Center
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1145-1330</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Presentation (hosted by CCME)</td>
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<td>Renaissance Nashville Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speaker: Carolyn Baker, DoD MOU Update and Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>1330-1500</td>
<td>Service Chiefs/Presidents Panel</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dr. Bruce Chaloux, President, The Sloan Consortium</td>
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<td>1500-1530</td>
<td>Break and Refreshments</td>
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<td>Convention Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530-1630</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies for Online Learning Panel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moderator/Panel Coordinator: John Bourne, Executive Director, The</td>
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<td>Sloan Consortium</td>
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<tr>
<td>1630-1700</td>
<td>Keith Wilson, Director, Education Services Department of Veterans’</td>
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<td>Affairs</td>
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**Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

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<tr>
<td>0700-0800</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>Renaissance Hotel</td>
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<td>0700-1500</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
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<td>0800-0915</td>
<td>Spouse and Family Member Panel</td>
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<td>Moderator: Kelley Mustion, Military Spouse</td>
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<td>0915-1030</td>
<td>Active Duty and Veterans Student Panel; Moderator: Dr. Randy Plunkett,</td>
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<td>CCME Secretary-Elect</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030-1100</td>
<td>Break and Refreshments</td>
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<td>1100-1200</td>
<td>Reserve Component Panel</td>
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<td>Moderator: LTC Mark E. Quartullo, Office of the Secretary of Defense</td>
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<td>for Manpower and Reserve Affairs</td>
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**Thursday, February 18, 2010**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0700-0800</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>0800-0845</td>
<td>CCME Business Meeting, Board Nominee Speeches/Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900-1000</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000-1030</td>
<td>Break and Refreshments</td>
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<td>1030-1130</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1130-1300</td>
<td>Lunch (on your own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300-1400</td>
<td>Service Chiefs/&amp; University Presidents Panel</td>
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<td>1400-1430</td>
<td>Dr. Kathy Snead, President Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges</td>
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1430-1500  Break

1500-1545  Pat Shanaghan  
MyCAA Program Analyst

1545-1630  Brigadier General Gary H. Cheek  
Assistant Surgeon General, Warrior  
Care and Transition, & Commander of  
the Warrior TransitionCommand

1830-2100  Awards Banquet, Dancing and  
Entertainment  
Renaissance Hotel

Fri. Feb. 19  Post-Conference Meetings

0800-1200  Army ESO Training  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

0900-1000  2011 CCME Board Meeting  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

1000-1300  NAIMES Meeting  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

Elected Executive Board Members:

President  
James Sweizer (American Military Univ)

Immediate Past President  
M. Kathleen Connolly (ARMY)

President-Elect  
Belinda Jones (USMC)

Vice-President, Institutions  
Linda Frank (ESC)

Vice-President, Military  
Amy Moorash (ARMY)

Secretary  
Joycelyn Groot (Coastline)

Assistant Secretary  
Randy Plunkett (Devry)

Treasurer,  
Bonnie Orvick (Retired Education)

Historian  
John “J.J.” Jones (UMUC)

Appointed Board Members:

Chair, Awards Committee  
Amaya Davis (Florida JC)

Chair, Concurrent Sessions  
Dawn Rich (Air Force)

Chair, Memberships  
Ginny Newman (Penn State)

Chair, Scholarships  
Michael Midura (Strayer)

Chair, Sponsorships  
Valerie Halseth (Air Force)

ACME Liaison  
Billy Wells (Ret. Air Force COL)

DoD Liaison  
Kerrie Tucker

NAIMES Liaison  
Ramona McAfee (Columbia College)

FROM COMBAT BOOTS TO  
COWBOY BOOTS.....

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s  
symposium. As you can see from the agenda, there  
will be a great deal of value to gain, information to  
learn, and friends to see.

Enjoy the venue and network with those, like  
you, who are passionate about providing education to  
our servicemembers.

The Dress Code is business casual. We  
encourage you to enjoy the Nashville venue, so bring  
your boots and hats and get down to business and get  
down to the “Boot Scootin’ Boogie!”

We hope to see you in Nashville!