From your President
Lane Huber

As the Council of College and Military Educators moves into another new year we find ourselves barely having time to digest all the great information and conversations from the 2017 professional development symposium in Atlanta. I tip my hat to Franc Lopez and his board for an outstanding event that brought together nearly 1,000 attendees from all aspects of the military and veteran voluntary education communities. I especially want to thank all the speakers and presenters that made the 2017 symposium an incredible experience for those in attendance.

During several conversations in Atlanta I kept hearing a recurring theme... that while the noble effort to provide educational opportunities to our service members, veterans and their families hasn't changed, how this is accomplished definitely has. Institutional budget cuts, changes in base access protocol, and the use of electronic portals for requesting tuition assistance and tracking student success are all issues that make us feel a bit “uncomfortable” and force us to change how we do our daily business.

Change in any aspect of life is imminent, and our small world of military and veteran education is not immune. The entire landscape of what we do is transitioning at breath-taking speed. Initially many are prone to push back against new processes and procedures and lament about how it "just isn't the same" as it used to be. I challenge our community, instead, to accept the change, and in fact, embrace it. John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future".

(continued on page 2)
With the challenges of change inevitably comes opportunity. I'm hoping we can focus on that in the upcoming year.

In April our new CCME board met in San Diego to begin the preparation for the 2018 professional development symposium. As I looked around the room I saw a lot of new faces with a lot of new ideas. What an exciting time to have the privilege of serving this great organization!

One notable topic that was discussed was the method by which we welcome newcomers to the symposium and how we may serve our new members in a better, more efficient manner. In the past, we’ve had a “newcomer’s breakfast” and have offered a “newcomers track” of concurrent sessions. These have both been popular but the board really thought we could be doing more. The result will be a “newcomers pre-conference workshop/luncheon” that will be held Monday afternoon, before the symposium officially kicks off on Tuesday morning. This will give board members and other volunteers a chance to really sit down with our new members and familiarize them with CCME and how to make the most of their time at the symposium. I have asked Janine Wert (CCME President Elect) and Trent Orndorf (American InterContinental University) to lead this inaugural event. More to follow as this event continues to take shape.

One other item that was discussed was the possibility of replacing the “roundtable” sessions with something more structured and substantive. While some roundtables over the years have produced excellent discussions, they are, by nature, difficult to manage at times and often conversations have veered off course. This is probably the number one complaint we receive from the post-conference surveys. We are looking, instead, at adding additional concurrent sessions (highly requested through the surveys) and some sort of “super sessions” that will be larger, speaker-driven discussions. We will be fleshing through details of what that will exactly look like in the coming months. As always, check back to our website (www.ccmeonline.org) frequently and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news.

I'm expecting a lot from this board, and a lot from the upcoming symposium. I am sure, however, that with a lot of hard work and a great deal of input from our membership, 2018 in San Diego will be another terrific event.

I look forward to seeing you there,

Lane
“Past President’s Message”

From the Past President
Francisco ‘Franc’ Lopez

“What happened?”

Looking back over the course of the last year, I am truly amazed at how much was done in preparation for the 2017 CCME Professional Development Symposium. Just thinking about it makes me tired (smile). There are not enough praises that would completely satisfy how appreciative I am to your CCME Board. They are the best and they made my tenure as your President so much easier.

The hard work of the CCME Board bore its fruits of labor as the comments submitted were positive and also constructive in providing lessons learned and recommendations to make next year’s Symposium in San Diego CA, March 26-29, 2018, even better. Analyzing metrics and data affirms results and the final numbers have been tabulated. I would like to share them with all of you so that you can do your own assessments.

We had 937 attendees this past symposium, 70 exhibitors, 25 sponsors, and 429 CCME members. Of the 937 attendees, 526 came from institutions of higher learning, totaling 214 different institutions, 85 first time attending institutions, remarkable.

This past Symposium saw the most DOD/DHS and Veteran presence in over 4 years; 114 government employees, 24 current military service members, and 127 military education center employees. We also had a fair mix of attendees coming from 101 first time organizations, 314 new attendees to the CCME Symposium, and 59 “others” that included businesses and corporations from the private sector.

Your new Board is hard at work. President (Lane) Huber is leading the way, putting to task lessons learned, administrative issues are being resolved, and the theme, branding, and accommodations for the 2018 Professional Development Symposium are being developed, organized, and moving forward.

An onsite Board meeting has already been conducted and task lists are being executed. Your Board will be meeting monthly to provide updates, discuss issues and concerns, make decisions that will guide your CCME into the future, and continue to represent each of you in the best manner possible.

These are exciting times. New leadership from the very top of our great nation down to the lowest levels of organizations, change is at hand and with that a future that can only be bright, uplifting, and without reservations. Your CCME Board is optimistic, confident, realistic and hopeful but never silent, so be sure that if you have recommendations to make our CCME better than yesterday you voice them today to your Board.

“The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.” (Abraham Lincoln)

Aloha,

Franc.
CCME Membership Reminder

Have you submitted your individual or institutional membership fees for the 2017/18 year? If not, don’t miss out on the benefits of CCME membership and join today.

New benefit coming in 2017/18! As a member, you will receive access to a “CCME Members-only” News and Discussion Forum site. This site will be used to exchange timely and relevant information impacting the DoD Voluntary and Veteran Education communities and a venue to seek and provide input to/from your colleagues in the field. We anticipate launching this site in early Fall and all members will be notified at that time.

Other benefits include:

- Discounted Annual Symposium Registration and Exhibitors fees
- Access to CCME newsletters throughout the year
- Eligibility for your students to apply and receive one of our several annual CCME Scholarships
  - [http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships](http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships)
- A link from the CCME website to your organization's website
- Use of the CCME Member logo on Organization’s/Institution’s and ACME Affiliate websites and literature

Membership fees support the CCME Scholarship Endowment Fund. The fund is dedicated to promoting education opportunities for qualified active duty service members, drilling reservists, National Guard members and their spouses. Contributions to the fund are provided in two ways:

- 50% of all CCME membership dues are deposited into the Scholarship Fund.
- Organizations and/or individuals, members and non-members, may choose to make a charitable donation to the Scholarship Endowment fund at any time. Donations may be given in honor or in memory of an individual. Donors also have the option to honor an organization through their donation.

The CCME membership year runs from April 1 through March 31. Annual membership categories and rates are as follows:

- $50 - Individual
- $500 – Organization/Institution (Includes Memberships for 15 Individuals within the Organization/Institution)

Join today and take advantage of your CCME Membership benefits!

Joycelyn Groot, Membership Chair, CCME, jgroot@coastline.edu
[http://www.ccmeonline.org/membership](http://www.ccmeonline.org/membership)
Registration:
Registration for the 2018 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Professional Development Symposium occurring at the San Diego Marriott Marquis, San Diego, CA from March 26-29, 2018 is OPEN. Early Bird pricing expires November 30, 2017, after which normal full registration fees apply (and increase by $50). CCME Members receive a reduced registration rate, regardless.

Complimentary registration codes for eligible Exhibitors and Sponsors will be distributed by Registration Headquarters. Please visit www.ccmeonline.org to register for the symposium.

Member: $450 (early bird)// $500 (regular) // $225 (1-day) // $400 (2-day)  
Non member: $550 (early bird) // $600 (regular) // $275 (1-day) // $450 (2-day)  
On-site registration: $700 (full) // $375 (1-day) // $550 (2-day)  
Reception/Lunches for Guest: $75 (regular)// $25 (ages 5-12) // 4 and under free

Early Bird pricing runs through January 15, 2018. Early Bird pricing is available (check or credit card) only if payment is received by Early Bird deadline

EXCEPTION: those paying with a US Government Travel Card will owe the amount based on registration date; payment will be automatically charged on March 1, 2018 unless cancelled beforehand.

Hotel:
Hotel reservations can be made at the following link from the CCME website: http://www.ccmeonline.org/2018hotels. Please note, the Government Rate is valid for government ID cardholders ONLY, for approximately 30% of total rooms at the Marriott. Please make reservations as soon as possible. CCME or its agent will NOT contact you to solicit credit card information and/or setting up room reservations; if you receive messages of this sort, it is a SCAM. The only way to make symposium hotel room reservations is through our web-link or Marriott reservation line.

Exhibitors and Sponsors:
Exhibitors and Sponsors play an integral role in the success of our annual Professional Development Symposium. Without our exhibitors and sponsors, we would not be able to continue this annual event. We offer reduced Exhibition fees to our Organization Members and for Early Bird applicants. Additionally, Exhibitors receive one full complimentary symposium registration. Sponsors can receive up to two complimentary symposium registrations! Please consider showcasing your organization with an exhibition booth and/or one of our many value added sponsorship opportunities.

Exhibit space and Sponsorships for the symposium are available. Please visit www.ccmeonline.org to download the Exhibition/Sponsorship application. We look forward to seeing and collaborating with you in San Diego!
Step Forward Challenge!

Based on the feedback from participants, our Inaugural Step Forward with CCME 2017 event was a great success and we are already preparing for the 2nd Annual Step Forward event when we gather in San Diego for CCME 2018.

Although we didn’t quite reach our goal to walk from Atlanta to San Diego, our 87 participants together walked a total of 1,067 miles (almost to Austin). The event raised $1,325.34 toward the Endowment Fund for student scholarships.

The Team Winners: 1ST Place Team – SUNY Empire State College; 2ND Place Team – #BakerProud (Baker College Online); and 3rd Place Team – Duquesne School of Nursing.

Individual Winners: Miyako Schanely, SUNY North Country Consortium; Jaime Lawler, Bismarck State College; Nora Graves, University of Maryland University College; Chris Beckler, Bismarck State College; and Dawn Prueter, Baker College Online.

A special thanks to the Coastline Community College planning team for organizing the 2017 event and coordinating efforts for next year!

Mark your calendars for CCME 2018, slated for March 26-29, 2018, and plan to walk with us from San Diego to Austin! We may also host a Boot Camp in addition to the Step Forward event. Details and registration will be posted to the CCME website soon!

More information on the benefits of walking along with tips can be found at the Mayo Clinic’s website at

http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/walking/art-20046261

Did you know?

According to the Mayo Clinic, walking can be beneficial to:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes
- Strengthen your bones and muscles
- Improve your mood
- Improve your balance and coordination

The Mayo Clinic recommends the following when walking:

- Your head is up. You're looking forward, not at the ground.
- Your neck, shoulders and back are relaxed, not stiffly upright.
- You're swinging your arms freely with a slight bend in your elbows. A little pumping with your arms is OK.
- Your stomach muscles are slightly tightened and your back is straight, not arched forward or backward.
- You're walking smoothly, rolling your foot from heel to toe.
CCME Annual Awards

Do you know a key person or organization that has made a difference in the voluntary education community? Nominations for the following awards will be taken from June 9, 2017 through October 3, 2017. Awards will be chosen from nominations by the CCME Awards Committee and presented at the annual awards luncheon at the 2018 Symposium in San Diego, CA. Categories include:

**John Brian Service and Leadership Award**
Presented to a government employee in recognition of their outstanding service to the voluntary education community.

**William E. Kennedy Award**
Recognizes outstanding dedication and leadership in the delivery of quality programs to military installations and/or individuals.

**CCME Corporate Award**
Presented to an organization in recognition of its significant contributions to the cause of military education.

**CCME Institution Award**
Presented to a higher education institution in recognition of its significant contributions to the cause of military education.

**Barry Cobb Government Organization Award**
Recognizes the outstanding contributions that government entities make to military education.

**Gary Woods Advisory Council on Military Education Award**
Recognizes an ACME for its significant contributions to the cause of military and/or veteran education.

More information will be posted during the nomination period at [http://www.ccmeonline.org/awards](http://www.ccmeonline.org/awards).

Our 2018 symposium in San Diego, CA will host another full day devoted to small group forums called Concurrent Sessions. These sessions are designed to facilitate the exchange of information on educational programs, strategies and innovation that assist service members and veterans to achieve academic and career success.

For the Veterans

By Beki Miller, Veteran’s Chairperson

CCME recognizes that the landscape of voluntary education is shifting from being active duty centric to the incorporation of veterans in our classrooms. Veterans bring knowledge and experience to classroom discussions allowing for a well-rounded learning environment for civilian students. As schools across the country make sure that out-of-high school freshmen are taken care of while getting their education, what sort of ideas are being brought out throughout the nation to take care of our veterans? Many schools are adopting a more holistic and comprehensive approach to helping veterans as they transition out of the military. Communities realize that in order to help student veterans they must also learn about mental health and disability resources available to those that have served. There are hundreds of non-profit organizations in each state that have dedicated their work to helping veterans who might need to feel that sense of community after they separate from the armed forces. The CCME board is also dedicated to bringing those resources to the conference so that educators, military education center personnel, contractors, service members, and all attendees can better serve veterans in our communities. We are looking forward to the next conference to continue to grow and shift our mission to incorporate veteran education.
CCME 2018 San Diego Concurrent Sessions

Call for Proposals

By Kelly Wilmeth - Chair, Concurrent Sessions

The Council of College and Military Educators will hold its annual conference in San Diego, CA from March 26-29, 2018. The CCME symposium is a professional development opportunity for military educators to learn about educational and career services for military members and veterans provided by colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, etc. A portion of the symposium will be devoted to small group forums called Concurrent Sessions, designed to facilitate the exchange of information on educational programs, strategies and innovation that assist service members and veterans to achieve academic and career success.

The 2018 CCME conference theme is “Navigating Change: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities in Military and Veteran Education”. In support of this theme, the Concurrent Sessions will provide four professional development tracks to allow attendees to work towards a certificate. Tracks include:

- Newcomers to Voluntary Education
- Best Practices
- Career Pathways for Transitioning service members
- Military and Veteran Student Services

As in previous years, the Concurrent Sessions Committee will evaluate all proposals on the description, purpose and quality of content, adherence to the conference theme and category, universal broadness of scope, and the intent of the proposal to engage the audience. Proposals must be sent via email to Bethany Taylor at Bethany.taylor@umuc.edu starting on June 1, 2017. The proposal submission deadline is tentatively scheduled for November 1, 2017. The Committee will notify all selected presenters in late November to ensure plenty of time to make travel arrangements. The symposium’s Early Bird Registration rate will be guaranteed for Concurrent Sessions presenters even if proposal notification occurs after that registration deadline.

Additional information regarding Concurrent Sessions proposal requirements and submission template, Frequently Asked Questions, and general conference information is posted on the CCME website at www.CCMEonline.org.

We look forward to another year of engaging dialogue at the CCME 2018 Annual Symposium in San Diego.
ACME Corner

Because it feels good…

By Willie Woolford, President, FL ACME
Assistant Director, Bellevue University, Military Programs

What is this thing called ACME, and why do I care? ACME is the Advisory Council on Military Edu-
cation and there are 14 active chapters under the CCME umbrella, covering about 20 states. Many of these
ACMEs are very active, such as the Florida ACME.

The FL ACME recently held our annual Workshop near Patrick AFB with great results – more than 60
members came together to network, learn and enjoy the camaraderie that we enjoy as military educators. Our
workshop kicked off with a reading of the purpose of an ACME: Formally, it is to “Promote, encourage, and
deliver meaningful education within all branches of the Armed Services.” Informally, it is “Because it feels
good.”

This is the meat and potatoes of an ACME. It feels good to help someone achieve their goals. It feels
good to see the “light go on in someone’s eyes” when they realize that they can do this. And, it feels good
when you watch your contacts cross the stage and raise their diploma in the air, with that “I did it” smile.

For me, I remember that person who literally took me by the hand, and mapped out my education fu-
ture. It felt good to them…and it felt good to me. It made all the difference for me – making the hard, simple.
That is just one of our jobs in the ACME.

We have other jobs as an ACME member, such as defining and overcoming imperfections in our sys-
tem. During the FL ACME workshop, we held round table discussions to address issues, such as lead genera-
tion, base access rules and accreditation differences in schools. In our education world, nothing is plain and
simple – there are flaws. ACMEs are a way to discover resources and answers to understand these flaws and
how to make things work anyway. This team approach helps us work together to solve these types of prob-
lems. Our “Team” includes experts from across the military education spectrum.

Our speakers included authorities from DoD, service members Opportunity Colleges, DANTES, Tu-
tor.com, Education Officers from across the state, FL Department of Education and many other resource pro-
viders to help us make things work. We sprinkled in some fun activities and had a successful event.

Another part of an ACME is building a team to lead the efforts. Most ACMEs have elections every couple of
years to bring on new board members – this year we elected our Treasurer and Secretary. In 2018, our Presi-
dent and Vice President’s positions are up for election. We encourage people to step up and bring new ideas
to our organization. Becoming a Board Member or a volunteer is a “feel good”. Ask yourself, If not me…
who? Who will help our next generation of military members with the sage advice of someone who has “been
there and done that”? Why not you? Visit http://www.ccmeonline.org/acme to find an ACME in your region.

I do it, “because it feels good.”
**Volunteers**

CCME relies extensively on volunteers throughout the year and especially in the planning and execution of the annual professional development symposium. Join our community by becoming a volunteer at [http://www.ccmeonline.org/volunteers](http://www.ccmeonline.org/volunteers), where you can make a difference in the CCME experience. Being a CCME Volunteer is not just volunteering your time, it is your commitment and partnership to embrace networking, enhance professional development and expand professional prosperity to make a greater influence within our military education community.

Volunteer Activities Categories:

- Agenda Conference Planning
- Awards
- Concurrent Sessions
- Entertainment/Conference Activities
- Evaluations
- Legislative
- Membership
- Newcomers/Attendees Orientation
- Outreach/Public Affairs
- Reception
- Registration
- Scholarships

**CCME and Social Media**

Connect with us! Never miss an update from CCME by following us on Twitter and Facebook. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @CCMEOnline. We’ll see you online!

---

**Board Nominations due 11/1/17**

please visit: [http://www.ccmeonline.org/](http://www.ccmeonline.org/)

---

**SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD**

winners will be announced during the symposium in San Diego, join us to see who the winners will be.

---

**We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 CCME Annual Symposium**

San Diego Marriott Marquis
333 West Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

---

Council of College and Military Educators

CCME is an active proponent for the professional development of those serving in the military education community by providing a forum for the exchange of information on educational programs, strategies and innovation among its members and associated partners.

Website: [www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org)
Email: publicaffairs@ccmeonline.org
Stats from the CCME 2017 Professional Development Symposium: Fun with Numbers!

- Total Attendees: 937
- Exhibitors: 72
- Sponsors: 37
- Members: 429
- Newcomers: 314

**Attendee Demographics**

- 114 Government Employees
- 24 Servicemembers
- 127 Military Education Center Personnel
- 526 Academic Affiliates
- 27 Military Contractors
- 59 Business/Corporate Representatives
- 60 Other
- 1 Step closer toward collaboration and strengthening ourselves for those we serve: our military and veteran students!