HAPPY NEW YEAR to our CCME family. I cannot believe we are into a new year. Where did 2016 go? With the New Year, we are closer to our Symposium in Atlanta GA. Board members are hard at work, putting together the finishing touches to the general and concurrent sessions of the Symposium. To say we are excited as we approach March 6, 2017 is an understatement, not because of an exciting agenda but the opportunity to once again collaborate and meet friends we have not seen for over a year. CCME is truly a family of educational professionals with a core value of helping our military "communities" realize educational goals.

For those that have not made your hotel reservations as of yet, rooms have sold out at our host hotel, the Marriott Marquis. We have contracted for overflow hotels, the Hyatt and Sheraton. If sold out rooms are an indicator of attendance, we are once again excited that we will have a higher turnout than last year.

To avoid the onsite rush to register, register before arriving. Not having to stand in a long line will give you more time to meet, greet and chat with colleagues. Also, we still have opportunities to sponsor and exhibit. As CCME evolves into the New Year, we must increase our mission towards helping our Veterans realize their educational goals. In doing so, as a focus of our upcoming Symposium, we will present a higher sense of visibility on their educational needs.
Opening our Symposium, we have the pleasure and honor of having the following keynote speakers:

Jared Lyon, President and CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA). A Navy Veteran, Jared served as a submariner and diver, taking part in multiple deployments around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He has earned an Associate’s degree from Brevard Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University, and a Master of Public Administration from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs - Syracuse University.

Bryan Anderson, Iraqi Veteran, Author and National Spokesman - Quantam Rehab. Bryan enlisted in the Army in April 2001. He served two tours of duty in Iraq and was stationed in the Baghdad area obtaining the rank of Sergeant in the Military Police. In October 2005, Bryan was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) resulting in the loss of both legs and his left hand. He has appeared in numerous documentaries, television shows, movies, and is an Ambassador for the Gary Sinise Foundation. Bryan is a true testament as to why we do what we do.

Dawn Bilodeau, DOD Chief of Voluntary Education will once again give us an update and direction DOD VOLED will be taking for 2017. Also on the agenda, Ms. Bilodeau will define the new Institutional Compliance Program.

Brigadier General John Kem, Provost of the Army University. The Army University was first introduced at last year’s CCME Professional Development Symposium in San Antonio TX. This year General Kem will be providing us an update as to the status of the Army University.

The Honorable Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Veterans Benefits Administration. Secretary Coy will deliver from a policy position, how the VBA is meeting the needs of our Veterans through the GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation for wounded warriors and disabled Veterans, and Veteran transition and employment issues.

Several general session discussions, of tremendous interest to our membership, will include Academic Presidents Panel, the DOD Education Service Chiefs Panel, and a Senior Enlisted Panel.

Finally, with over 60 concurrent sessions to choose from and six Round Table topic sessions covering a gambit of subjects, our attendees will leave fulfilled with the professional development they were seeking.

We are all excited about the new Presidential administration and the direction they may take towards higher education. The excitement, I believe, comes from a newly elected President and the changes that may come. 2017 for CCME will be a transitional year and anticipation mounts. Is change ever good? You bet, with change comes new challenges, challenges that help each of us grow professionally and personally.

I will see each of you soon. Please make sure that when you see me, stop me and let's have a conversation.

A’ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia,
Franc
CCME Professional Development Annual Symposium

Registration:
Registration for the 2017 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Professional Development Symposium occurring at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA from 6-9 March 2017 is OPEN.

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: $500 (regular) // $225 (1-day) // $400 (2-day)
Nonmember: $600 (regular) // $275 (1 day) // $450 (2-day)
On-site registration: $700 (full) // $375 (1-day) // $550 (2-day)
Reception:Lunches for Guest: $75 // $25 for ages 5-12 // under age 5 free

EXCEPTION: those paying with US Government Travel Card will owe amount based on registration date; payment will be automatically charged on 1 Mar 17 unless cancelled beforehand.

Hotels:
Hotel reservations can be made at the following link from the CCME website: http://www.ccmeonline.org/2017hotels. Overflow rooms are available at the Sheraton Atlanta and Hyatt Regency hotels. The cut-off date to book rooms at the reduced CCME-block rate is 7 February 2017. After this date, there is no guarantee of available hotel rooms for the symposium or a reduced rate. Please note, the Government Rate is valid for government ID cardholders ONLY, for approximately 30% of total rooms at the Marriott, please make reservations ASAP. 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/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 Atlanta.
Professional Development

Concurrent Sessions

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) will hold its annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, from 6 - 9 March 2017. 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 full day 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 assists Service members and Veterans to achieve academic and career success.

This year’s CCME conference theme is “Collaboration: Strengthen Ourselves for Those We Serve”. In support of this theme, the Concurrent Sessions will provide four professional development tracks to allow attendees to work toward a certificate.

Tracks include:

- Career Pathways for Transitioning Service Members
- Military/Veteran Student Services
- Newcomers to Voluntary Education
- Best Practices

Here's a list of some of the current sessions:

1. The Partnership for Our Veterans: Prior Learning, STEM, and DCCCD
2. Engaging Students in the Online Learning Environment: Knowing, Doing, and Reflecting
3. Career Programming for Student Veterans – The Big Disconnect
5. Sempre Gumby! Veteran BSN- Year One Challenges and Changes
6. Strengthening Your Campus’s Ability to Award Direct, Applicable Credit for Military Service: Collaboration is Key!
7. Understanding Military Culture: Why Student Veterans Do not Ask for Help
8. New U.S. Department of Education Regulations for State Authorization of Distance Education – How Do the New Regulations Affect Military Students?

We look forward to another year of engaging dialogue at the CCME 2017 Annual Symposium in Atlanta. For more information about the CCME organization, please visit CCMEonline.org.
CCME Membership Information

Changes to the Bylaws

There are changes to the Bylaws that will be discussed and voted on during the General Meeting, Tuesday March 7th. View the updates on the CCME website at http://ccmeonline.org/legislativeaffairs.

Service Chiefs' Questions

CCME is looking for questions to ask, during the Service Chiefs’ Panel at the 2017 Professional Development Symposium. Send your question(s) by February 15th to Lane.Huber@bismarckstate.edu for consideration.

Board of Director's Election

There’s still time to submit nominations for the following positions

- President Elect
- Vice President Elect
- Secretary Elect

http://ccmeonline.org/2017_board_nominations
New DoD Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program

Dear Participating Institution,

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is pleased to announce the kickoff of the Department's new Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program (ICP).

In September of 2014, the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Program received specific recommendations from the Government Accountability Office in its Report No. 14-855, “DOD EDUCATION BENEFITS: Action is Needed to Ensure Evaluations of Postsecondary Schools Are Useful.” In response, DoD took action to develop and execute a more efficient, focused, and all-encompassing review process of the educational programs and services provided to the military community.

The new DoD Voluntary Education ICP was developed based upon the Department’s requirements and using best practices from across industry and government to ensure a rigorous, transparent evaluation of educational institutions, focusing on compliance with the tenets of the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). By signing the MOU, each of you has agreed to abide by a set of behaviors, processes, and policies all focused on improving services delivered to military-connected students. These will be the focus of the DoD Voluntary Education ICP.

Following a request for proposals, the Department selected Price Waterhouse Coopers to serve as the DoD’s third-party assessment team. With government oversight, it will meet current compliance needs, build a solid foundation for compliance in the future, and activate a compliance culture across the DoD Voluntary Education community.

The DoD anticipates that Voluntary Education's new ICP will usher in an era of cooperation and shared values in support of the professional and personal development and the eventual successful transition of Service members to the civilian workforce. In the coming months, DoD will communicate with all stakeholders, especially our valued educational institutions, to facilitate a clear understanding of the compliance factors that are most important to the DoD and the standardized, consistent review and assessment methodologies that will be employed.

Because so many educational institutions participate in the annual symposium for the Council of College and Military Educators, DoD plans to preview the Department’s new Voluntary Education ICP during a general session of the symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Session participants will learn how the ICP was developed and receive an overview of ICP requirements that will apply to all educational institutions participating in the DoD Voluntary Education Program. The session will also provide an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.

Be sure to check www.dodmou.com periodically for DoD Voluntary Education Program updates on items of interest, including the resources section. This section hosts notices, bulletins, and presentations that could be useful to participating institutions.

Sincerely,

Dawn

Bilodeau
Chief, DoD Voluntary Education
OASD Readiness (Force Education & Training)
Welcome to the Advisory Council on Military Education (ACME) Corner

California ACME
29712 Avante
Laguna Nigel, CA. 92677
WWW.CAACME.ORG

Esmeralda Silva/President
Janice Neal/VP

MISSION: CA-ACME is to promote the use of earned educational benefits and available resources, and to advocate for positive change for members of the military community.

VISION: CA-ACME strives to improve the quality of life for the military community through increased access to support services, benefits, and educational opportunities.

Over the past few years the council has undergone many challenges and rebuilding. Currently CA-ACME Board members are preparing for a re-launch immediately following CCME in March 2017. CA-ACME Board Members attending CCME will conduct a Key Learning Session from CCME’s annual conference. CMSGT (retired) John Harris, President of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is expected to present on updates with the National Guard Association. CA-ACME is also inviting COMETS members to join the Key Learning Session via teleconference. CA-ACME Board will also open nominations for the President Elect and Vice President Elect positions. The future of CA ACME looks bright with new ideas and new volunteers necessary to manage the organization. I am looking forward to a positive future for the veterans needing our support!

CA-ACME is preparing for an annual statewide meeting in June 2017. The first CA-ACME scholarship recipient will be announced as well as election results.

Please stay tuned for more information and upcoming surveys. Questions can be emailed to: californiaacme.org@gmail.com

CA-ACME Board Members
Esmeralda Silva, President Janice Neal, Vice President
Dr. Afshin Afrookhteh, Treasurer
Wendy Sickora, Secretary
Mark Francisco, Chair Military/Veteran Relations Jerry Peters, Chair of Institutions
Mark Hedum, IT Director
Val Vera, Immediate Past-President Steve Howard, Past-President

CA-ACME Advisors
Donna Brubaker
CONGRATULATIONS 2017 CCME AWARD RECIPIENTS

It is my pleasure to announce the 2017 Council of College and Military Educators Award Recipients. CCME thanks each of our award recipients for their dedication and contribution to the cause of military education. In addition, we thank those who nominated our award recipients so we are able to recognize and celebrate their contributions. We look forward to presenting our award recipients with a small token of our appreciation at the awards luncheon on March 7, 2017.

Award Recipients

John Brian Service and Leadership Award
Outstanding service to the voluntary education community by a government employee.
2017 Award Recipient: Mr. Pete Harris, Education Chief, John A. Lejeune Education Center, MCCS Lejeune-New River

William E. Kennedy Award
Outstanding dedication and leadership in the delivery of quality programs to military installations and/or individuals.
2017 Award Recipient: Pamela Washington, Park University, Henderson Hall Campus

CCME Corporate Award
Presented to an organization in recognition of its significant contributions to the cause of military education.
2017 Award Recipient: Tutor.com

CCME Institution Award
Presented to a higher education institution in recognition of its significant contributions to the cause of military education.
2017 Award Recipient: Colorado Technical University

Barry Cobb Government Organization Award
Recognizes the outstanding contributions that government entities make to military education.
2017 Award Recipient: Eglin Air Force Base Education Center

CCME ACME Award
Recognizes an ACME for its significant contributions to the cause of military and/or veteran education.
2017 Award Recipient: Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education
Pack your walking shoes and *Step Forward with CCME 2017*. This year, CCME will host its first annual *Step Forward with CCME* challenge walk. Join us as we walk from Atlanta to San Diego (CCME 2018), to Austin (CCME 2019), and maybe even to Philadelphia (CCME 2020). Together, it’s a mere 10.3 million steps (5,150 miles).

There will be a number of ways to earn steps (and earn shoe charms) throughout the conference, including fun walks and bonus step opportunities. The CCME app will provide a link to the Step Forward Challenge website where participants will easily report their daily steps. Individual and team accomplishments and the number of miles we’ve cumulatively traveled will be announced each day, with final awards and accomplishments announced at the conclusion of the Symposium. The winning teams will be based on the total number of team steps divided by the number of team participants. So, a team of 15 or a team of two – it’s a fair challenge!

Teams will be composed of no more than 15 individuals, and team can be attendees from your institution, installation, military service, organization, or a group of colleagues attending from across the country. If you don’t have a team, no worries…we will help you find a team! The event will open at the President’s Reception, Monday, March 6 at 1800, and will close on Thursday, 0800.

Registration is $20 per participant and payable to CCME. All net proceeds will go to CCME’s Scholarship Endowment. To register, go to [www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org), click on the *Step Forward* logo, and follow the submission directions on the form. Payment is due on or before Monday, March 6 although advanced payment is greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please email Event Chair Joycelyn Groot at [events@ccmeonline.org](mailto:events@ccmeonline.org). *Step Forward with CCME.*
Volunteers

CCME relies extensively on volunteers throughout the year and especially in the planning and execution of the annual professional development symposium. Be a CCME Volunteer and join our community and 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
- Volunteerism
- Speakers

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.ccmeonline.org/volunteers email: volunteers@ccmeonline.org

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!

Meet our new Social Media Expert

Mr. Keith Hauk
Associate Vice President, Veterans Initiatives
Department of Stateside Military Operations
University of Maryland University College

We look forward to seeing you at the 2017 CCME Annual Symposium Atlanta Marriott Marquis 265 Peachtree Center Avenue NE Atlanta, GA 30303

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
Email: publicaffairs@ccmeonline.org