CONFERENCE AGENDA

Combat to College: Assisting in Student Veteran Success

April 15, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hosted By: The Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, & Illinois Campus Compact
Illinois State University Ballroom & Circus Room – Bone Student Center

9:00-9:30 Color Guard Ceremony/Pledge of Allegiance: Illinois State University ROTC

Welcome & Remarks:
- Dr. James L. Applegate, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Rodrigo Garcia, Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Purpose and Goals for this 2014 Conference Include:
- Providing strategies that help develop a stronger base of support for veteran student populations throughout Illinois.
- Better informing student veterans in the pursuit of higher education.
- Developing a network of collaborative leadership of veteran and non-veteran students throughout Illinois.

Session I – Ballroom

9:30-11:00 Illinois Campus Compact Presentation: Developing Student Veteran & Non-Veteran Leadership through Community Service
- Kathy Engelken, Executive Director, Illinois Campus Compact
- VISTA Volunteers/Interns

Illinois Joining Forces Spotlight
- Amy Sherman, Chairman, Illinois Joining Forces Education Working Group

Session II - Ballroom

11:00-12:30 Social and Engaged Learning Challenges:
- Faculty and Staff Awareness of Student Veteran Culture & Importance of On-Campus Space for Student Veteran Social Activities – Kathy Meyers, Western Illinois University Student Veteran Coordinator
- Potential for Student Veteran Extra-Curricular Events in Illinois – Zack Armstrong, Midwest Regional Director, Team Red, White, and Blue, Chicago
- Transformational Learning – Dr. Anke Pinkert, Associate Professor of German, Media, and Cinema Studies, UIUC/Education Justice Project

12:30-1:30 Break for Lunch - Ballroom

Keynote Speakers
- Dr. Charlotte Warren, President, Lincoln Land Community College
- State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia

Session III – Circus Room

1:30-3:00 Financial Challenges:
- Addressing the Mounting Backlog of Student Veterans Awaiting Financial Assistance – Kimberly Eck, Training Coordinator, Program Services and Operations, ISAC
• Resources and Services Available to Student Veterans in Illinois: Overview of Education Benefit Programs, Employment and Job Training Services, & Child Care Resources/New Initiatives/Major Challenges Ahead – Rodrigo Garcia, Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Session IV – Ballroom

1:30-3:00

Health Challenges:

• History of the Springfield Vet Center and its Growth, Mobile Vet Center (MVC) College Sweep, & How to Request a MVC for Your College – John Mizer, MVC Driver and Readjustment Counseling Technician, Springfield Vet Center

• ASSIST Program, Post Traumatic Growth, Classroom Strengths, & Referring a Veteran to Counseling Services – Joe Lasky, MSW, LSW, Springfield Vet Center

• Readjustment Counseling Services and Eligibility, Available Therapists and Areas of Focus, Importance of Community Resource Lists for Veterans, & Strength of Local Peer Support Groups – Christine Glanert, LCPC, NCC, Springfield Vet Center

• Combat-Related PTSD, Symptom Impact on Student Veterans, & Treatment Options – Tim Kohlbecker, MSW, Danville VA

• Other Combat-Related Health Care Concerns & How to Access VA Resources – Hilary Edgerly, LCSW, Danville VA

3:00-3:30

• Evaluations
• Closing Remarks