



New York State Advisory Council on Military Education (NYS ACME)

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stephen.clark@mail.cuny.edu

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College
mmoran@excelsior.edu

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mdiodato@excelsior.edu

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jillian@trainwithski.com

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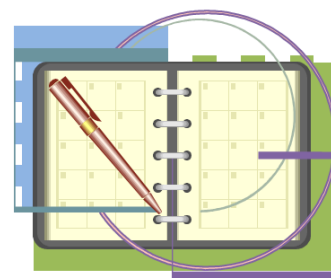
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Welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

Welcome to the Summer 2013 edition of our NYSACME newsletter! We hope this will help to keep everyone up-to-date in the fast-pace world of educating our Military and Veteran students. If you have any questions or items to add, please contact Mark Diodato at mdiodato@excelsior.edu.

Mark Your Calendars!

- September 12 and 13—NYSACME Annual Conference. Empire State College Syracuse, Carrier Circle. RSVP to Mark Diodato at mdiodato@excelsior.edu. **Please note: Registration is first come, first served, and attendance is capped at 75. Please respond by September 4, 2013.**



Tentative NYSACME Conference Schedule and Hotel

We have created a tentative schedule for the 2013 NYSACME Annual Conference, to be held on September 12 and 13 in Syracuse, NY. Empire State College has agreed to host the conference at their location on Carrier Circle. We also have an agreement with the Hilton Doubletree Hotel on Carrier Circle to offer accommodations at \$94.00 per night with an additional 25% lunch coupon for overnight quests. There is limited availability at that price. The hotel is located at 6301 New York 298, East Syracuse, NY, and their phone number is 315-432-0200. The Group Code for our conference is **MEC**.

Tentative Schedule, September 12:

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Conference Registration
1:00 - 1:30 PM - Conference welcome and agenda review
1:30 - 2:00 PM - NYSACME Business Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 PM - VA Educational Benefits (Post 9/11 and others)
4:00 - 5:00 PM - Review of Bylaws and Officer Nominations

Tentative Schedule, September 13:

8:30 - 9:00 AM - Business Meeting
9:00 - 11:00 AM - American Council on Education Presentation - Michele Spires (ACE)
11:00 AM - Noon - College Panel Discussion - ACE Credit Recommendations
Noon - 1:00 PM - Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 PM - Learning to Better Serve Those Who Have Served - Empire State College
2:00 - 2:30 PM - Getting Involved in CCME - Linda Frank (Empire State College)
2:30 - 3:30 PM - Vocational Rehabilitation Presentation
3:30 - 4:00 PM - Election of Officers
4:00 - 4:30 PM - Meeting of the new and old executive boards



NYSACME has a Google Group mailing list! Stay on top of all the news from NYSACME by joining. If you are interested, please email Mark at mdiodato@excelsior.edu.

Conference Continued - NYSACME Raffle!

NYSACME is looking to raise \$400 in order to pay for the 503c application for tax exempt status. We will start to do this by holding a raffle (ticket price to be determined) for prizes. Please contribute to this effort by bringing your latest and greatest giveaway items to the Annual Conference.

Thank you!

Meeting Classroom Needs With Veterans Proud to Serve Again

Troops to Teachers is a Department of Defense program that provides assistance to all current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served honorably and chose to obtain state certification to teach in K-12 public schools.

As established by each state's Department of Education, our candidates possess the certification required to teach in public schools across the country. Those that select teaching as a second career do so because they care about the future for our children. Many parents and school Administrators recognize the positive impact Veterans can have on America's youth. In addition, Veterans offer excellent classroom management skills, they are accustomed to diversity and serve as great role models. These and other attributes make them among the nation's most effective teachers.

- More than 85% of TTT educators coming into teaching are male, compared to 26% in the overall teaching force.
- 33% of TTT teachers are from a minority group, compared to 10% of the current workforce. 24% of TTT teachers work in inner-city schools, compared to 16% over.

Consider the Troops to Teachers program as an additional resource in locating qualified candidates to fill positions in your schools.

Vanessa Barron, Regional Director
Email: vbarron@troopstoteachers.net

Beth Murray, Program Assistant
Email: emurray@troopstoteachers.net
628 S. High St.
Filano Hall, Rm. 102
West Chester, PA 19383
Call toll-free: 855-241-2173
Fax: 610-692-7176

Troy Gipps, Coordinator (New England States)
Email: tgipps@troopstoteachers.net
P.O. Box 44
Grafton, MA 01519
Call toll-free/fax: 888-463-6488



College Credit Earned Outside of the Classroom

Prior learning assessments are a great way for students to save time and money by using knowledge gained outside of the classroom to earn credit towards a college degree. It means students can earn college credit for what they already know! There are several forms of prior learning assessment.

In high school, many of us learn about Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Student may also the option of enrolling in an International Baccalaureate program. Some colleges will apply these credits towards an associate or bachelor's degree.

Other commonly used forms of prior learning assessment include military transcripts. Active duty military members and veterans can earn college credit by submitting their Joint Service Transcript, Coast Guard transcript or Air Force transcript to an institution for evaluation. Colleges and universities can grant transfer credit based on the recommendations made by the American Council on Education (ACE).

Examination programs are another popular form of prior learning assessment. These are pass/fail exams designed for independent learners. With an exam program, students do not take a formal course - just the exam. Popular credit-by-exam programs include the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST. Some institutions offer credit-by-exams of their own. Examples include TECEP® exams (link to: offered through Thomas Edison State College, and UExcel offered through Excelsior College. Taking a credit-by-exam program can be daunting, so students are advised to take advantage of sample exams and study guides available for most of the exams, or consider taking a MOOC (massive open online courses) in the subject area they would like to take the exam. These are free courses offered online. More information on MOOCs.

Additionally, credit may be awarded for certifications, licensures, professional training and employer training that has been evaluated by ACE's College Credit Recommendation Service or the National College Credit Recommendation Service. Also, some institutions assess professional training to award college credit. The Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning at Thomas Edison State College reviews professional licenses and certifications as well as specific training, apprenticeships, courses and exams in order to award credit.

Colleges and universities can also award credit for knowledge gained outside of the classroom by offering the option of putting together a portfolio, which showcases a student's past work experience, volunteer experience and/or professional training. Students typically develop portfolios with a content matter expert. A portfolio documents the college-level knowledge a student possesses and how that knowledge matches the learning outcomes in a college course. This is becoming more popular with adult learners and the colleges that serve them.

With so many options available, it is entirely possible for students to create their own path towards a degree. Students are no longer required to sit in a packed lecture hall to meet the requirements of their degree, which is especially beneficial to the non-traditional student.

-Alison Hansen, Associate Director, Office Of Military and Veteran Education
Thomas Edison State College
ahansen@tesc.edu



Research Shows Higher Education Top Priority for Servicemembers

The Patriot Poll, an online survey conducted by the Excelsior College Polling Institute, reveals strong interest among active duty military personnel in pursuing higher education during their transition to civilian life, as well as a desire for flexible options and online learning solutions to complete their degrees.

Results of the Patriot Poll research findings were presented by Excelsior College at the Council of College and Military Educators Annual Symposium, in San Diego, Calif., on February 27, 2013.

The 678 respondents nationwide were loud and clear about the importance of a college degree to success in a post-military career. Nearly nine in ten (88.4 percent) believe that earning a degree was very or somewhat important to their future success. In addition, 43.4 percent believe that salary levels are higher for persons with a college degree.

The majority of participants (75.4 percent) were aware that military job training can be accepted as college credit, an important consideration in planning a degree path as a civilian. More than half of the respondents intend to work while they attend college after military life. Equal amounts, 28.7 percent, stated that they plan to study either full- or part-time while working either full-or part-time. Only 16.6 percent had plans to attend school full-time and not work while doing so.

An "online four-year school" was of most interest to one-fifth of all Patriot Poll respondents (19.4 percent). About one-third preferred a four-year public school (33.7 percent), a community college (20.8 percent), or a four-year private school (13.4 percent).

Regardless of the preferred institution, however, 81 percent expressed interest in online programs that allow students to study at their own pace and take exams when they are ready.

Regarding the use of text books, 37 percent of respondents said they preferred "E-Books" sent electronically to their own devices or computers versus printed & bound text books. Only 17 percent had no preference, 28.5 percent preferred traditional text books and 12.5 percent said they would opt for whichever is less expensive.

In terms of choosing a college, 59.4 percent cited financial considerations the most important criteria. Financial aid was ranked second, at 48.8 percent. However, only half (49.4 percent) indicated they were aware of Veterans education benefits and planned to use them. A full one-fifth (20.6 percent) of respondents said they were either unsure of or did not know how to use these benefits.

Three-quarters of those surveyed indicated support from relatives or their spouse in degree planning and school decision making was "very" (33.7 percent) or "somewhat" (39.9 percent) important.

The Patriot Poll reported the most popular fields of study among service members include business/management (19.4 percent), medicine/healthcare (18.3 percent), criminal justice/law/security (15.2 percent), computer science/IT (13.4 percent), science (7.8 percent) and engineering (5.7 percent).

About the Patriot Poll

The Patriot Poll was conducted by Excelsior College which focuses on military issues and higher education. For full results, including crosstabs: <http://bit.ly/PatriotPoll>