



CONSORTIUM OF
MICHIGAN VETERAN EDUCATORS

<http://global.cmich.edu/CMVE>

March 2013

The Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators (CMVE) mission *is to serve all Michigan public community colleges and universities in their efforts to support student Veterans, military service members, and their family members.*

The consortium was founded by Central Michigan University in 2010. In 2011 the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan and the Michigan Community College Association began work to formalize the consortium. In early 2012, Michigan's 28 community colleges joined with other key partners to create a statewide network to improve the support and services to our active military and Veterans populations.

The primary goal of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators is to increase the number of service members, and their families, who take advantage of the educational benefits that are available to them such as the G.I. Bill. As part of this critical goal, the members of the consortium are also focused on ensuring Veterans that enroll in Michigan's public postsecondary institutions receive the support they need to successfully complete a credential that will lead to gainful employment and productive lives. A secondary goal of the Consortium is to serve as a convener of college and university staff to provide for professional development opportunities and sharing of best practices to better support the student Veteran population.

CMVE Activities:

Professional Development Activities – CMVE will sponsor the second annual conference on April 5 at Lansing Community College. This conference is intended for representatives from the 28 community colleges and 15 public universities who work with Veterans, and will include presentations and breakout groups in promising practices and institutional practices, updates from state and federal officials, and discussion on suicide awareness, military to civilian transition, and veteran spouse/dependent support. We have asked institutions for monetary support to help pay for the conference (no registration fee) and other professional development activities.

CMVE will be offering webinars, regional education trainings, and other opportunities to strengthen institutional knowledge and involvement in the coming year.

Survey of Promising Institutional Practices with CMVE Institutions – In January 2013, CMVE conducted a survey of institutional practices supporting Veterans. At the first gathering (March 2012) of the future CMVE, public university and community college representatives learned about The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (for further information, <http://www.cas.edu>) and its standards and guidelines for Veterans and Military Programs and Services. CMVE recommends that each public postsecondary institution follow the standards that best fit its mission and environment. In a document that is being created for the April 5 conference, the CAS standards will be listed along with examples of institutions that are models for the standard or practice.

The CAS Mission for Veterans and Military Programs and Services (VMPS) *is to provide, facilitate, or coordinate programs and services for student Veterans, military service members, and their family members. VMPS must identify student Veterans and military service members and establish a community that connects and supports this population.*

It is essential that institutions assist student Veterans, military service members and their family members with:

- *Transitions from military service to higher education*
- *Issues related to deployment of active duty students or call up for students affiliated with National Guard and Reserve Units*
- *Integration into institutions and campus life*
- *Reintegration following activation*
- *Establishment of procedures to facilitate progress toward education goals*

CMVE Strategic Plan – There are four CMVE Committees: Steering Committee, Best Practices & Professional Development, Recruiting & Marketing, and Student Veteran & Military Service Member Support. Each committee has created a plan for action and the Steering Committee has taken the plans to create an overall strategic plan for this year. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from CMVE institutions, US Department of Veteran Affairs, and Michigan Dept of Military & Veteran Affairs. We also keep the MI County Veteran Counselors and MI College Access Network involved in our discussions. The strategic plan focuses on recruiting and marketing to potential students including military members, Veterans, and their families; professional development opportunities outside of the annual conference; and increasing student Veteran groups efforts and impact on campuses and in the communities.

Outreach Efforts – CMVE has been actively involved with several outreach events including Yellow Ribbon events, Dept. of Defense Worldwide Education Expo in Las Vegas, US Department of Veteran Affairs 2012 Small Business and Hiring Fair, Hiring Our Heroes at Selfridge AFB, and representation at out of state bases. In addition, CMVE has presented at several statewide conferences: MI County Commissioners VA Task Force, MI Center for Student Success 2012 Conference, 2013 Retention Conference, 2013 Equity in the Classroom Conference, and 2013 MI Adult Education Training Conference.

On-Campus Student Veterans – The CMVE Student Support Committee has been working on making strong and lasting connections with recognized student organizations on campuses across Michigan. These connections include educating and training the student organization leaders on best practices for helping student Veterans and military members on campus. The Committee hosted a Student Veterans of American regional conference in fall 2012. CMU hosted the conference.

Promoting Action on Credit Transfer – Many Michigan institutions currently use the American Council on Education's guide for College Credit for Military Service but the implementation of awarding the credits can be cumbersome and not easily undertaken. A multi-state effort called Promoting Action on Credit Transfer (PACT) has been formed with representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. Michigan has been asked to join PACT to help augment the current efforts in Michigan. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is for every service member and Veteran student to receive the full measure of academic credit for military training and experience to s/he is entitled using all recognized evaluation methods and applying the credit towards the degree.

Visit <http://global.cmich.edu> to contact institutional representatives or feel free to contact Chris Baldwin, Michigan Community College Association (cbaldwin@mcca.org) or Patricia Farrell-Cole, Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan (pfarrell@pcsum.org) for further information.
