

## 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**