

Military and Families Education Newsletter

Issue 3

August 1, 2008

NMSU offers military members and their families postsecondary educational opportunities leading to lifelong learning, self- and professional development programs, and services to promote critical thinking and decision-making skills.

Outreach Campaign

Real leadership is being the person others will gladly and confidently follow.

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Military Coordinator

Military Friendly University

There is a sense of excitement and synergy at New Mexico State University as it prepares to meet the post-secondary educational needs of our expanding military communities. As a new member of the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) and a Letter of Instruction (LOI) school, NMSU joins GoArmyEd to ensure its place as a military-friendly university. Effective October 1, 2008, Soldiers will access their tuition assistance and course enrollments online through GoArmyEd.

As a military-friendly university, NMSU has initiated a pro-active collaborative model which will benefit student-servicemembers. Inherent in this initiative is partnering with the American Council on Education (ACE) military programs. This provides a collaborative link between the U.S. Department of Defense and higher education to review military training and experiences and award equivalent college credits for members of the Armed Forces. Simply stated, registrars, admissions officers, academic advisors, career counselors, and DoD Education professionals have a basis for recognizing military educational experiences in terms of civilian academic credit through the *Military Guide Online*.

But is that all that being military-friendly implies? No, and NMSU will take the concept to a higher level. First, we will maintain the highest quality leadership training and education for our military students by developing a "Servicemember-

Centric" model focused on mentoring. Being military-friendly means that we are committed to educational excellence and the need to guide our student-servicemembers as they pursue their educational goals. Second, developing the "I Can" attitude, encouraging success and harvesting a student-servicemember's knowledge are areas we will emphasize. Third, we are committed to investing the time so that our military students succeed and avoid having to pay back their tuition assistance. Recovery of a military student's tuition assistance money occurs when they fail or drop classes without solid reasons. On most Army installations the recoupment rate is staggering. Therefore, when our servicemembers recognize and understand that we genuinely want them to succeed and are committed to helping them, they will gain confidence to complete their degree programs.

Motivating Academic Excellence

Raquel Wallace, a Guidance Counselor at Fort Bliss, recently sent the following message: "Dr. Rodríguez, I just wanted to pass on to you that I had a young lady, a Specialist, in my office the other day. She shared with me how impressed she was with NMSU's presentation and how delighted she was that NMSU is willing to support her educational dreams."

Colonel Gary Giebel, Garrison Commander at White Sands Missile Range, further supported NMSU's approach to being a military-friendly university through its concept of "building community" and reinforced NMSU's resolve to develop a team approach between the civic and military communities.

World-wide Educational Challenges

At the recent world-wide Education Symposium, a representative from Department of Defense

Voluntary Education emphasized that today's servicemembers are confronted with the challenges of globalization. These include the speed in which information is received in this technological age, as well as the uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity of today's world. NMSU's mission, then, is to create a culture of learning to assist student-servicemembers with graduation and future career development.

As a military-friendly university, NMSU will include student-servicemembers as part of its community and work to develop individuals who possess critical thinking skills and who can analyze and reason within a complex civic and war environment. In this era of globalization, all servicemembers must be multi-skilled leaders, and more importantly, culturally aware and multi-lingual—a lesson reinforced by our current world situation.

Military and Families Education Summit

New Mexico State University will host the first Military and Families Education Summit in Corbett Center on October 22, 2008. The theme is "*Transformation: Forming Tomorrow's Leaders Today, Anywhere, Anytime*".

The intent of the Summit is to bring together our state and legislative leaders with academic and military leaders to address and resolve educational challenges impacting military personnel and their families across the state. We will work collectively to develop platforms, policies and programs beneficial to the educational goals of our service members.

The Summit has attracted the attention of many constituents, statewide and nationally. Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB have hailed this event as not only innovative, but as an opportunity to pull together our military and civilian communities during this historic time. Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) and the American Council on Education will send their representatives to NMSU in support of this visionary event.

Mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this Education Summit.

Fort Bliss Mini-Forum

As a lead up to the October Education Summit a mini-forum was held at Fort Bliss on July 24.

The forum was an exciting and extremely enjoyable event. Over sixty participants attended and were welcomed immediately by a sense of exhilaration as all the delegates began to share their ideas on how NMSU could meet the needs of the expanding Fort Bliss community.

Beginning the day with distinction was the welcome by Command Sergeant Major Steve Rodgers who mentioned several elements he believes are essential to good leadership: integrity, vision informed by values, and intellectual curiosity. NMSU was applauded for its pro-active outreach educational partnership initiatives with its military neighbors.

The roundtable discussions sparked a lively dialogue among the participants on a variety of relevant topics. A spokesperson from each group then shared their conclusions with all the delegates. As one participant stated, "Something powerful happened at this venue. Leadership in action was on display and it was inspiring to work with people who share the same vision."

New Mexico State University's colleges showcased their degree maps offered through GoArmyEd. Rounding out the forum activities was Aggie Athletics highlighting the upcoming football season and its Air Raid Offense. Soldiers and families were invited to join Aggie fans on Saturday, November 8th to celebrate "Salute to America's Heroes" at Memorial Stadium.



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