Combat to College:

**Educational Partnerships Assisting in Student Veteran Success**

Come Network and Share a Learning Experience with Other Student Veterans and Professionals about Succeeding in Higher Education

 

**Conference Program Speakers and Times**

K Key Note Speakers: Dr. Charlotte Warren, Veteran and current President of Lincoln Land Community College

 State Representative, Veteran Linda Chapa LaVia

Same Courage – Different Mission ![C:\Users\tapia\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ONTPY1XV\MC900309844[1].wmf]()

**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY BONE STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM ER100 N. UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, IL**

Hosted by: Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Campus Compact and Illinois State University   ****

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**Second Annual Illinois Student Veteran Issues in Higher Education Conference**

**April 15, 2014**

**Conference Facilitators**

The conference facilitators, in conjunction with other partnered organizations including, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Illinois Campus Compact and Illinois Joining Forces are working to better serve student veterans. Through these combined efforts, aimed toward the success of student veterans, we will be able to provide more focused and rigorous services. This will be the second annual state conference on the comprehensive needs of student veterans.

**Dan Wellman**

Administrator, Illinois State Approving Agency

Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Dan Wellman has worked for the Illinois State Approving Agency – Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs since July 1998.  The Department named him the Administrator of the Illinois State Approving Agency in November 2013.  He retired from the Illinois Army National Guard in August 2007.  During his 20 years of military service, Wellman, a combat wounded veteran, completed two extended periods of overseas active duty during Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.  Wellman also serves as an adjunct faculty history instructor at Robert Morris University in Peoria and Springfield.

**Brook Stewart**

Assistant Director Planning & Budgeting

Illinois Board Higher Education

Brook Stewart; employed as a legislative and budgetary analyst for the Illinois House of Representatives for ten years before accepting a position with the Illinois Board of Higher Education in December 2011. Her work at IBHE includes an array of veteran-related duties, including the annual Veterans’ Fiscal Impact Survey. She and IBHE colleague, Richard Tapia, also developed the annual Veterans Conference forum meant to provide student veterans and coordinators pertinent information for a successful post-secondary educational experience.

**Richard J. Tapia**

Associate Director Diversity and Outreach

Illinois Board Higher Education

Richard Tapia is a US Navy veteran, served in Vietnam with Navy Seabees

CBMU-302 NAVCAT 11 – 14. He served from 1969 to 1973. In his current position with the Board of Higher Education he oversees various reports, works directly with the deputy director on a number of initiatives such as the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois. He is also involved in a number of other veteran-related initiatives and responsible for the IBHE veteran’s initiative partnerships with other state and non-for-profit agencies. In conjunction with the Deputy Director he conducts outreach efforts working with public and private post secondary institutions.

**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

**Conference Presentations:**

**Session I**

**Illinois Campus Compact Presentation: Connecting the Student Veteran’s Spirit of Service and Skills to Focus Leadership and Action through Community Service**

Facilitator: Kathy Engelken

Room (Main Ballroom) – 9:30 to 10:30AM

Panel Discussion with:

* + Donnie Latuch, Adler Student Veteran ILCC Intern
	+ Les Waite, Adler Student Veteran Association President
	+ Blake Schroedter, Adler Student
	+ Rachel Blakely, ILCC VISTA Volunteer

The panelists will each briefly share their transition from deployment to student life. The attendees will be invited into Roundtable Conversation using a set of pertinent questions with facilitators at each table. Attendees will be given the opportunity to refer questions to the panel. Wrap up will be feedback to the entire group of participants.

**Kathy Engelken**

Executive Director

Illinois Campus Compact

Kathy has a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from the University of Northern Iowa and a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in Chicago

She is the Executive Director for Illinois Campus Compact located in Chicago, Illinois which is hosted at DePaul University, Chicago. Forty-two Illinois colleges and universities make up the current membership. As Executive Director, Kathy is responsible to recruit new members, consult with Presidents, faculty, staff and students. She has served as the Executive Director for ILCC for fourteen years. Also serves on the SERVE ILLINOIS COMMISSION, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and the Illinois Service Learning Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Joining Forces Education Committee. She is integrating the IJF initiatives to “connecting student veterans from military service to community service.” Kathy is also on the White House Faith–Based Community Service Challenge Committee. She served at Rockford College for nine years where she held positions as the Catholic Campus Minister, the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Student Affairs, and developed the Community based Service-Learning program. She was the first director of the Community Service Programs Office, now known as the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement. Kathy is truly dedicated and speaks out about the vision she and others have for teaching civic engagement, citizenship and service-learning.

**Illinois Joining Forces Spotlight**

 Presenter: Amy Sherman, Chairman, Illinois Joining Forces Education Working Group

Amy Sherman is Associate Vice President for Policy and Strategic Alliances at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Her work focuses on increasing access to adult learning and improving its quality. In this role, Amy engages in policy research and analysis, coalition-building, advocacy, and technical assistance to state and federal policy leaders. She works closely with federal and state legislators to develop and advance legislation to strengthen America's workforce.

**Session II**

**Social and Engaged Learning Challenges: Building a Veteran Friendly Campus Community**

Presenter: Dr. Kathy Meyers

Room (Main Ballroom) – 11:00-12:30

Listening to the needs of veterans and service members is essential to developing a veteran friendly campus community. This information will help in prioritizing the strategies, policies, programs, and services for implementation at your institution. Establishing collaborative efforts with the student veteran population, student clubs/organizations, administrators, academic departments, instructors, student services staff members, and community agency personnel will maximize opportunities for successful transitions while minimizing limited resources.

Coordinating one-stop services, veteran leadership teams, seminars, panel discussions, and social outlets for this student population enhances campus awareness and often results in increased interests from new campus and community participants. As the momentum for building veteran friendly communities increases, student veterans and service members develop a more meaningful sense of belonging in their new academic and social environments.

**Dr. Kathy Meyers**

Western Illinois University

Student Veteran Coordinator

Kathy Meyers serves as the assistant director of the Western Illinois University Veterans Resource Center and the Student and Parents Assistance Center. She assumed responsibility for the coordination of support services to student veterans, service members, and their family members in 2007. Prior to joining Western, she served as a director of federal TRIO programs and as a student financial aid administrator. After completing her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Northern Iowa, she earned her doctorate from the University of Iowa.

Room (Main Ballroom) – 11:00-12:30

**Presentation:**

* Team Red, White & Blue Illinois Chapter/Communities working closely with Student Veteran Organizations (Greater Chicago, Carbondale, Bloomington)
* Connecting Veterans & Community Members for Local & Consistent Physical and Social Activities
* Opportunities for Veterans to lead/network in their local communities
* Connections/Mentorship from established RWB Chapters/Communities

**Zack Armstrong**

Midwest Regional Director

Team Red, White, and Blue (RWB), Chicago

As Regional Director, Zack is responsible for strategic and operational program development to ensure chapter and community health across the Midwest Region.  He provides guidance and training to develop market-specific programs to strengthen and expand newly formed and existing chapters and communities.  Before joining Team RWB, Zack was an Exercise Physiologist at the University of Michigan where he provided both clinical and research-based expertise. Prior to graduate school, he held leadership positions in Whirlpool’s Global Supply Chain Leadership Development Program. Zack received his B.S. in Engineering Management and M.S. in Exercise Physiology, both from Western Michigan University.  During undergrad, he was a member of the Varsity Baseball and Cycling Teams.  Zack currently resides in Chicago and leads the Team RWB Chicago Chapter

**Transformational Learning and Mindfulness**

Presenter: Dr. Anke Pinkert

Room (Main Ballroom) – 11:00-12:30

Dr. Pinkert will address the potential benefits of integrating contemplative practices into the educational experience of students and how it will help student veterans. Also, she will discuss her work with Education Justice Project and how it offers methods to build bridges between the traditional campus and college students in the community who are isolated from mainstream society.

**Dr. Anke Pinkert**

Associate Professor of German, Media, and Cinema Studies

University of Urbana Champaign

Anke Pinkert is Associate Professor of German, Media & Cinema Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is also an instructor in the Education Justice Project. She received her Ph.D. in 2000 from the University of Chicago. In her book *Film and Memory in East Germany* (Indiana UP, 2008) she examines how movies in the postwar era after 1945 represented experiences of historical trauma, including the difficult reentry of war returnees. She is currently writing a book on the Publically-engaged Humanities.

**Lunch**; Main Ballroom – Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Charlotte Warren, Veteran and current President of Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC)**

Charlotte Warren, Ph.D., is a Colonel, Retired and Honorary Brigadier General for the Georgia National Guard. She is the first female president of Lincoln Land Community College. She came to LLCC in May, 2006 from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, where she was president of the Community College Alliance and vice president of the university’s Virtual Campus.

She holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the College of Education, University of Virginia; a master’s degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing and a bachelor’s degree in nursing, both from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Warren taught in research universities and community college settings for 30 years.  From 2002-2005 she served as provost of the Lawrenceville campus of Georgia Perimeter College. Prior to that appointment, she was assistant academic vice president for continuing and corporate education at Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston. From 1997-2000, she was chair of the Department of Nursing at Georgia Perimeter, Clarkston. She was a psychotherapist in private practice from 1992-98.

**State Representative and Veteran Linda Chapa LaVia**, **D-Aurora - 83rd District**

Representative Chapa LaVia was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois and graduated from East Aurora High School. She is a first generation university graduate with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is in her third term as a member of the Illinois General Assembly.

While in college, Representative LaVia was a cadet in ROTC. She completed basic training in 1988 and serving as a commissioned officer in the US Army until 1993. She continued her service in the National Guard until 1998 and is currently on Inactive Ready Reserve. Representative LaVia’s leadership, energy and passion for service are not confined to her success as a businesswoman but also with an eye to improving the quality of life in the entire community. She currently serves on seven House committees including serving as the chairwoman for the [Elementary & Secondary Education](http://www.ilga.gov/house/committees/hearing.asp?CommitteeID=887&GA=97) committee and the Chairwoman of Veteran’s Affairs in the Illinois House of Representatives.

She brings her work ethic, energy and passion for community service to the job of State Representative. She is working to provide a voice in Springfield for *all* residents by working toward excellence in education, safer streets and quality healthcare for families and seniors. She will use her life experience to promote a strong business climate for a strong community. She has received numerous reconditions thought her tenure in the Illinois General Assembly.

Linda and her husband Vernon have two daughters, Veronica and Jacqueline. The 83rd District includes all of Aurora and parts of North Aurora

**Session III**

**Financial Challenges**

Presenter: Kimberly Eck

Circus Room1:30-3:00

Addressing the mounting backlog of student veterans awaiting financial assistance – This session will address issues that both student veterans and school officials are facing as they try to navigate the processing of veterans’ educational benefits, and provide tips and guidance that can help minimize the challenges.

**Kimberly Eck**

Training Coordinator, Program Services and Operations

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Kimberly Eck is a Training Coordinator in the Program Services & Compliance Division at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.  She is based in their Springfield office, where her main focus is to develop and provide training and support for ISAC’s school partners on state and federal financial aid and related higher education topics. Eck has been with ISAC since August 2001. Prior to that, she worked for several years in the areas of training, marketing, and communications in the financial services industry.

Ballroom – 1:30 – 3PM

**Funding the Illinois Veterans’ Grant**

Presenter: Rodrigo Garcia

A discussion of what resources and services are available to student veterans in Illinois – as well as how student veterans can effectively navigate and fully utilize these resources.  This includes an overview of education benefit programs, employment and job training services, and child care resources, among others.  Mr. Garcia will also outline new initiatives underway in the veteran community, as well as what major challenges lie ahead.

**Rodrigo Garcia**

Assistant Director

Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs

A Chicago native and Marine Corps veteran, Garcia served overseas on three separate tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, earning multiple decorations.  He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in finance from Northeastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Chicago, and he is currently pursuing his second post-graduate degree in public policy from Northwestern University. As the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, is responsible for 1,300 staff members, 80+ statewide offices and he oversees numerous programs and service divisions.  Garcia also serves as the Chairman of the National Board of Directors of Student Veterans of America, through his position he wants to ensure the success of student veterans on campuses across the globe.

**Session IV**

**Health Challenges**

Ballroom 1:30-3:00

**Discussion of the history of the Vet Center and its growth; outreach evolution; Mobile Vet Center college sweep, how to request a MVC for your college**

Presenter: John Mizer

**ASSIST program; post traumatic growth; resiliency; strengths that veterans bring to the classroom setting; how to refer a friend/fellow veteran to appropriate counseling services**

Presenter: Joe Lasky

**Readjustment Counseling Services and eligibility, therapist’s available and common areas of focus, importance of having community lists of resources for veterans (people/staff and not just phone numbers); strength of local peer support groups/Addressing myths about PTSD**

Presenter: Christine Glanert

**John A. Mizer**

MVC Driver

Readjustment Counseling Technician

John served a four year tour as a United States Marine from 2002-2006, served as a 3533 (Logistics Vehicle System Operator) Combat Logistics Battalion 8, Regimental Combat Team 8 Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.

**Joseph Lasky, MSW, LSW**

Joseph is a licensed Social Worker with an MSW from Southern Illinois University. He served 4 years with the Army from 2002-2006, then joined the Illinois National Guard, where he still serves to this day.

**Christine Glanert L.C.P.C., N.C.C.**

Springfield Vet Center

Christine Glanert is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the State of Illinois. She is a National Certified Counselor, CPT provider and step-qualified military sexual trauma therapist. She has a Bachelor’s in Psychology from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois; and a Master’s degree in human development counseling and a Master’s degree in Business Administration with a focus on Healthcare Administration.

**Combat Related Health Care Concerns: Traumatic Brain Injury and How to Access VA Resources**

Presenter: Hilary Edgerly

**Hilary Edgerly L.C.S.W.**

Danville VA

Hilary Edgerly is the Assistant Chief of Social Work Service at VA Illiana Health Care System (VAIHCS) in Danville, Illinois. Hilary received her MSW from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2003 and began her career at the VA the same year. She has worked in many areas of the medical center including care management, community living centers, and returning combat Veterans programs. She now works as the Assistant Chief of Social Work Service, supervising multiple staff and coordinating programs to improve the psychosocial well-being of our nations Veterans.

**Combat related PTSD and Symptom Impact on Student Veterans, and Treatment Options/**

**Mobile Units for Emotional and Physical Health Issues/ Addressing myths about PTSD**

Presenter: Tim Kohlbecker, MSW

Tim Kohlbecker has a BS in Psychology, Western Illinois University, 1976; a Masters degree in Social Work University of Illinois, 1982. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea from 1978-80. He began with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs working at the Syracuse, NY VA, in the Homeless Veterans Program and serving as the initial program coordinator, 1983. He transferred to the Danville VA in 1993 to start up and become the Coordinator of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder program.   As coordinator, responsible for the administrative functioning of the clinic as well as conducting individual and group therapy, outreach and community education. Conjointly serves as the Coordinator of the Ex-Prisoner of War Program.

**Ballroom 3:00-3:30**

Evaluations

Closing Remarks

