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[www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org)

## GREETINGS FROM JIM SWEIZER, CCME PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Time has surely passed quickly this year. It's hard to believe we are only two months away from our annual symposium in Nashville. So, now is the time to register for the symposium and make hotel reservations, if you haven't done so already.

"Early bird" registration for the symposium ends in a few weeks on 31 December. CCME members can register now at the discounted rate of \$325. Non-members can register at a cost of \$375. Registration after 31 December will increase to \$450 for both groups after this date. Also, although the Renaissance was very generous in providing 40% of the rooms at the government rate, we have been informed that the block has been completely sold out. For those seeking a government rate, please contact the Marriott Courtyard (a few blocks away) at 800-321-2211. Please don't delay, register now. Federal employees and military personnel using their government issued credit cards can choose to defer payment until 1 February 2010 on the payment option screen during the registration process

As in the past, our Nashville symposium is shaping up to be the premier professional development event of 2010 for all of us working in the military voluntary education business. Committed speakers include: Jack Tilley, former Sergeant Major of the Army and co-founder of the American Freedom Festival; Keith Wilson, Director of Education Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs; Pat Shanaghan, MyCAA Program Director; Carolyn Baker, Chief of DoD Education, and we'll have several engaging panels comprising the Services Education Chiefs and college presidents. There will also be over 20 distinct concurrent sessions covering a variety of informative and relevant topics, including two Post 9/11 GI Bill Question and Answer sessions with Keith Wilson. It doesn't get any better than this!

This year will also be a first for CCME as entertainment will be provided at both the President's Reception on Monday evening and the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening. The Tennessee Army National Guard 129<sup>th</sup> Army Band, "Direct Hit" will perform during the President's Reception. For you country music fans, don't be surprised if you bump into someone who looks like Minnie Pearl or Garth Brooks – so have your camera ready! Our Awards Banquet will be equally entertaining with Tim Watson and the Black Creek band performing during and after the banquet and comedian Dick Hardwick who has toured with many top acts, including a trip to Iraq to entertain the troops.

Well, that's all for now. Please don't procrastinate and register now for the symposium. The annual symposiums have proven to be great events and our Nashville venue promises the same.

On behalf of the entire CCME Board of Directors, I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you in Nashville.

[Register today!](#)

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### "THE LEGENDARY" DR. JEFF CROPSEY LEAVES DANTES



After more than 40 years of service to the Department of Defense Dr. Jeff Cropsey will be leaving DANTES and the Federal Service effective 2 January 2010.

Cropsey began his military career in August 1969 as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. After attending Military Police Officer training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, he spent the next 3 years as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He left as a Captain in 1972.

In July 1972 Dr Cropsey began his career in Voluntary Education. For the next 37 years he worked in Army, Air Force, Navy and DANTES Voluntary Education positions around the World. For the last almost 5 years Cropsey has served as the Director of DANTES.

According to Cropsey, “It has been such a blessing to work with so many wonderful people from all the Services over these 40 years. I am proud of what we have done together in the Voluntary Education Community to help the members of the Armed Forces achieve their educational goals and I look forward to continuing that service in the future.”



A luncheon honoring Dr. Cropsey is planned for 18 December at the Mustin Beach Officers Club at NAS Pensacola. For additional information contact Ms. Nell Mock at 850.452.1111 x 3150 or doris.mock@navy.mil

**THIS YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT  
TIM WATSON & MORE**

You may have seen Tim performing with some of the top country music artists over the years. He has



worked for many stars like Tammy Wynette, Randy Travis, Willie Nelson and many more.

Or you may have seen him on Good Morning America, The Today Show, Nashville Now, Prime Time Country, or Hee Haw.

Tim has performed multiple times at the Grand Ole Opry over the last 25 years. He had the #1 show at Opryland theme park for over 5 years and has had the #1 show in Nashville for the last 10 years aboard the world's largest showboat the "General Jackson."

He is known as one of the best fiddle players in the world and will have everyone completely entertained with his crazy antics and incredible band of some of Nashville's best musicians.

In addition to Tim Watson and the Black Creek Band, you'll also enjoy a few laughs with Comedian Dick Hardwick and during the President's Reception, enjoy the Tennessee Army National Guard 129<sup>th</sup> Army Band, "Direct Hit."

**SOC'S BURNING ISSUE SUMMIT II:  
MILITARY STUDENT RETENTION AND  
DEGREE COMPLETION – MEASURING SUCCESS**

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) invites college and military educators to participate in a "Burning Issues" Summit on Monday, February 15, 2010, 1:30-3:30 p.m. as a pre-conference event at the 2010 CCME Symposium. The meeting room (yet to be confirmed) will be in the Nashville Renaissance Hotel. (Check at the CCME Symposium registration area at the hotel for the assigned meeting location.)

**The Issue:** Given the high operations tempo of military students, the demands of their mission, and their diverse attendance patterns:

- What promising practices might institutions adopt to demonstrate military student persistence toward program or degree completion?
- What are realistic retention rates for this sub-population of adult learners?
- What metrics would help us understand the retention and degree completion patterns of this
- population of learners?



The Department of Defense's tuition assistance policy provides educational funds for servicemembers to enable them to pursue off-duty education opportunities that support their academic, technical, intellectual, personal, and professional development, thereby contributing to the readiness of the Armed Forces as well as the quality of life of servicemembers and their families. In recent years, the military services have placed greater emphasis on student retention and degree completion rates as indicators of program success. Priorities have shifted from individual course enrollment to program completions at the certificate, diploma, or collegiate degree level.

This Burning Issues Summit will provide an opportunity for SOC Consortium member institutions to identify pervasive challenges and showcase promising practices in retaining military students and supporting them in their academic endeavors.

- Panel discussions highlighting existing policies, practices, and tracking systems will provide promising models for measuring persistence toward degree completion.
- Roundtable discussions will provide an opportunity for dialogue among institutions on successful retention and degree completion strategies.

According to Kathy Snead, “We envision this summit as an opportunity to identify potential solutions, exchange success stories and best practices, explore partnering opportunities, and hopefully generate policy resolutions or recommendations that will be communicated with DOD Continuing Education Programs and Voluntary Education Service leadership.”

**Burning Issues Summit Agenda**

- 1300-1330 The Issue: Measuring Military Student Retention and Completion Rates
- 1330-1400 Panel: Promising Practices of Distance Learning Providers
- 1400-1430 Panel: Promising Practices of Campus-centered Providers

- 1430-1440 Break
- 1440-1530 Roundtable Discussion: Retention Strategies with Military Student Populations

The Burning Issues Summit will be hosted by SOC. For more information about the event, contact Sonja Ferguson at (800) 368-5622, (202) 667-0079, or [fergusons@aascu.org](mailto:fergusons@aascu.org).

**DOES YOUR STATE HAVE AN ACME?**

On Monday, Feb. 15, most, if not all, of the state ACME’s will be holding their regional meetings. Please visit the CCME Website for a link to your state ACME. See agenda for Monday’s schedule.

**CCME’S NEW WEBSITE AND INDTAI**

Special thanks to the pro-bono efforts of our friends at Indtai, Inc., and their Military Community Academic Explorer platform for the new look and feel of the CCME Website. Future plans call for a Discussion Forum that will allow members to engage in conversation with their colleagues on key issues in the realm of higher education. We’re all passionate about what we do, and this will be a great virtual meeting place to share ideas, address issues, and network with those sharing common interests. A special shout out to Erik Kovacs who is the “man behind the website.” We welcome suggestions to continue to make the website more user-friendly and of value to our membership.

**CCME MEMBERSHIP**

The CCME Annual Membership is valid from March 1 through February. So, your 2009/10 Membership allows you the reduced registration rate for the 2010 Symposium. Your membership status also provides you the opportunity to vote for your 2010/11 CCME Executive Board during the CCME Business meeting slated for Thursday morning, Feb. 17.



Visit the website to learn about this year’s nominees.

If you’re not yet a member or plan to renew visit the CCME website and [Join today!](#) As a member of CCME, you belong to the largest international organization dedicated to promoting, encouraging, and delivering quality education to servicemembers and their families in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The annual symposium attracts 1,000 or more attendees and facilitates networking among key leadership across that nation.

**CCME 2010 AGENDA**  
February 15-18, 2010

*“Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Total Force: A Matter of Honor”*

**Sun, Feb. 14 Pre-Conference Meetings**

- 1500-1900 Registration Open
- 1600-2000 State Advisory Councils for Military Education (ACME) Presidents’ Reception  
CCME President’s Suite, Renaissance Hotel (Invitation only)

**Mon., Feb. 15 Pre-Conference Meetings**

- 0800-1600 Army Day  
Renaissance Hotel
- 0800-1700 Registration Open
- 0800-1430 State ACME Meetings  
Convention Center
- 1000-1200 ACME Presidents’ Strategy Session
- 1200-1700 Exhibit Hall Set-up  
Convention Center

- 1300-1500 SOC’s Burning Issue Summit II: Military Student Retention and Degree Completion—Measuring Success
- 1700-1800 Guest Speakers’ Reception  
(all general session presenters invited)  
CCME President’s Suite, Renaissance Hotel
- 1800-2100 President’s Reception, Exhibit Hall Opening, and Education Fair  
Convention Center  
(all attendees invited)

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

- 0700-0800 Continental Breakfast  
Renaissance Hotel
- 0700-1200 Registration Open
- 0700-1700 Exhibit Hall Open
- 0800-0830 Opening Ceremony
- 0830-0845 Welcome – Mayor Karl Dean (invited)
- 0845-0930 Keynote Speaker – Jack Tilley  
Sergeant Major of the Army (retired);  
Co-founder of American Freedom Festival
- 0930-1015 Carolyn Baker  
Chief, DoD Continuing Education
- 1015-1045 Break and Refreshments  
Convention Center Exhibit Hall
- 1045-1145 Distance Learning Quality Panel  
Moderator: Dr. Michael Herberling  
President, Baker College Center for Graduate Studies



1145-1330	Lunch & Presentation (hosted by CCME) Renaissance Nashville Hotel Speaker: Carolyn Baker, DoD MOU Update and Q&A	1200-1330	Lunch on your own (Food Vendors available in Exhibit Hall)
1330-1500	Service Chiefs/Presidents Panel Moderator: Dr. Bruce Chaloux President, The Sloan Consortium	1330-1430	Concurrent Sessions
1500-1530	Break and Refreshments Convention Center Exhibit Hall	1430-1500	Break and Refreshments Convention Center Exhibit Hall
1530-1630	Emerging Technologies for Online Learning Panel Moderator/Panel Coordinator: John Bourne, Executive Director, The Sloan Consortium	1500-1600	Concurrent Sessions
1630-1700	Keith Wilson, Director, Education Services Department of Veterans' Affairs	1500-1700	Exhibit Breakdown
		1600-1700	Military Representatives Breakout. Open discussion intended for all military educators, Moderated by Amy Moorash, CCME VP for Military
		1600-1700	Institution Representatives Breakout. Open discussion intended for representatives from colleges & universities. Moderated by Linda Frank, CCME VP for Institutions

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

0700-0800	Continental Breakfast Renaissance Hotel
0700-1500	Exhibit Hall Open
0800-0915	Spouse and Family Member Panel Moderator: Kelley Mustion, Military Spouse
0915-1030	Active Duty and Veterans Student Panel; Moderator: Dr. Randy Plunkett, CCME Secretary-Elect
1030-1100	Break and Refreshments
1100-1200	Reserve Component Panel Moderator: LTC Mark E. Quartullo, Office of the Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

**Thursday, February 18, 2010**

0700-0800	Continental Breakfast
0800-0845	CCME Business Meeting, Board Nominee Speeches/Elections
0900-100	Concurrent Sessions
1000-1030	Break and refreshments
1030-1130	Concurrent Sessions
1130-1300	Lunch (on your own)
1300-1400	Service Chiefs/& University Presidents Panel
1400-1430	Dr. Kathy Snead, President Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges



1430-1500 Break

1500-1545 Pat Shanaghan  
MyCAA Program Analyst

1545-1630 Brigadier General Gary H. Cheek  
Assistant Surgeon General, Warrior  
Care and Transition, & Commander of  
the Warrior Transition Command

1830-2100 Awards Banquet, Dancing and  
Entertainment  
Renaissance Hotel

**Fri. Feb. 19 Post-Conference Meetings**

0800-1200 Army ESO Training  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

0900-1000 2011 CCME Board Meeting  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

1000-1300 NAIMES Meeting  
Renaissance Hotel (Room TBD)

**FROM COMBAT BOOTS TO  
COWBOY BOOTS.....**

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s symposium. As you can see from the agenda, there will be a great deal of value to gain, information to learn, and friends to see.

Enjoy the venue and network with those, like you, who are passionate about providing education to our servicemembers.

The Dress Code is business casual. We encourage you to enjoy the Nashville venue, so bring your boots and hats and get down to business and get down to the “Boot Scootin’ Boogie!”

We hope to see you in Nashville!

Elected Executive Board Members:

**President**

James Sweizer (American Military Univ)

**Immediate Past President**

M. Kathleen Connolly (ARMY)

**President-Elect**

Belinda Jones (USMC)

**Vice-President, Institutions**

Linda Frank (ESC)

**Vice-President, Military**

Amy Moorash (ARMY)

**Secretary**

Joycelyn Groot (Coastline)

**Assistant Secretary**

Randy Plunkett (Devry)

**Treasurer,**

Bonnie Orvick (Retired Education)

**Historian**

John “J.J.” Jones (UMUC)

Appointed Board Members:

**Chair, Awards Committee**

Amaya Davis (Florida JC)

**Chair, Concurrent Sessions**

Dawn Rich (Air Force)

**Chair, Memberships**

Ginny Newman (Penn State)

**Chair, Scholarships**

Michael Midura (Strayer)

**Chair, Sponsorships**

Valerie Halseth (Air Force)

**ACME Liaison**

Billy Wells (Ret. Air Force COL)

**DoD Liaison**

Kerrie Tucker

**NAIMES Liaison**

Ramona McAfee (Columbia College)