



***** CONSORTIUM of *****
MICHIGAN VETERANS EDUCATORS

Annual Activity Report for 2015-2016

In 2015, CMVE sought funding from The Kresge Foundation to strengthen its network of advocates for veterans in higher education. These resources have increased the momentum of the Consortium by offering its members increased professional development opportunities to ensure Michigan's military-affiliated students experience optimal success in completing their education and training goals. This report details the activities and growing momentum of the Consortium from August 2015-August 2016.

Highlighted Activities

- ✦ **Network Expansion:** To expand its network of veteran advocates, CMVE presented at nine external events, reaching over 300 participants while focusing on best practices around student veteran success.
- ✦ **Regional Workshop Series:** CMVE offered four regional workshops in Spring 2016 to engage with its members around the state. The topic of "Cultivating an Inclusive Campus Culture for Veterans" featured student veteran panels, presentations on local promising practices, and facilitated small group discussions. In total, the four workshops brought over 150 professionals together with positive evaluations and excellent recommendations for future professional development topics.
- ✦ **Membership Survey:** While the 2016 membership survey showed many positive ways CMVE member institutions are serving student veterans, responding members indicated a need for additional professional development on: awarding academic credit for military experience, VA benefits and regulations, and faculty and staff training on military culture and veterans in transition. CMVE continues to use this feedback to develop programming that will build capacity at the institutions to maximize student veteran success.
- ✦ **Kognito Veterans on Campus Purchase:** Since classroom engagement with faculty is the most frequent instance where student veterans engage with their institutions and there are over 35,000 full- and part-time instructional staff dispersed throughout the CMVE, the Consortium sought a solution to ensure these educators are prepared to meet the needs of student veterans. To that end, CMVE negotiated a 2-year contract (valid through June 2018) that allows all faculty and staff at Michigan's 43 public postsecondary institutions access to the Kognito Veterans on Campus online training module. Visit <https://micmve.org/kognito-veterans-on-campus/> for more details.
- ✦ **Connection with Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC):** CMVE has strengthened its connection to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's (MHEC) MCMC initiative (read more at <http://www.mhec.org/multi-state-collaborative-on-military-credit>). Representatives from Michigan serve in various roles with MCMC, including a place on its Steering Committee, as co-chair for the Articulation of Academic Credit (AoAC) Workgroup, and with several members participating in each of the other workgroups (Licensure and Certification; Communications and Outreach; and Data, Technology, and Systems). In addition to these roles, CMVE also facilitated two MCMC webinars including "Exploring Healthcare Bridge Programs for Veterans, featuring Lansing Community College" and Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Status Update" with nearly 250 people attending these webinar, including many CMVE members.
- ✦ **Knowledge Communities:** CMVE has re-envisioned its prior subcommittees as more focused knowledge communities. Instead of periodic working meetings to engage with members, knowledge community chairs will plan for information-sharing, professional development, and special task force opportunities related to their knowledge

area. Two new areas were added to address current issues of concern to CMVE's members. The knowledge communities and current chairs are:

- Academic Credit – Chris Goeth, Oakland University, Chair; Andrew Cosgrove, Lansing Community College, Co-Chair
- Outreach & Recruitment – Sarah Mellon, Michigan State University, Chair
- Professional Development – Julie Lavender, Kirtland Community College, Chair
- Post-Military Career Success – Steven Lipnicki, Grand Valley State University, Chair
- SVA/Student Support – Will Emerson, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Chair

- ✦ **New CMVE Website:** CMVE's legacy website was generously hosted by Central Michigan University but the CMVE sought to enhance this essential communication tool to improve its ability to share its work more widely. CMVE purchased the domain www.MIcmve.org and launched the first phase of the new website which includes institutional points of contact and veteran-specific websites for each institution, briefings about CMVE activities, and links to professional development resources, including recorded presentations.
- ✦ **Listserv Growth and Social Media Presence:** CMVE's listserv has experienced significant growth with nearly 200 members currently on the distribution list (compared to 118 in Fall 2015) and an increase in member engagement, particularly cross-institution information-sharing about organizational structure, best practices, and data trends. In addition, CMVE now shares periodic "CMVE Briefings" via email that aggregate news, events, and other important information and posts these on the new website. The organization is strengthening its social media presence through its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CMVE10>).
- ✦ **Education Outreach:** In May, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) invited CMVE to be represented at the Service Academy Career Conference (SACC) in Washington, D.C. along with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and several Michigan employers as part of the "WhyMichigan? Talent Attraction Team" that is focused on making Michigan a destination state for separating service members and their families. Similar events are planned for the future with CMVE's projected involvement.
- ✦ **CMVE Outreach Kits:** CMVE has created "outreach kits" with CMVE table banners, branded notebooks and pens, and updated marketing materials that can easily be shipped when institutions travel to outreach events and wish to represent CMVE.
- ✦ **Strengthened State Partnerships:** CMVE has increased its collaborative efforts with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), particularly in support of the Michigan Veterans Education Initiative (MVEI) and their Veteran Friendly Schools ranking programs. CMVE leadership has also been involved with the formation of the new statewide student veterans' organization, Student Veterans of Michigan (SVM). Once SVM leadership is formalized, it is expected that its leadership will participate in CMVE's Steering Committee to ensure CMVE retains an authentic student voice. CMVE has also encouraged its members to engage with the regional Veteran Community Action Teams (VCAT)s present in each of Michigan's Prosperity Regions.

Closing

The work by CMVE member institutions to support Michigan's military-affiliated students is impressive. The opportunity to leverage joint resources to meet professional development and technical assistance needs through the CMVE is an efficient and effective use of collaborative resources. In addition, as the state continues to focus on collaboration between community colleges and universities through a number of transfer-related initiatives, CMVE continues to expand its reach among staff and faculty who serve veterans in higher education and develop policy that affects student veterans. These partnerships and the growing momentum of the CMVE in the last year is promising. CMVE is poised to make an even larger impact on student veteran success as membership engagement continues to increase and the implementation of professional development opportunities continues.

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