

the **veteran** advocate

an initiative of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators

Veterans Day – A Celebration of Peace, Patriotism, and Sacrifice

November 2016

On November 11, 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, effectively ended World War I and prompted a new national holiday to honor WWI veterans, known as Armistice Day. In 1954, November 11th was re-envisioned as Veterans Day to honor all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. In his Veterans Day Proclamation, President Eisenhower said, "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose" of honoring America's veterans. While Veterans Day provides a national platform for citizens to acknowledge their gratitude for the sacrifices of U.S. service members and their families, veteran advocates know that working to encourage the post-military success of our nation's heroes is not a one-day job. On Veterans Day, and all days in between, Michigan colleges and universities are encouraged to take a closer look at these opportunities offered by the CMVE.

Building Military Cultural Competency Among Faculty and Staff

Returning veterans enter the classroom with valuable life and leadership experiences; however, transitioning to student life may present unique challenges for them including isolation, academic difficulties, and mental health issues. All Michigan public colleges and universities have free, unlimited access to *Veterans on Campus*, an online, interactive learning experience that helps faculty and staff understand the needs and cultural experiences affecting student veterans ([read more about gaining access](#)). By engaging in role-play conversations with virtual student veterans, users get hands-on experience managing challenging conversations, gain important skills in recognizing signs of psychological distress, and learn how to connect students to appropriate campus resources.

Awarding Academic Credit for Military Experiences

The *MI-litary Equivalency Project* will support institutions in awarding academic credit for military experience. Colleges and universities will learn how to develop more consistent, direct equivalencies for military experience. Webinars and events are scheduled throughout the year. See the [project website](#) for more details.

Campus Events and Online Webinars

CMVE plans virtual events, in-person workshops, an annual conference, and other opportunities for professional development and cross-institution dialogue around five knowledge community topics, including: Academic Credit, Outreach & Recruitment, Post-Military Career Success, Professional Development, and SVA/Student Support. One such upcoming event is, *Understanding the Needs of Veterans in the Classroom*, a webinar presented by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) that will share insights on military culture and service-to-school transition issues, along with tangible strategies for supporting student veteran success. Educators can attend on Oct. 18, 2016 at 4:00pm or on Nov. 10, 2016 at Noon. [Register online](#).



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MICHIGAN VETERANS EDUCATORS

The mission of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators is to serve all Michigan public community colleges and universities in their efforts to support student veterans, military service members, and their family members. The CMVE is generously funded by a grant from [The Kresge Foundation](#) with special project support from the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC's) [Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit](#). For additional information, see the CMVE website at www.micmve.org.