

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2011

Contact: Martha Mead
(804) 382-0421

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program to host “We Are Virginia Veterans on Campus” conference, August 9 at VMI; online registration open now

RICHMOND—Commissioner Paul Galanti announced today that the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program will host a student veterans conference for colleges and universities in Virginia on August 9, 2011 at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. Highlighting the conference is keynote speaker Major General (Ret.) Christopher Cortez, General Manager Worldwide Public Sector at Microsoft Corporation. MG Cortez leads Microsoft’s *Military 2 Microsoft Program* (M2M), coined *We Still Serve*. The program assists transitioning veterans with managing the challenges of navigating the private sector job market. The vision of this program is to develop a sustainable, reliable system that enables Microsoft to recruit transitioning U.S. military talent.

MG Cortez will address success strategies for colleges and universities to support student service members and veterans through their college experience and into meaningful employment.

Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, said “The new Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits are the most generous educational support for veterans since the original GI Bill after World War II. Veteran enrollments in our colleges and universities, including community colleges, are expected to rise markedly with veteran enrollment rates increasing exponentially. This is a critical time for college presidents, chancellors, provosts, deans, administrators and faculty to recognize the incredible value of military students to the success of their institutions and to the future of the Commonwealth.”

Additional speakers and student veterans with experience in making colleges and universities military- and veteran-friendly will be on hand to share valuable information and successful ideas they have gathered from across the United States and from our own campuses in Virginia.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



The Honorable Terrie L. Suit, Virginia Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, will welcome conference attendees on behalf of Governor Bob McDonnell. Afternoon sessions will provide learning opportunities for college and university leadership, student service members, and veterans as well as administrators, counselors, and faculty. Registration is available online at www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org, the website of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.

For more information contact Martha Mead, VWWP Special Projects Coordinator, at Martha.mead@dvs.virginia.gov.

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