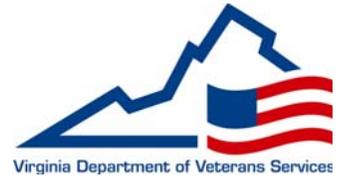


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***MG Chris Cortez, U.S. Marines (Ret.) from Microsoft to Headline We Are Virginia Veterans on Campus Conference***

**Richmond**—Major General Chris Cortez, General Manager, Strategic Operations Worldwide Public Sector, Microsoft Corp, will headline the upcoming **We Are Virginia Veterans on Campus Conference**, hosted by the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. Addressing university and college leadership, faculty, staff and students, MG Cortez will talk about what Virginia, as well as the nation, can do by honoring our veterans. The one-day conference, running from 8 AM to 5 PM August. 9, at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington will prepare colleges and universities for the influx of transitioning military and veteran students resulting from the newly implemented Post 9/11 GI Bill. In federal fiscal year 2010, Virginia ranked fifth in the country for the number of beneficiaries taking advantage of the GI Bill. Almost \$8 billion in GI bill benefits are paid nationwide to veterans and their dependents. Virginia's share of this is estimated at over \$400 million.

“It’s not enough to provide student veterans with great academic credentials,” Cortez said. “We must also figure out how to help them find productive and meaningful employment using the skills and leadership qualities they developed during their military service. Microsoft has launched a number of initiatives to help Veterans – from broad programs to honor Wounded Warriors to targeted job training efforts for veterans, and more. Whether our employees are veterans or not, many volunteer and stand up for those who serve or have served.”

Virginia is in the vanguard among the states for assisting transitioning service members with reintegration through the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program; but, employment for returning veterans continues to be an issue in Virginia and around the nation. Several major corporations such as Microsoft, and Virginia's own Dominion Power, with *Troops to Energy*, already have programs underway or are in

*Serving those who served.*

the process of developing college-to-career transition programs. MG Cortez will focus on key steps that colleges, universities, and community partners can take to help veterans obtain well paying and stable employment, even in an uncertain economy.

Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, said, “We are thrilled to have MG Cortez join us for the conference. Employment is such a key issue for military service members, veterans and their families who are reintegrating in our communities from long and difficult deployments overseas. We know that employment is a key factor in sustaining families, supporting individual and family resilience and fostering community growth. We owe it to our veterans to support them through their educational pursuits and into jobs that utilize their military work ethic and leadership abilities.”

To register online or get more information about the conference, go to [WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org](http://WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org), the official website of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.

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