

Resolution Recognizing the Value of Student Servicemembers and Veterans

December 11, 2014

WHEREAS, student servicemembers and veterans ensure the security of our nation and continue to contribute to campuses and communities throughout their lives;

WHEREAS, student servicemembers and veterans are enrolling in Indiana colleges and universities in record numbers;

WHEREAS, Indiana colleges and universities have an opportunity to enhance and grow campus diversity by attracting and retaining more student servicemembers and veterans;

WHEREAS, student servicemembers and veterans enhance the classroom experience by allowing all to learn from their knowledge;

WHEREAS, federal and state legislators have recently enacted several new laws to meet the educational and career goals of student servicemembers and veterans;

WHEREAS, the Commission's *Reaching Higher, Achieving More* strategic plan champions state and institutional policies that give students credit for prior learning that evaluate the knowledge and skills individuals have accumulated from work and related experiences, a strategy which is particularly important for student servicemembers and veterans;

WHEREAS, veterans often bear invisible wounds from the war that affect their academic pursuits;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- I. The Commission calls upon Indiana's colleges and universities to:
 - a. Attract, retain, graduate, a significantly larger number of student servicemembers and veterans; and
 - b. Have highly visible points of contact and web pages for student servicemembers and veterans; and
 - c. Ensure academic and student support services for student servicemembers and veterans are in place that address the transition from combat to college and the impact of war wounds on academic success; and
 - d. Give specific credit for military training and experience; and
 - e. Participate in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Degree Network System as part of the recent transformation of SOC.
- II. The Commission endorses:
 - a. Participation in the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit which is a voluntary association of 13 states that seeks to improve the timely completion of postsecondary credentials by student servicemembers and veterans through addressing barriers to access, participation and completion; and
 - b. Creation of an Indiana Military Credit Advisory Committee which will include post-secondary education institutions, state agencies, employers, student servicemembers, veterans, and alumni, by providing the opportunity to guide and offer valuable feedback on ways the Commission can assist student service members and veterans.