

**Contact:** Fritz Schneider 301.728.4811  
Jackie Clark 301.641.3750

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 4, 2016**

**COUNCIL FOR ADULT AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING  
HOSTS SUMMIT TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES  
IN HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS**  
*Features Local, Regional, and National Speakers on  
Accelerated Healthcare Career Pathways*

**(Chicago - May 3)** - The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), with Illinois Military Training Counts and in collaboration with the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, an initiative of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, will host a summit on May 11 at the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago, CAEL CEO and President Pamela Tate announced today. "This gathering, 'Healthcare: The Next Mission | Veterans Career Pathways and Bridges,' will seek to expand the recognition of military learning for college credit so that our veterans who served in healthcare roles in the military can advance in exciting new civilian careers," said Tate.

The CAEL military team, led by Amy Sherman, Associate Vice President of Innovation and Policy, has arranged a variety of opportunities during the event, featuring local, regional, and national speakers to learn the latest about partnerships between the military and educators to promote streamlined healthcare career pathways for veterans in Illinois and the rest of the country.

Featured speakers include

- Lt Colonel Melanie Ellis, Defense Health Agency, Medical and Education Training Campus (METC)
- Dr. Mitch Seal, University of Incarnate Word (Former METC Strategic Planner)
- Dr. Lula Pelayo, Alamo Colleges
- Dr. Ashley Becker, Illinois Community College Board, Military Training Counts
- Sara Appel, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit
- David Lash, Veterans Health Administration, Corpsmen and Medic Vocation Education and Training
- Amy Sherman, CAEL, Veteran Healthcare Career Pathways (VHCP)

In addition to these experts, there will be an interactive workshop session about building crosswalks between military healthcare training offered through Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) for all military branches and college course outcomes. METC is a United States Department of Defense integrated campus under a single university-style administration, with nearly 50 programs of study available to U.S. military enlisted students.

**Healthcare: The Next Mission** is made possible through the sponsorship of CAEL's Veterans Healthcare Career Pathways (VHCP) initiative, which is funded by the Michael Reese Health Trust, Illinois Military Training Counts, and in collaboration with the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, all of which is part of a larger effort to recognize military learning for college credit.

Concluded Tate, "Part of our mission is to improve pathways for our veterans to get the college credit they deserve as a result of knowledge and skills gained during their military experience. Our VHCP initiative will help qualified veterans meet the need for skilled healthcare workers in our communities. Events such as Healthcare: The Next Mission mobilize attention and create collaboration between the military and educators to build effective pathways from service to civilian healthcare careers for our worthy veterans."

See more at: <http://www.cael.org>

For more information, please contact [veterans@cael.org](mailto:veterans@cael.org)

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization based in Chicago, Illinois that assists adults with their educational endeavors, finding practical ways to earn college credit for learning acquired through training and work experiences. CAEL works with the public sector, private sector industries and higher education institutions to ensure that adult students receive the most efficient training and education to occupy a meaningful professional place in a 21st century economy. Since 1974, CAEL has assisted colleges and universities in providing college credit for prior learning. CAEL is the recognized national expert on a method known as portfolio assessment, and their Ten Standards for Assessing Learning are used by colleges and universities, as well as accrediting organizations, across the country.

Illinois Military Training Counts is a joint initiative of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, and MyCreditsTransfer to ensure that veteran and military students receive appropriate academic credit for the education, skills and experience earned in the military. The initiative encourages and supports Illinois colleges and universities in efforts to develop specific military articulations as appropriate. It also promotes the utilization of the online transfer advising tool, Transferology, to display institutional credit awarded for military training. Through these efforts, Illinois Military Training Counts aims to increase the rate of college completion among military and veteran students.

The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, an initiative of the Midwest Higher Education Compact, is an interstate partnership of 13 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) to advance best practices designed to ease the transition of veterans and their families from military life to college campuses, with special reference to translating competencies acquired through military training and experiences into milestones toward completing a college degree or earning a certificate or license. The three-year project will build on the efforts of individuals, who have collaborated virtually and in person over the past 2.5 years to exchange information and share best practices in four areas: articulation of credit, licensure and certification, communications, and technology.

###