Presentation abstracts
Thursday, October 30th 2014

Welcome Remarks
9:00-9:15 a.m.
Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs, Colorado State University

Opening General Session – Keynote Speaker
9:15-9:50 a.m.
D. Wayne Robinson, CEO/President of Student Veterans of America, Army Command Sergeant Major (Retired)
Mr. Robinson is the first Sergeant Major to graduate with an MBA from the Booth School of Business at The University of Chicago. Mr. Robinson is also a graduate of Wall Street Warfighters, a program that helps high-potential Veteran’s transition into finance roles. A native of Mobile, Alabama, he holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Trident University and has previously attended New York University (NYU) to further his expertise in the principles of investment banking. Mr. Robinson will speak about the important role of student veterans on their campuses, in the community, in their careers and in our nation.

General Session
10:00-10:50 a.m.
Dr. Steve Abt, Professor Emeritus, Senior Research Scientist, Colorado State University; U.S. Army Major General, (Retired)
Dr. Steven R. Abt is a Colorado State University Emeritus Professor, Registered Professional Engineering in the State of Colorado, and U.S. Army Major General (Ret.). His presentation will profile the Millennial (Gen Y) generation highlighting some of the traits and characteristics that distinguishes the Millennials from prior generations. He will also identify some of the stimuli that may attribute to the Gen Y “revolution.” Dr. Abt will then present a series of attributes that differentiates the Millennial Veteran from their generational counterparts indicating their “value-added” legacy as a CSU graduate.

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION ABSTRACTS
Veterans’ View: Campus Ecology
11:00-11:50 a.m.
Kristyn Emmer, Student Affairs Higher Education Graduate Student and Career Center graduate assistant, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)
Concepts from the popular theory, campus ecology, serve as a foundation for understanding the importance of implementing veteran-friendly practices on university campuses. Student affairs professionals serve critical roles as change advocates to military and veteran services to better serve the transition of veteran students from the military to university life.

**Technology Supports/Solutions**  
11:00-11:50 a.m.  
Marla Roll, Director, Assistive Technology Resource Center, Colorado State University; Shannon Lavey, Service Coordinator Assistive Technology Resource Center, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)  
Technology solutions can be of great help to veterans attending institutions of higher education. This session aims to highlight mainstream and assistive technology solutions that support participation in academic and educational pursuits. Additionally, technology supports for everyday living and specific to the needs of veterans will be briefly highlighted.

**Veterans: Advising Strategies**  
11:00-11:50 a.m.  
Melanie Nichols, Academic Support Coordinator, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)  
Advisors need to be familiar with military culture and student veterans’ backgrounds to be able to connect and apply adult learning theory to this particular population. Strategies for advising student veterans will be presented along with small group discussions where advisors can share their experiences and best practices.

**Veteran Service Organizations**  
11:00-11:50 a.m.  
Marc Barker, Assistant Registrar, Colorado State University; representatives from Veteran Service Organizations (Campus, Community and Career Focus)  
Representatives from the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars will discuss the roles of Veteran Service Organizations. Topics will include advocacy and legislative initiatives across many spectrums including higher education, health care, and employment.

**Lunch and Student Veteran Panel (General)**  
12:00-1:20 p.m.  
Facilitated by Melanie Nichols, Academic Support Coordinator, Colorado State University and Dan Turnbeaugh, Director of Veterans Services, University of Northern Colorado  
During the lunch session, a Student Veteran Panel will discuss their experiences, accomplishments, and recommendations in the college setting, in the community and as they plan for their careers.
AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION ABSTRACTS

Combat Stress in Higher Education
1:30-2:20 p.m.
Heidi Stuckert, Coordinator for Military and Veterans and Student Affairs in Higher Education Graduate Student, Colorado State University; Anne Hudgens, Executive Director of Health Network, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)
Although Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is the signature wound of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, lesser known combat stress also affects student veterans in the campus community. Faculty and staff must be competent in the skills and best practices which support an environment where veterans working through combat stress thrive.

Five Keys to Leveraging Your Veteran Workforce
1:30-2:20 p.m.
Dawn McDaniel, President Bravo Delta Consulting (Community and Career Focus)
Building and leveraging veterans in the workforce or in higher education requires a level of military cultural competence. One unintended consequence of the all-volunteer force is a layer of insulation that inhibits cultural awareness between those who have served in the military (7% veterans in the US), and those who have not. Military cultural competency is that basis for developing successful veteran transition programs and increasing your return on investment.

Resiliency: Falsifying Myths
1:30-2:20 p.m.
Dr. Kaily Cannizzaro, Psychologist, Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center; Steven Pote, Ph.D. Student, Counseling Psychology, University of Northern Colorado (Community Focus)
This presentation will focus on student Veteran psychological resiliency while falsifying myths associated with mental illness. Topics of discussion will include facts and false statements regarding the current well-being of OEF/OIF/OND student Veterans, while emphasizing the number of positive attributes they bring to their academic endeavors.
New Start for Student Veterans  
1:30-2:20 p.m.
Cathy Schelly, Director, Center for Community Partnerships and New Start for Student Veterans Program, Department of Occupational Therapy, Colorado State University; Erica Schelly and Joshua Burns, Student Veteran Coordinators, Colorado State University, and Dr. Aaron Eakman, New Start Research Director, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)
With the military exit from Iraq and Afghanistan, thousands of soldiers are entering college, with plans to pursue new careers. Many have sustained serious injuries while on military duty. This presentation describes support strategies that are guiding these veterans to college success and a new start on life after injury.

Veterans as Employees  
2:30-3:20 p.m.
Joshua Burns and Erica Schelly, New Start Student Veteran Coordinators, Colorado State University and Veteran Panel (Career Focus)
This panel presentation will be a discussion from veterans who are employees in a variety of fields. They will share information regarding their views about veterans’ contributions and great potential as employees. The goal of this presentation is for participants to understand veterans’ experiences and insight as they have moved from the military to civilian careers.

RallyPoint/6  
2:30-3:20 p.m.
Ann Sprute, Founder and CEO (Community Focus)
RallyPoint/6 is Washington State’s largest one-stop Resource Center for Transitioning Service Members, National Guard and Reservists, Veterans and Military Family Support. This session will describe their work, focusing on the resources and supports this important Resource Center provides, as well as make recommendations for replicate programs across the country.

Navigating “Organized Anarchy”  
2:30-3:20 p.m.
Lesley McBain, Ph.D. Student, Higher Education & Organizational Change (HEOC) Division, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, University of California at Los Angeles (Campus Focus)
This session aims to increase attendees' understanding of the organizational framing differences between academia’s organizational structure (described as “organized anarchy”) and the command-
and-control structure of the military. These core framing and cultural differences affect how student veterans experience higher education. Suggestions for policy and practice will be offered.

**Developing a Strength-Based Pedagogy for Student Veterans**
2:30-3:20 p.m.
Dr. Lisa Langstraat and Dr. Sue Doe, Associate Professors of English, Colorado State University (Campus Focus)
Veterans often report a sense of isolation on campus and frustration with traditional students. Some are also struggling with financial pressures, are dealing with physical and mental health disabilities, and are facing other non-traditional student issues. We need to focus our efforts at the pedagogical level to ensure retention and degree-completion.

**At War with Words: Accommodating Student Veterans' Literacy Practices**
4:00-4:50 p.m.
Mariana Grohowski, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English, Rhetoric & Writing Program, Bowling Green State University (Campus Focus)
This presentation will share the mixed methods findings of current and former, male and female military-service personnel’s multimodal literate practices to substantiate the claim that a “Universal Design for Learning” approach to teaching and research could best assist teacher-scholars to continue their already strong efforts advocating for students with varied needs, abilities, and experiences.

**The Stigma of getting Help**
4:00-4:50 p.m.
Jason Sydoriak, Colorado State University Student, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Leadership Fellow (Community Focus)
Despite huge strides to integrate Veterans back into civilian life there has been a lacking discussion surrounding suicide and the stigma getting help entails in the maculated culture of the military. This workshop will help ignite a conversation on veteran suicide and how we can overcome the stigma.
Leveraging Data, Trends and Tools to Create Successful Student Veteran Programs at Institutions of Higher Education
4:00-4:50 p.m.
Tanya Ang, Director, American Council on Education; Wendy Lang, Director, Operation College Promise (Campus Focus)
This session will provide a high-level overview of current research, data, and trends related to military student populations. It will also highlight key areas institutions are currently focusing their efforts, including staff and faculty training, peer support models, mental health treatment options, and credit for prior learning.

A Veteran Friendly Employers Panel
4:00-4:50 p.m.
Jenny Pickett, Director of Adult Learner and Veteran Services, Colorado State University (Career Focus)
This panel of veteran-friendly employers will discuss how they prioritize the hiring veterans, and how they support veterans once they are hired. The goal of this presentation is to help participants develop a better understanding of the value veterans brings to their employers, as well as how to attract and retain veterans and recognize their skills, experiences and world knowledge. Participants include CSU and community representatives.

Networking Opportunity
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Light hors d’oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash bar. The networking period will provide an opportunity for Symposium attendees to share ideas, make connections and work together to further explore the value of veterans on college campuses, in the community and within the workplace. The vendor and poster session will continue to be open during the Networking period.

Poster Presentations
Comparing psychosocial and health-related characteristics of post 9/11 veterans with disabilities with a matched sample of non-veterans in post-secondary education
A.M. Eakman, Occupational Therapy Assistant Professor, Colorado State University; K. Henry, Colorado State University; Samantha Dutra, Occupational Therapy graduate student, Colorado State University; Cathy Schelly, Assistant Professor and Director of Center for Community Partnerships, Colorado State University
Poster Presentations, Continued
Translating Military Skills to College, Career and Community Life
Cathy Schelly, Assistant Professor and Director of Center for Community Partnerships, Colorado State University; Joshua Burns and Erica Schelly, New Start Student Veteran Coordinators, Colorado State University; E. Tohtz, Occupational Therapy graduate student, Colorado State University

6:30 p.m.  Mystery of CSU History Campus Tours

Friday October 31st 2014

General Session
One Team-One Mission: A collaborative approach
8:30-9:20 a.m.
Joshua Burns, Student Veteran Coordinators, Colorado State University; Jenny Pickett, Director of Adult Learner and Veteran Services, Colorado State University and Veteran Panel (Community Focus)
As service members transition from the military, many people and offices must work together to help veterans achieve their potential. This session will inform participants about the importance of collaboration and demonstrate how CSU is valuing and implementing a student-veteran centered approach.

Morning Sessions
STEM as a Career Option
9:30-10:20 a.m.
Christine Grauer, Project Coordinator, Co-Principal Investigator, Virginia Commonwealth University; Elizabeth Evans Getzel, Project Director, Virginia Commonwealth University; Annie Walker, Director, State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training, Virginia Department of Veterans Services (Career Focus)
Presenters will review preliminary findings of a National Science Foundation funded study investigating the perceptions of GI Bill recipients of STEM careers. Attendees will learn strategies for developing research partnerships and the factors which may impact GI Bill recipients in STEM.
PTSD and Selfless Service
9:30-10:20 a.m.
David Fohrman, Psychiatrist and Creator, Traumatic Stress Recovery Training (Campus Focus)
The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) V diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) inadvertently discourages veterans from getting the help they need. This presentation outlines a new, evidence-based way to conceptualize the cause and treatment of “duty-related” PTSD that fosters hope, is non-stigmatizing, and easy to understand.

Creating a Veteran Safe Zone
9:30-10:20 a.m.
Dan Turnbeaugh, Director of Veterans Services, University of Northern Colorado; Eric Gorecki, Graduate Assistant to Veterans Services, University of Northern Colorado (Campus Focus)
Veteran students often have a difficult and strenuous journey as they separate from the military to attend higher education. Introducing faculty and staff to these issues and giving them tools on how to assist these students is crucial to the students’ success and empowers all parties involved.

Legal Resources and Guidance for Veterans
10:40-11:30 a.m.
Debora L. Wagner, Managing Attorney, Colorado Legal Services (Community Focus)
This session will provide information about legal resources available to veterans. Included in the discussion will be guidance on how veterans may clear up outstanding warrants and minor offenses that are interfering with their ability to get jobs, find housing and receive benefits. The session will also include information regarding how special events Veteran Courts have worked in other areas, as well as possible opportunities to set up Veteran Courts in Larimer County.

Building Supportive Student Veteran Communities on College and University Campuses: Innovative and Effective Strategies that Work
10:40-11:30 a.m.
Bradley Bayer, Executive Director of Student Life and Leadership, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; Dr. Phillip Morris, Director of Office of Veteran and Student Military Affairs, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (Campus Focus)
For many four-year colleges and universities, determining how best to support student veterans is often daunting. This program explores the various challenges that many student veterans experience within the context of the university setting, identifies the strengths veterans carry with them into the academic and co-curricular arenas, and provides practical support strategies from one of the fastest growing universities in Colorado. Participants will have the opportunity to create two actionable student veteran support strategies to be applied at their respective campuses.
Reshaping the Narrative  
10:40-11:30 a.m.  
Jeremiah Gunderson, Coordinator of Student Veteran Services, University of Texas (Campus Focus)  
With so much of the narrative being driven by unfair stigmas, how can those of us in veteran services help dispel the myths regarding our student veterans and alter the negative perceptions often held by our faculty, staff, student body, and society as a whole?

CSU as an Employer of Choice  
10:40-11:30 a.m.  
Lorie Smith, Director, Organizational Development and University Initiatives, Colorado State University; Catherine MacGowan, Human Resources, Colorado State University, (Career Focus)  
On day one of CSU’s Exploring the Value of Veterans Symposium, participants heard from several “veteran friendly” employers during the breakout panel session. As follow-up to the panel, employers are invited to join the CU team in a roundtable discussion to explore a variety of resources, suggestions, and models to consider in developing robust “veteran friendly” recruiting and retention strategies. While CSU has much to offer our veteran candidates, we know we can do better, and we suspect we’re not alone. By strengthening our support to the veteran workforce, we strengthen our organizations and the entire community. Whether your organization has offered “veteran friendly” programs for years, or has just discovered the benefits of attracting veterans, your voice is welcome. The perspective and suggestions of employed and job seeking veterans are also most welcome!

General Closing Session  
11:40am-12:30 p.m.  
Military Support- the Land Grant University as a National Asset Before, During and After Service  
Dr. Hank Gardner, Associate Vice President, VP for Research, Colorado State University  

Closing Remarks  
Dr. Tony Frank, President, Colorado State University  

1:30 p.m. Mystery of CSU History Campus Tours