



The Military Child Education

Coalition Leadership

It was around the kitchen table of then-commander of Fort Hood that the Military Child Education Coalition was born. Interested military members and civilians – just a handful then – were discussing the challenges faced by the children who accompanied their military parents from assignment to assignment, and who was looking out for these children. The answer is: we must all devote ourselves... for the sake of the child.

This small group, the immediate movers and shakers in creating a new non-profit organization, has grown significantly over the years, continuing to encompass some of the most innovative minds in the military and civilian worlds. The MCEC has a dynamic board of directors, a world-wide community of hardworking volunteers, a small but creative staff, and a national advisory committee, along with devoted contracted team members.

And, daily, the MCEC is growing its own leaders. Across the world, as the many institutes and programs are presented, volunteers are coming forth in large numbers and from these, new leadership talent is found and developed.

“My favorite part was time spent with the honorable Mrs. Frances Hesselbein. Her energy and passion was extremely inspiring... I really saw how one single person can change the world.”

Frances Hesselbein Leadership Program, 2008
S2S Student, Rolla High School, MO



The Military Child Education Coalition Leadership

2008 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman of the Board – General Thomas “Tom” Schwartz, USA, Retired (TX)

General Schwartz has served as the MCEC Board Chairman since July 2004 and also served as Vice-Chair in 2003.

Vice-Chair – Dr. William “Bill” Harrison (NC)

Dr. Harrison has served as a MCEC board member since 2003 and has been a MCEC Vice-Chair since 2004. Dr. Harrison also chairs the MCEC Student 2 Student Initiative.

Vice-Chair – Laura Cichowski (FL)

Mrs. Cichowski has served as a MCEC board member since 2005 and has recently been elected as a MCEC Vice-Chair. She also chairs the MCEC Early Literacy initiatives and was the 2008 MCEC Annual Conference Co-Chair.

Vice-Chair – Zoe Trautman (VA)

Mrs. Trautman has served as a MCEC board member since 2004 and has recently been elected as a MCEC Vice-Chair. She also chairs the MCEC Professional Development and serves as a trainer for the institutes. Mrs. Trautman is the 2009 MCEC Annual Conference Co-Chair.

Vice-Chair/Secretary – Cathryn “Cathy” Franks (OK)

Mrs. Franks has served as a MCEC board member since 2001 and has served as the MCEC Board Secretary since 2003. She has recently been elected as a MCEC Vice-Chair in 2008. She served as the 2001 MCEC Annual Conference Co-Chair.

Treasurer – Robert “Bob” Ray (GA)

Mr. Ray has served as a MCEC board member since 2004, has served as the MCEC Board Treasurer since 2007, and heads the Finance Committee. He also served as the project manager for the US Pacific Command research project and as the 2005 MCEC Annual Conference Co-Chair.

Valerie Baldwin (DC)

Ms. Baldwin was recently elected as a MCEC board member and chairs the Legislative and Policy Research committee.

General Burwell “BB” Bell, USA, Retired (TN)

General Bell was recently elected as a MCEC board member. General Bell has been a MCEC National Advisor since 2004.

Major General Charles F. Bolden, Jr., USMC, Retired (TX)

General Bolden has served as a MCEC board member since 2005 and chairs the LTG (Ret) H.G. “Pete” Taylor Partnership of Excellence committee.

Laura Cayton (TX)

Mrs. Cayton has served as a MCEC board member since 2001 and serves as a member of the MCEC Finance committee and chairs the MCEC Retail committee.

Admiral Walter F. Doran, USN, Retired (SG)

Admiral Doran has served as a MCEC board member since 2006 and has served as a MCEC National Advisor since 2003.

Brigadier General Robert Gaylord, USA, Retired (NY)

General Gaylord has served as a MCEC board member since 2007 and chairs the MCEC Membership committee.

Antoinette “Toni” Hill (FL)

Mrs. Hill has served as a MCEC board member since 2003 and chairs the MCEC’s initiatives for children with Special Needs.

Lelia “Lil” Ingram (NC)

Mrs. Ingram has served as a MCEC board member since 2007 and chairs the Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves initiative.

Lieutenant General Donald Jones, USA, Retired (TX)

General Jones has been a MCEC board member since 1999 and serves as the chair for the MCEC Bernard C. Brown Space Camp Scholarship committee.



Kathleen O’Beirne (CT)

Mrs. O’Beirne has been a MCEC board member since 1998 and serves as the chair for the MCEC Parent Initiatives. Mrs. O’Beirne was the 2003 MCEC Annual Conference Co-chair.

Matthew Rogers (WA)

A member of the MCEC board since 2007, Mr. Rogers serves as the chair for the MCEC Marketing and Public Relations committee. He will be the 2011 MCEC Annual Conference Co-chair.

Patricia “Patty” Shinseki (VA)

Mrs. Shinseki has been a MCEC board member since 2005 and serves as the chair for the Living In the New Normal: Supporting Children through Trauma and Loss initiative. She is the 2010 MCEC Annual Conference Co-chair.

Dr. David Splitek (TX)

Dr. Splitek has served as a MCEC board member since 2000 and chairs the MCEC Technology Initiatives. Dr. Splitek also served as the 2002 MCEC Annual Conference Co-chair.

Colonel Edwin “Ed” Veiga, USA, Retired (TX)

Colonel Veiga has been a MCEC board member since 2003 and serves as the MCEC Development chair as well as provides oversight for the MCEC Building Facilities.

Board Members Emeriti

Dr. James Mitchell

Mary Jo Reimer

Sandy Schwartz

Lieutenant General H.G. “Pete” Taylor, USA, Retired

Executive Director

Dr. Mary M. Keller, 2000 to present



JANUARY 2008

Pictured Front row: Dr. Mary Keller; Colonel (Ret.) Ed Veiga; Lil Ingram; Patty Shinseki; Kathleen O’Beirne; Cathryn Franks; Laura Cichowski; Zoe Trautman; Toni Hill

Back row: Dr. William Harrison; Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Gaylord; Marianne Ivany; Dr. David Splitek; Lieutenant General (Ret.) Donald Jones; Matthew Rogers; Robert Ray; General (Ret.) Thomas Schwartz

Not pictured: Valerie Baldwin; General (Ret.) BB Bell; Major General (Ret.) Charles Bolden, Jr.; Laura Cayton; Admiral (Ret.) Walter F. Doran

“We never believed the MCEC would be this big, but what counts is making a difference. Our hearts have been focused on the kids and the rest – the success and the growth – has been the results. We have not stopped our devotion for the kids; it’s all for the sake of the child.”

- General Schwartz
MCEC Chairman, 2003 to the present



Past National Board Members

Joan Barrett*	2004-2007
Dr. Patrick Bingham	2002-2005
Jane Broadwater	1999-2004
Dr. John Deegan	1999-2000
Maureen Dubia	2000-2004
Kris Ford	2001-2005
Harvey Gerry	2000-2001
Susan Hayes	2003-2005
Vicki Higgins	1999-2001
Marianne Ivany	2002-2008
Phyllis Leeth	1999-2005
Harry Murphy	2000-2002
Estella Palacios	1999-2000
Linda Pelton	1999-2002
Joyce Raezer	1999-2002
Ileen Rogers	1999-2003
Sandy Schwartz*	1999-2000, 2003-2007
Linda Stephens-Jones	1999-2000

Past National Board Chairs

Co-Chair: Sandra L. Schwartz and Dr. Mary M. Keller	1997-2000
Lieutenant General H.G. "Pete" Taylor, USA, Retired	2000-2004

Past Executive Director

Colonel Glynn Decoteau, USA, Retired	1997-2000
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Organizing Board (1998-1999)

Dr. Mary M. Keller, Co-Chair
Sandra L. Schwartz, Co-Chair
Jane Broadwater, Vice-Chair
Lieutenant General H.G. "Pete" Taylor, USA, Retired, Vice-Chair
Barbara Adams
Ross Caviness
Greg Cook
Vicki Higgins
Corbett Lawler
Phyllis Leeth
Sandy Magruder
Dr. Larry Moehnke
Linda Pelton
Stephanie Ralston
COL Terry Wikstrom, USA Retired
Alice Wooten

National Board of Advisors, 2008

The Honorable Carolyn H. Becraft
 Katie Bell
 Congressman and Mrs. John Carter (Erika)
 General and Mrs. Peter Chiarelli (Beth), USA
 Major General Kurt Cichowski, USAF
 Ginny Doran
 Congressman and Mrs. Chet Edwards (Lea Ann)
 General and Mrs. Larry R. Ellis (Jean), USA, Retired
 Lieutenant General (Ret.) and Mrs. Phil Ford (Kris), USAF, Retired
 General Tommy R. Franks, USA, Retired
 Sergeant Major and Mrs. William J. Gainey (Cindy), USA, Retired
 Major General and Mrs. Mark R. Hamilton (Patty), USA, Retired
 Dr. and Mrs. Jim Hawkins (Nancy)
 Rear Admiral and Mrs. Leendert "Len" Hering (Sharon), USN
 General James T. Hill, USA, Retired

Major General William Ingram, ARNG
 Marianne Ivany
 General and Mrs. Leon J. LaPorte (Judy), USA, Retired
 General and Mrs. David McKiernan (Carmen), USA
 Lieutenant General and Mrs. Thomas Metz (Pam), USA
 General and Mrs. Richard Myers (Mary Jo), USAF, Retired
 General and Mrs. Dennis J. Reimer (Mary Jo), USA, Retired
 Major General and Mrs. Charles Rodriguez (Cappy), USA
 General and Mrs. Henry H. Shelton (Carolyn), USA, Retired
 General Eric K. Shinseki, USA, Retired
 Lieutenant General George J. Trautman, USMC
 Dr. Phillip "Uri" Treisman
 General and Mrs. William E. Ward (Joyce), USA

"Through the Military Child Education Coalition, more boys and girls are getting the support and services they need. Your work is invaluable to the men and women of our military and to their sons and daughters. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you for your commitment to the health and happiness of America's military children."

*Denotes Past Annual Conference Co-Chair

- Laura Bush, 2004