



PRESS RELEASE

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION

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NONPROFIT CELEBRATES “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD” BY RECOGNIZING STATE’S COMMITMENT TO MILITARY FAMILIES

MCEC® has trained more than 600 North Carolina educators to better support military children

HARKER HEIGHTS, Texas – The Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC®) celebrated the “Month of the Military Child” by today announcing it has trained more than 600 educators in the state of North Carolina. Eight of the MCEC®’s “Supporting Families and Children of the Guard and Reserves Institutes” have been held in the state over the past two years, thanks to the generous support of Gov. Mike Easley.

Created by the MCEC® in 2004, the “Supporting Families and Children of the Guard and Reserves Institutes” help educators identify and understand the challenges faced by children of deployed parents. The two-day trainings provide K-12 school-based administrators, teachers, counselors and social workers with resources and strategies to support military children in the classroom. Institutes have been held in states across the country, but no state has done as much as North Carolina to foster a military-friendly education environment.

Gov. Easley began a first-of-its kind initiative in 2006 to support the more than 123,000 military personnel and 60,000 military-connected children in North Carolina. In addition to the training institutes, the state has also launched a Web site for educators and families and held a statewide “Living in the New Normal: Supporting Children Through Trauma and Loss (LINN™) “public engagement” during which community leaders devised a plan for encouraging and assisting military-connected children in the state.

The MCEC® salutes the tremendous effort of Gov. Easley and Major General Bill Ingram and his spouse Lil of the North Carolina National Guard, to create a strong network of support for North Carolina’s military families,” said Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the MCEC®. “The work done in North Carolina is a model for communities across the nation. Initiatives such as “Supporting Families and Children of the Guard and Reserves Institutes” and LINN™ bring communities together to collectively ease the unique burdens of our military families.”

Gov. Easley recently issued a call to action to governors across the country during the National Governor’s Association meeting in February. Easley cited the success of the Institutes and LINN™ in urging his colleagues to join North Carolina in equipping their states to better support the children of the nation’s servicemen and women.

About the MCEC®

The Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC®) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, world-wide organization that identifies the challenges that face the highly mobile military-connected child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities and initiates and implements programs to meet these challenges. The MCEC® seeks to include all military

installations, their supporting schools, concerned organizations and caring individuals. For more information, please visit www.militarychild.org.

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