



PRESS RELEASE

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURAL FRANCES HESSELBEIN STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Students are leaders of the Military Child Education Coalition's Student2Student™ peer mentoring program

WEST POINT, NY, April 16, 2007 – Sixteen exemplary high school students, representing the United States, Germany and South Korea, arrived at the U.S. Military Academy today to participate in the inaugural Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program. Sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC™), this weeklong program nurtures the leadership skills of young people involved in their Student2Student (S2S™) program. S2S™ participants are military and civilian students specially trained to help ease the transition of highly mobile students into their schools.

The 16 selected students will explore the topics of leadership, citizenship and character under the instruction of Frances Hesselbein, the MCEC™, members of West Point's Corps of Cadets and other positive role models.

“The MCEC™ hopes that the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program will contribute to the development of our country's future leaders,” said Dr. Mary Keller, Executive Director of the MCEC™. “We're providing these student leaders with the tools and resources needed to serve the resilient, military-connected children in their schools and communities.”

The Student Leadership Program's namesake, Frances Hesselbein, is the former CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA who currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Leader to Leader Institute. In 1998, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, for her leadership of the Girl Scouts. Hesselbein has received several other political and educational honors over the course of her career.

Following Hesselbein's example, the 16 students selected for the Student Leadership Program take time away from school and extracurricular activities to mentor their peers. In addition to helping students with their transition into school, S2S™ leaders coach them through other increasingly common transitions such as the deployment of a parent.

The following young people who are participating in the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program are deserving of congratulations:

- **Bret Borden**, Junior, Aberdeen High School, Aberdeen, MD (Retired Military)
- **Nicollette Calvin**, Junior, Pickering High School, Leesville, LA (Military)
- **Kathryne Corrigan**, Junior, Osan American High School, Osan Air Base, South Korea (Civilian)
- **Kim Cory**, Junior, Steilacoom High School, Steilacoom, WA (Retired Military)
- **Mike Dabeck**, Sophomore, Lathrop High School, Fairbanks, AK (Military)
- **Jessica Daniels**, Junior, Mitchell High School, Colorado Spring, CO (Civilian)

- **Clayton Ermel**, Junior, Fountain-Ft. Carson High School, Fountain, CO (Civilian)
- **Joshua Larson**, Junior, Green Run High School, Virginia Beach, VA (Military)
- **Mary Perisee**, Junior, Bamberg High School, Bamberg, Germany (Civilian)
- **Chad Perkins**, Junior, Vilseck American High School, Vilseck, Germany (Military)
- **Courtney Potts**, Junior, Killeen High School, Killeen, TX (Military)
- **Samantha Singh**, Junior, Bamberg American High School, Bamberg, Germany (Military)
- **Coleman Tull**, Junior, Aberdeen High School, Aberdeen, MD (Military)
- **Darrius Upshaw**, Junior, Harker Heights High School, Harker Heights, TX (Military)
- **Andie Williams**, Sophomore, Columbia High School, Huntsville, AL (Civilian)
- **Kimberly Zindel**, Sophomore, Junipero Serra High School, San Diego, CA (Civilian)

About Student2Student™

The S2S™ initiative is a powerful program that helps change a transitioning high school student's focal point from what the student has lost to what the student will gain through relocation. S2S™ guides students through their uncertain surroundings, offering – through a peer mentor – valued information, friendship and assistance in the three areas that matter most to transitioning students. These areas are: academics, relationships and finding the way. In order for a school to implement S2S™ it must send a team of two students and two adult advisors to an extensive, MCEC™-led training.

About MCEC™

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC™) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes partnerships and provides for networking of military installations and their supporting school districts. Their focus is to address transition and other educational issues related to the military-connected child, including active duty, National Guard, and Reserves. 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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