



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION™

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VANDEN HIGH SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HONOR

*Student leaders selected to speak at Military Child Education Coalition™'s
10th Anniversary Conference*

HARKER HEIGHTS, TX, July 15, 2008 – The Military Child Education Coalition (Military Child) today announced that the Student2Student (S2S) mentoring program at Vanden High School in Fairfield, Calif., has been named one of the top four S2S programs in the world. Vanden High students Amber Wehrle and Daniel Looney will represent the program at the Military Child's 10th Anniversary Conference, held July 23-25 in Grapevine, Texas.

Amber and Daniel will be recognized at the conference for their leadership of the Vanden High School S2S program. Leading the S2S program at Vanden High requires Amber and Daniel to take time away from academic and extracurricular activities to mentor their civilian and military peers as they transition in and out of their high school. There are currently S2S programs in 164 high schools around the world, all located near large military installations.

“The Military Child is proud to recognize the remarkable difference Amber and Daniel have made in the lives of their peers at Vanden High,” said Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the Military Child. “By sharing their experience with conference attendees, Amber and Daniel will provide insight into the lives of resilient military children.”

The Military Child's S2S program is designed to help transitioning students with the three most critical elements high school students need to have a successful transition: academics, “finding the way” (campus, community and culture) and relationships. At each school, teams consisting of two students, an adult advisor and a school liaison officer attend an extensive training to develop the skills needed to train other students. The team then returns to their home school to implement the skills they have learned, training other students to be effective peer mentors.

Amber and Daniel will be one of four teams from the S2S program making presentations to the more than 700 attendees expected at the Military Child Conference. Their presentation will focus on, “S2S Start Up: Breaking New Ground Through Innovation and Immersion.”

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, Military Child-led training.

About Military Child

The Military Child Education Coalition (Military Child) 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. Military Child 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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