



# MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION™

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Katie Kindelan

[kkindelan@powelltate.com](mailto:kkindelan@powelltate.com)

(202) 585-2052

## **WARRENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HONOR**

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

**HARKER HEIGHTS, TX, July 15, 2008** – The Military Child Education Coalition (Military Child) today announced that the Student2Student (S2S) mentoring program at Warrensburg High School in Warrensburg, Mo., has been named one of the top four S2S programs in the world. Warrensburg High students Melissa Otto and Denesh Ratnasingam will represent the program at the MCEC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, held July 23-25 in Grapevine, Texas.

Melissa and Denesh will be recognized at the conference for their leadership of the Warrensburg High School S2S program. Leading the S2S program at Warrensburg High requires Melissa and Denesh 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 Melissa and Denesh have made in the lives of their peers at Warrensburg High,” said Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the Military Child. “By sharing their experience with conference attendees, Melissa and Denesh 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.

Melissa and Denesh 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, “Ambitious Pioneer Efforts Pay Off: Immersing the School, District and Community in the S2S Program.”

### **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](http://www.militarychild.org)

“Military Child Education Coalition™,” “MILITARY CHILD®” and associated trademarks and design elements are owned by the Military Child Education Coalition. © 2008 Military Child Education Coalition.  
All Rights Reserved

###