



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



ARMY STRONG.

## Back to School

Dear Educators,

I'm happy to present to you the fourth edition of *Army Education News & Updates*. As the start of a new school year brings excitement and anticipation for the year ahead to students and teachers alike, there is no better time to emphasize to students and their families the importance of graduation and post-secondary options to their future success. The strength of Our Nation is directly dependent on the educational training and achievements of today's students.

In this issue, I encourage you to read about the new pilot education program, Project PASS, created in partnership with the National Association of State Boards of Education and U.S. Army Accessions Command. The program was created to strategically target communities and schools with high drop-out rates and combat them. This is one example of the many ways the U.S. Army continues to work and create innovative tools with the education community to stress the importance of education to students and their future success.



The U.S. Army proudly supports America's education professionals and their unyielding commitment to ensure the success of Our Nation's youth.

Army Strong!

Sincerely,

Lieutenant General Benjamin C. Freakley  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Accessions Command

## INFLUENCER PROFILE

### Brenda Welburn

Executive Director  
National Association of  
State Boards of  
Education (NASBE)



"I'm motivated to be an advocate for the Army because of the sincerity and commitment of its leadership to education as well as the quality of its programs. I'm also inspired by all that the Army does for our country."

[Read More >](#)

## ARMY EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE GUEST SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Naomi Verdugo

Assistant Deputy for Recruiting & Retention,  
U.S. Army

"As the Assistant Deputy for Recruiting and Retention for the U.S. Army, I have oversight for what the Army does in recruiting and retention."

[Read More >](#)

## PARTNER ORGANIZATION PROFILE

### Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

[HOSA](#) is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.



[Read More >](#)

## PROGRAM PROFILE

### We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

The Center for Civic Education administers the [We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution](#) program nationally through a network of coordinators in 50 states, 435 congressional districts, 4 trust territories and the District of Columbia. The primary goal of We the People is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students.



[Read More >](#)

## EDUCATION NEWS

### Project PASS Preview

Project PASS (Partnerships for All Students' Success) was created through a partnership with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and U.S. Army Accessions Command, and is an innovative drop-out prevention and intervention strategy targeted at communities where dropout rates are exceptionally and unacceptably high.

[Read More >](#)

## ARMY NEWS

### Army Strong Stories: A Resource for Students and Educators

[Army Strong Stories](#) is U.S. Army Accessions Command's signature blog and story-sharing program that allows Soldiers and their friends, families and supporters to share their Army stories through written entries, photos and video. Topics discussed on Army Strong Stories range from deployment and basic training to family life and education.



[Read More >](#)

## NEXT ISSUE:

Watch for the upcoming issue of *ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES* on the 2010 U.S. Army National Education Conference.

**U.S. Army Accessions Command**  
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
Department 600  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5600



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



ARMY STRONG.

## Influencer Profile

**Brenda Welburn**  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)  
Arlington, VA



### What is your current position at NASBE?

Currently I am the Executive Director for NASBE an organization that works with 48 state school boards by providing professional support to each member in state education policy.

### What is an Influencer?

Individuals who take actions to make a difference in the strength, well-being and success of their communities.

Parents, coaches, teachers, counselors, community leaders and others to whom young people turn when making major decisions about their futures.

**How long have you been in the education field?**  
30 years

### How and when did you first become interested in education?

I have always been interested in youth and youth services. I began my career as a social worker working in foster care. The children I worked with were primarily middle school aged and all lived in the same area of South Philadelphia. I ended up spending a lot of time at their schools and became interested in education policy and any policy which affected children. It was then that I began to realize the power, both positive and negative, that policy truly had.

### Do you have any personal connections to education?

My great-grandfather, who was born into slavery, sent seven of his nine children to college in Georgia. My grandmother was the first one he sent and she ultimately became a teacher.

### Who had the greatest influence on you growing up in regards to the importance of education?

One of my great aunts had the greatest influence on me – she was a teacher and a principal. She had a tremendous impact on my life because she was the most visible to me and very active, particularly in issues of social justice.

### What is your connection to the Army?

My connection to the Army started about two years ago because I was frustrated by the fact that we weren't graduating higher numbers of students of color. I knew the Army took kids who needed a bit of direction and transformed them. My organization decided to ask the Army if we could learn more about what they do in terms of education. We then became more familiar with all of the educational programs the Army has to offer whether it is to help increase civilian high school graduation rates or opportunities prior, during or after serving in the Army. I was inspired by the way in which the Army deals with young people and motivates them once they are in the Army – it is a powerful experience.

**Why do you think the Army is a good partner for the education community?**

Lieutenant General Freakley said it best when he indicated that education and the military are our two greatest forces in this country. The partnership between education and the Army is truly significant as both have the best interest of the nation at heart.

**What motivates you to be an advocate for the Army and its role in education?**

I'm motivated to be an advocate for the Army because of the sincerity and commitment of its leadership to education as well as the quality of its programs. I'm also inspired by all that the Army does for our country.

**What specific educational resource that the Army provides do you think is particularly helpful or successful?**

I think that one of the challenges we all face with working with students is the ability to help them make good decisions. The Army's assessment model is an excellent way of looking at the talents of young people which is not always done very well in the school system. The Army is very good at discovering the strengths and talents of an individual.

**Why do you feel it is important for community leaders to support the Army?**

The Army is one of the few institutions that strives to be color blind. In addition, it builds good citizens. We can all learn from the commitment of individuals who are willing to put their life on the line for the common goal of supporting our country.

**What were you surprised to learn about the Army and its commitment to education?**

I was surprised to learn about the depth and breadth of its education programs such as March 2 Success. I'm also impressed with the commitment the Army has to education without the expectation that the young adult will enter the military. The Army does it because they know it is right, not because they have ulterior motives. It is not self-serving. They truly believe that having a nation full of strong young people is good for the country as a whole. The Army truly commits itself to developing a person's moral compass to guide them through not only military service but his or her entire life.



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



ARMY STRONG.

## Army Education Representative Guest Spotlight

**Dr. Naomi Verdugo**

**Assistant Deputy for Recruiting & Retention, U.S. Army  
Pentagon**

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Los Angeles, California.

### **What is your background? How and when did you begin working for the Army?**

Initially, my experience was academic because I was in school for a long time working on my PhD. In 1986, I was job searching and read a job announcement for the Army in a booklet that listed government jobs. I applied as a demographer and got it. Since working for the Army I have always worked in recruiting or on recruiting issues and in 1999 I started working in education.

### **Describe your current position.**

As the Assistant Deputy for Recruiting and Retention for the U.S. Army, I have oversight for what the Army does in recruiting and retention. In other words, we work to recruit talent as well as how to keep the existing talent within our organization.

### **Describe a recent engagement that was particularly successful.**

The Army operates in a lot of countries, often working with the local people who don't speak English; therefore, it's very important that we have Soldiers that speak different languages. We train Soldiers in foreign languages but it is cheaper and faster when a Soldier is a native speaker of the language. It is more functional to use native speakers as they often have a better understanding of the culture and speak at a higher level than a non-native speaker.

We started an Army program which was supported by the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates. The program now allows the Army to recruit legal foreign residents, people who are on student or work visas and have been in the U.S. for two years, if they speak one of the 35 languages needed by the Army or for medical appointments. Prior to the program, the Army could only recruit citizens.

After instituting this program the Army brought in 900 people last year which opened an entirely new market. All the individuals were highly motivated and educated. If desired, participants are able to earn American citizenship by participating in the program.

### **Do you have an example of a student who has particularly benefited from an Army education program?**

Yes, a professor of military science at Florida A & M had his daughter utilize the March 2 Success program to increase her standardized test scores prior to applying for college. After using the program she raised her score 200 points, which is an incredible achievement.

**Tell us something about an Army education program that educators might be surprised to know.**

My office oversees March 2 Success and I am very proud of it as it is used by thousands of students every year.

The program is designed to aid in SAT and ACT test preparation. The program is free, online and available to any student age 13 or above. One of the reasons it is so successful in helping students improve their test scores is because it has a program that helps remedy gaps a student might have in his or her high school education. The program customizes content by gauging a student's gaps and designing content around those gaps. The program also has test preparation content for state standardized tests in math, science and language arts. The program also helps advise students on how to apply for and finance college.

**What has been your most memorable moment working for the Army?**

There was a man who served in the Army and very late in his life was awarded the Medal of Honor, one of the highest military awards an individual can receive. Part of the reason he had not received it earlier was due to discrimination. The Army went back and awarded him the medal while he was still alive. To be able to witness a man who has had such extraordinary experiences in his life – he was a Holocaust survivor, joined the military and was a Korean War veteran – be awarded that medal, a medal which an individual has to be so selfless, heroic and courageous to obtain was a very moving experience.



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



ARMY STRONG.

## Partner Organization Profile

### What is the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)?

**HOSA** is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

### Who does HOSA represent?

The association represents secondary, post secondary, adult and collegiate students enrolled in HSE programs.

### What is HOSA's core purpose?

The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality of health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

### What does HOSA do?

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation and recognition exclusively for secondary, post secondary, adult and collegiate students enrolled in HSE programs.

### HOSA's partnership with the Army

The Army's agreement with HOSA identifies a collaboration to support the Nation's youth in developing the skills and leadership qualities necessary for success in health care-focused careers and beyond.

Within the framework of the MOU, which was signed in 2010, the Army and HOSA are committed to collaborating on the following efforts:

- Expanding career exploration and test preparation resources for educators and students
- Leadership development
- Improving the health and fitness of students

To learn more about HOSA, visit [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org).





ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



ARMY STRONG.

## Program Profile

### What is We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution?

The Center for Civic Education is a non-profit, non-partisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the U.S. and other countries. The Center for Civic Education administers the [We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution](#) program nationally through a network of coordinators in 50 states, 435 congressional districts, 4 trust territories and the District of Columbia. The primary goal of We the People is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students.



### How does the program work?

The program is an educational program administered by a teacher or civic educator using instruction as well as activities to engage students.

The instructional program enhances students understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. At the same time, students discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing in which students "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take and defend positions on relevant historical contemporary issues.

### For what types of students and age groups is We the People designed?

Teachers or civic educators can contact the coordinator for their state ([see directory](#)) to involve their students in the program.

### Is it effective?

Since the inception of We the People program in 1987, more than 28 million students and 90,000 educators have participated in this course of study.

Several studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Professor Richard Brody, Stanford University, indicate that students who used the curriculum "significantly outperformed comparison students" on every topic studied. A recent study, conducted by the independent firm RMC Research Corporation, found that students using the curriculum scored significantly higher on a comprehensive test of political knowledge when compared to their peers in comparison classes as well as university students attending political science courses.



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

## Army Education in the News

### Project PASS Preview

Project PASS (Partnerships for All Students' Success) was created through a partnership with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and U.S. Army Accessions Command, and is an innovative drop-out prevention and intervention strategy targeted at communities where dropout rates are exceptionally and unacceptably high.

Currently, the five states (Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Kansas and Mississippi) who attended the Project Pass Conference are invited to participate in the pilot program.

The program will be targeted at high schools and their feeder middle schools where drop-out rates are exceptionally high. Students at chosen schools will self-select into Project PASS through a school based application process. Participants may begin participating in middle school and remain in Project PASS throughout their high school careers. It will provide students with leadership and character development instruction as an elective course, after school programs and coordinated social and academic support.

The program will be operated by the local community and families who will be mobilized and engaged in order to support student success. A community coordinator and local advisory council will help ensure collaboration between the schools, students and community.

Stay tuned for additional information on Project PASS as it begins to be implemented in the five states listed above.



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

**STRONG STUDENTS.  
STRONG FUTURES.  
STRONG NATION.**



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.

## Upcoming Events

[Army Strong Stories](#) is U.S. Army Accessions Command's signature blog and story-sharing program that allows Soldiers and their friends, families and supporters to share their Army stories through written entries, photos and video. Topics discussed on Army Strong Stories range from deployment and basic training to family life and education.



Education plays a major role in the lives of many Soldiers. Because Army Strong Stories is an open forum for Soldiers to discuss any aspect of the Army, the role of education in the Army is a common topic. Some examples include:

- Major Patrick Major's [Army Educational Opportunities](#) post
- Captain Agustin Gonzalez's [Diversity, Education and More](#) post
- West Point Cadet Bradley Potts' [Pre-Honduras Trip](#) post
- Second Lieutenant Ryan Fritz's [The Army's Green to Gold Program](#) story
- Captain Kursteen Nelson's [Why I Joined the Military](#) story
- Staff Sergeant Troy Klinge's [Getting My Education in the Army](#) story

Army Strong Stories is also a place for visitors to share their comments and ask questions. The Soldiers participating on Army Strong Stories often respond and engage with readers, taking full advantage of the interactive nature of Army Strong Stories. Discussions cover the many educational aspects of the Army, such as Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), training and classes for various Army careers and the numerous education benefits provided through the Army, making the site an excellent resource for students, parents, educators and anyone interested in learning more about Army education.

An extensive list of keyword tags, posts broken out by category and links to individual authors enable readers to quickly access information by topics of interest. For example, content related to Army education will have the tag "[education](#)."

Army Strong Stories is a resource for you and the students in your community as you gather more information about the educational benefits available. Check out Army Strong Stories today to learn more and share your questions.