



ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES

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



ARMY STRONG.

## “Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation” 2010 National Education Conference

Dear Educators,

I am happy to present to you the fifth issue of *Army Education News & Updates*. The Army's strong commitment to education, and more specifically, to the education of this country's youth, recently compelled us to host the third annual "Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation" U.S. Army Education Conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The conference, held 25-28 October, brought together more than 80 participants, representing 36 states and 25 unique youth-focused education, business, service and multicultural organizations, among others, to gain firsthand experience about the Army.



In this issue, I encourage you to read the article that contains highlights from the education conference. Both collaborative and informative, the conference allowed top leaders in education, community organizations and policy makers to familiarize themselves with how the Army approaches leadership development, introduced them to new perspectives and knowledge, as well as generated dialogue in regards to a comprehensive approach to supporting and fostering growth among our Nation's youth.

The 2010 conference emphasized the Army's unique strengths in the realm of leadership, education and development and looked broadly at youth leadership development. I look forward to working on the ideas raised from the conference and will share new initiatives and outcomes with you in the future.

Army Strong!

Sincerely,

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

## CENTER OF INFLUENCE SPOTLIGHT

### Chris Espinosa

Director of Advocacy  
Hispanic Federation

"I think that the Army has created a unique opportunity to look at problems affecting our youth and to deal with them collaboratively. It is like the old saying: it takes a village. The Army has shown their commitment to addressing education issues such as high school dropout rates, childhood obesity, nutrition and leadership issues and they have taken the first steps. The more we can bring the Army, government agencies, educators, non-profits and community based organizations together, the more quickly we will be able to make progress on the challenges we face ensuring successful futures for our youth."

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## SOLDIERS AND CONFERENCE ATTENDEES SHARE THEIR STORIES



Check out [Army Strong Stories](#) for video stories and blog posts from Soldiers and attendees of this year's "Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation" National Education Conference. All conference-

related content can be found at [www.armystrongstories.com/tag/armyed/](http://www.armystrongstories.com/tag/armyed/).

Leave comments, ask follow-up questions or consider sharing your own Army Education story at [www.armystrongstories.com/tell-your-story/](http://www.armystrongstories.com/tell-your-story/).

## CENTER OF INFLUENCE SPOTLIGHT

### Princess Moss

Executive Committee  
National Education  
Association

"It was clear to me that the Army wants to be in partnership with the education community, and that the Army has a stake in this because education is at the foundation of successful national security."



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## ARMY EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE GUEST SPOTLIGHT

### Gary Remington

Education Services Specialist  
U.S. Army Recruiting Command

"The Army is constantly trying to find ways to improve relations with the education community. New programs continue to be introduced to enhance the opportunities for both Soldiers and our partners in the education community."

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## 2010 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



On 25-28 OCT, U.S. Army Accessions Command executed the third annual "Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation" education and community leaders' conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, hosted by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley. The event brought the Army together with more than 80 representatives encompassing 36 states and 25 leading education, business, technical and career training, and national civilian service partner organizations.

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## 2010 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Click here to view a collection of photos from the "Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation" education and community leaders' conference in October.

[Read More >](#)

## EDUCATION NEWS: SchoolTube



Check out the NEW Army education SchoolTube channel at <http://www.schooltube.com/user/armyed>. The Army education channel includes an overview of the Army education initiative and a number of different videos including an interview with Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley.

## NEXT ISSUE:

Watch for the next issue of *ARMY EDUCATION NEWS & UPDATES* in 2011.

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



## Center of Influence Spotlight

### Chris Espinosa

Director of Advocacy  
Hispanic Federation

#### What is your professional role?

I am the National Director of Advocacy for the Hispanic Federation. I manage the organization's public policy agenda, national coalition activities and its federal relations with Congress, the White House and the Administration.

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

A big focus of my job is on education policy at the federal level, specifically working to ensure that the achievement gaps among Hispanics are closed.

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

The value of education was instilled in me through my mother, who was a strong advocate for my own personal education and educating the community at large.

#### What is your connection to the Army?

While I do not have any formal connection, my father served in the Army and I recognize that the Army is a strong avenue for providing Latinos the opportunity for achievement. Personally, I think the Army is an excellent option and it presents a multitude of potential for participation and for strengthening one's personal goals.

#### Is this your first year attending the Army's National Education Conference?

Yes, this was my first year attending the Conference. This year was the first time I received an invitation. I was happy to attend because I believe that the more the Army can broaden its partnership with community based organizations, the more they will be able to accelerate the work they are doing.

#### What did you feel was the most important take-away from the conference?

My biggest take-away from the conference is that there is a pipeline problem for the community at large. This realization is something that became clear to me out of the Army's model within the Officer core. Within the Army, there is a clear and strategic pipeline. From the day Officers are commissioned, their careers are taken very seriously and there exists a model for how they will achieve the highest levels of success they can.

We need to look at the education field in the same way. We need our middle and high school students within a broader pipeline and we need to ensure that they are educated and well prepared for whatever career choice they select in the future. We need to look at education holistically to solve the problem.

It is apparent that the Army has studied this challenge quite strongly and has empirical data to support how they focus in on their pipeline and work with each individual Officer from commission to retirement. There are a lot of lessons that can be learned from how the Army deals with the pipeline issue and these can be carried over to the education field. We need to make sure that students are well tracked, prepared and that we are all advancing our students as much as we possibly can.

#### 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.

**What speaker did you enjoy the most and why? What did you learn?**

I enjoyed Lieutenant General Freakley. He obviously takes the issue very seriously and is focused on how the issue of educating our students is a community problem, not just an Army problem. General Freakley is willing to go the extra step to make sure that the issue is addressed in that fashion. He was very inspiring, has commitment and passion for students and education and is working to ensure that we have a strong and viable workforce that will benefit the Army and the country.

**Would you attend again?**

Yes, I would be honored to attend again. I think that the Army has created a unique opportunity to look at problems affecting our youth and to deal with them collaboratively. It is like the old saying: it takes a village. The Army has shown their commitment to addressing education issues such as high school dropout rates, childhood obesity, nutrition and leadership issues and they have taken the first steps. The Army is willing to share what they have learned from their own attempts to address education issues within the Army. The more we can bring the Army, government agencies, educators, non-profits and community based organizations together, the more quickly we will be able to make progress on the challenges we face ensuring successful futures for our youth.

**Would you recommend other community leaders to attend the conference? Why?**

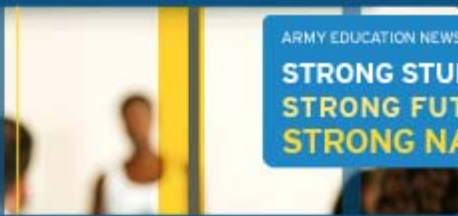
Yes. There is a stigma around military service and a lot of misconceptions that can be dispelled by this kind of interaction. Military service isn't for everyone, but it is an option. At this conference, people are exposed to how seriously the Army takes its job and how important Soldiers are to them. I think most educators and non-profit leaders would be greatly shocked to find out that it is near impossible to be a U.S. Army Major without having a masters degree or higher. These kinds of engagement events need to take place more frequently. The more we can encourage interaction between government, non-profit leaders and educators, the more success we will have.

**Were you surprised to learn about the Army's commitment to education?**

I always knew from a marketing perspective that education was important to the Army. I was surprised at the breadth to which the Army takes the issue. There is a tendency to think that the Army's commitment to education and youth stops at the recruitment door. This conference exposed that it clearly does not. The Army does think deeper than this in terms of issues affecting youth, particularly around education. It is not just about putting bodies through the door but rather about ensuring our students are healthy, educated and well prepared for the future as a national security issue.

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

Yes, I think it's a good partner. There are a lot of things that the Army is an expert in that we can learn from in the education field. There is clearly not a huge retention problem within the Army, so they are doing something right in terms of educating and retaining soldiers. We need to find out what these strategies are and how they are applicable to K through 12 education and beyond.



## Center of Influence Spotlight

### Princess Moss

Executive Committee

National Education Association



#### What is your professional role?

I am a teacher with Louisa County public schools, and a member of the NEA executive committee.

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

Yes. My older sister was the first in our family to go to college. She got her degree in math and was a math teacher for awhile. My parents were public school bus drivers and they didn't have some of the opportunities that have been afforded to following generations, so they were determined that all their children would have a college education. My parents saw education as a pathway to success, and they were right.

#### What is your connection to the Army?

My mother and father both had siblings who served in the Army. My uncle served in WWII, and I grew up hearing stories about his service to our Country.

#### Is this your first year attending the Army's National Education Conference?

This was my first year attending the conference, and I really did enjoy my time there.

#### What did you feel was the most important take-away from the conference?

It was clear to me that the Army wants to be in partnership with the education community, and that the Army has a stake in this because education is at the foundation of successful national security. There was one awesome slide in the conference that put it all into perspective. It showed the importance of everyone's involvement in education. I was really impressed by the data the participants were given. I learned that three out of 10 students qualify for the Army and I thought, oh my goodness, we need to be about making sure that all students have an education.

#### What speaker did you enjoy the most and why? What did you learn?

I enjoyed Lt. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley. He was dynamic and put the Army's role in education into context immediately. He was direct about everything, and offered statistics about what we need to do. I attend a lot of conferences and hear a lot of speakers, and to be able to put the information in a nutshell is a great trait. Lt. Gen. Freakley set the tone for the rest of the conference. He said that if you're just here to listen then you're wasting your time. To me, that said the Army means business about education. We all have a stake in ensuring the product of our public schools are the best that they can be, because they're going to be running the country.

#### Would you attend again?

Yes, and I would encourage other people to attend as well.

#### Would you recommend other community leaders attend the conference? Why?

I would encourage anyone who has a stake in the education of America's youth to consider the conference as an incredible resource to learn about what the Army has to offer education.

**Were you surprised to learn about the Army's commitment to education?**

I was surprised, because I didn't know of all the resources the Army provides. Part of my responsibility as a conference participant is to inform people about the collaboration between the Army and education.

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

In any partnership people help each other, so there are opportunities to explore how the Army can ensure that America has the best educated students. I would also say that I see opportunities for working collaboratively with school districts to share some of the Army's technological expertise with educators. To me, that appears to be an opportunity because there's so much advancement in the world of technology. We can work together to produce the very best students.



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## Army Education Representative Guest Spotlight

### **Gary Remington**

Education Services Specialist  
U.S. Army Recruiting Command

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

I was raised in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

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

I served in the Army for 20 plus years. After I retired I taught at a high school as well as a local community college for seven plus years.

The idea of coming back to the Army in the education field appealed to me and I applied for and was hired as a battalion Education Services Specialist (ESS) with the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion.

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

I am an Education Services Specialist at the headquarters for U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

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

The ESS community is involved at many of the national education conventions. I recently worked at the National FFA convention in Indianapolis where we were able to showcase the many different education programs the Army has to offer. In many instances, these educators were not aware of what the Army can offer their students. It is a great opportunity for Army educators to meet and foster relationships with these educators.

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

It is hard to select one student. Soldiers are encouraged to take advantage of the many Army education programs offered. One only has to stop by an Army Education Center in the evening and you will see examples of students taking advantage of these benefits.

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

The Army has programs for Soldiers starting the day they enlist, not just upon completion of service. Pre-basic training (Concurrent Admissions Program, ConAP - Future Soldier selects a college to partner with and the college acknowledges this partnership. This will allow Soldiers to transition directly from the Army to their ConAP College. At present we have over 2000 colleges participating in this program). Active duty (Tuition Assistance - Up to \$4,500 dollars per year for classes while on active duty), Post Service (GI Bill - Money to attend college after completion of service).

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

After 28 plus years it is impossible to select one moment.

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

The Army has many great programs. The Army is constantly trying to find ways to improve relations with the education community. New programs continue to be introduced to enhance the opportunities for both Soldiers and our partners in the education community.



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

I have been involved with the Army for most of my adult life. I understand the opportunities offered and enjoy being involved in sharing this information with Soldiers, students and educators.

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

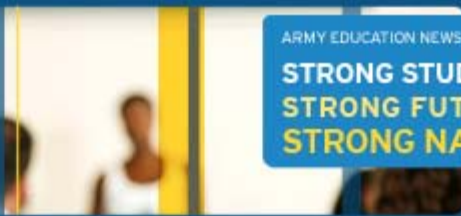
I would not say surprised, but Army education benefits and programs offered keep getting better and better.

**What were a few key things you learned at the Army Education Conference?**

I had the opportunity to discuss Army education programs with many of the guests present and I am always surprised to learn just how little people know about what the Army offers. This increases the motivation to get the message out about Army education opportunities.

**What are a few generalities that you would share with educators about the Army and its education partnership?**

Not so much generalities, but I would recommend educators talk to local recruiters to learn about all the Army education programs. I would also advise them to take advantage of what the Army has to offer to the local communities. This is a means to give students another choice to help in achieving their goals.



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## 2010 National Education Conference Photo Library



Conference participants, along with COL (P) Price, Mr. John Myers and Mr. Bruce Jasurda, in front of the Lewis & Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



LTG Freakley gives the keynote address to open the conference



Ms. Brenda Welburn, Executive Director of NASBE, is awarded an Outstanding Civilian Service Medal



COL (P) Price and Wes Moore



Wes Moore speaks to conference participants about leadership, discipline and preparation – all tenets he attributed to learning while in the Army



Officer Panel on adaptability and agility



Opening night reception



Participants interact one-on-one with Soldiers at lunch



COL Clark discusses the Army ethic and how it is applied in real life situations



COL (P) Price closes the conference with his final remarks



COL (P) Price with conference participants



Junior Military Officer (JMO) Panel discusses how Army training translates to workplace leadership



Idea Sparks Panel





Participants and JMO panelists



Participants finalize their group's recommendation and key take-away from the conference



HON Mr. Thomas Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, gives closing remarks at the conference



Foyer of Lewis & Clark Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



Lewis & Clark Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



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## 2010 National Education Conference Highlights

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THE U.S. ARMY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

**OCTOBER 25-28, 2010  
FORT LEAVENWORTH**

On 25-28 OCT, U.S. Army Accessions Command executed the third annual “Strong Students, Strong Futures, Strong Nation” education and community leaders’ conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, hosted by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley. The event brought the Army together with more than 80 representatives encompassing 36 states and 25 leading education, business, technical and career training, and national civilian service partner organizations, including the Association for Career and Technical Education, the National Education Association, LULAC, Great Minds in STEM, 100 Black Men of America, HOSA, HACU, FFA, Skills USA, DECA, Hispanic Foundation, Phase 4 Learning Center, and NASBE. In addition, 10 members of our Grassroots Advisory Boards (most with respected education credentials) attended from across the country.

At Fort Leavenworth, attendees were introduced to the Army’s leadership development continuum, including the following:

- An overview of how the Army invests in career development
- Outcomes of professional military education
- Discussions of ILE, West Point and SAMS curricula
- Observations of how the Army uses technology for education – virtual ride, distance learning, classroom technology and gaming simulation
- A thorough discussion of ethics and values as an anchor for Army leaders
- Resilience and comprehensive soldier fitness

The goals were to familiarize attendees with Army approaches to leadership development, to reinforce the Army’s commitment to education, to introduce new perspectives and knowledge about Army service, to dispel myths, and to generate dialogue and forge resolve about mutual activities in support of our Nation’s students. Partners and youth organizations also shared best practices on how they develop leadership among young people.

Open dialogue and honest communication during activities like the education conference are paramount to the successful partnership between the Army and the Nation’s education community.