

February 2, 2016

BOARD ESTABLISHES TASK FORCE ON MILITARY PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

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First meeting will be held February 3 in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) today announced creation of a Task Force on Military Prior Learning Assessment. It is conducting its initial meeting on February 3, 2016, in Springfield.

The Task Force was created as a result of the enactment of P.A. 99- 395 passed by the General Assembly in the spring 2015. The MPLA Task Force will study and make recommendations on how to best effectuate the recognition of military learning for academic credit, industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees through the use of Prior Learning Assessment.

The MPLA Task Force is chaired by Dr. Arthur Sutton, deputy director for diversity and outreach of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and includes:

- Senator Pamela J. Althoff, 32nd District
- Senator Tom Cullerton, 23rd District
- Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, 83rd District
- Representative Jeanne M. Ives, 42nd District
- Mr. Kevin Schott, Office of the Fire Marshall
- Dr. Walter Pearson, Loyola University, Chicago
- Mr. Dan Wellman, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
- President Charlotte Warren, Lincoln Land Community College
- Ms. Amy Sherman, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
- Ms. Kim Eck, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Mr. Jess Ray, Illinois State University
- Dr. Ron Williams, Western Illinois University
- Mr. Jeff Newell, Illinois Community College Board
- Ms. Cynthia Rathunde, City Colleges of Chicago
- Dr. Janet Fontenot, Southwestern Illinois College

The purpose of the MPLA Task Force is to objectively examine Illinois and national prior military learning assessment activity, models and practice, so that recommendations for the improvement of college outcomes for Illinois veterans and military personnel will be shared with Illinois institutions of higher education serving them.

“I am grateful that Illinois legislators, higher education leaders, and individuals engaged in supporting our military personnel and veterans have agreed to serve on this important task force,” Dr. James L. Applegate, IBHE Executive Director said. “This group comes equipped with the necessary expertise to insure that the training and experiences of student veterans and current members of the military receive the guidance and course credit they deserve for successful college completion.”

The Task Force’s meeting will be held from 1:30 - 3 p.m., February 3, 2016, at the IBHE Offices, Suite 333, 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza (PNC Bank Building) Springfield, Illinois.

A new website has been created to share forthcoming Task Force announcements and related information with the public. Visit the [MPLA Task Force](#)

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