



The American Legion

National Higher Education & Credentialing Summit

Concurrent Session Scheduled & Session Descriptions

Concurrent Session Schedule

Day 1 – August 31st

Time	Session	Location
1:45-3:00 pm	Session 1: DoD's SkillBridge Program and Model Programs in Trucking	Wright A, 4th Floor
	Session 2: Education Quality	Mitchell, 4th Floor
	Session 3: Military Spouse Employment Panel	Walker, 4th Floor
	Session 4: Innovations in Credentialing & Credit for Prior Learning	Wright C, 4th Floor
3:15-4:30 pm	Session 1: Credentialing Programs in the Military	Wright C, 4th Floor
	Session 2: Promoting Credentialing & Employment in Healthcare	Mitchell, 4th Floor
	Session 3: The Commercial Aviation Pilot & Mechanic Shortage & Strategies for Veterans	Wright A, 4th Floor
	Session 4: Development of a New Work-based Learning Credential	Walker, 4th Floor

Day 2 – September 1st

Time	Session	Location
1:45-3:00 pm	Session 1: Development of a New Work-based Learning Credential	Walker, 4th Floor
	Session 2: MilGears – Powered by COOL	Mitchell, 4th Floor
	Session 3: Education & Employment Programs & Initiatives	Wright A, 4th Floor
	Session 4: Developing A National Learning & Employment Record Ecosystem	Wright C, 4th Floor

Concurrent Session Descriptions (alpha-order)

Credentialing Programs in the Military

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 3:00pm – 4:15pm

Total Time: 75 Minutes

Location: Wright Ballroom, Section C, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: Service member participation in the services' Credentialing programs (Credentialing Opportunities On-Line), which allow for payment of industry-recognized credentials, and the United Service Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) continues to grow – especially with the recent addition of the Army and Air Force to USMAP. Learn about these programs, their funding, how they have expanded and how they complement other education and credentialing initiatives.

Moderator: Deanna Parker, Analyst/Marine Corps COOL Lead, SOLID, LL

Panel Membership:

- Keith Boring, Director, Navy Credentialing Programs
- Tom Phillips, Director, United Services Military Apprenticeship Programs
- Mike Talley, Director, Navy COOL
- Steve Keck, Chief, Career Investment Division, U.S. Coast Guard

Developing a National Learning and Employment Record Ecosystem**Day 2:** September 1st**Time:** 1:45pm – 3:00pm**Total Time:** 75 Minutes**Location:** Wright Ballroom, Section C, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: According to a recent report, “A National LER Infrastructure”, the needs of our workforce are moving us towards an economy in which “skills are the currency of the future” (Estrada, 2020). A Learning and Employment Record (LER) is an individual’s digital record of learning, training, and work experiences, sometimes combined with other digital records, and exchanged, understood, and verified to access educational and employment opportunities. A national Learning and Employment Record ecosystem will revolutionize our outdated credentialing and hiring systems. This new LER based infrastructure will allow learners, workers, employers, and education providers to exchange verifiable information effortlessly and efficiently about an individual’s discrete learning and employment achievements. Please join our panel experts to learn more about LERs, the infrastructure that supports them and what it means for the credentialing ecosystem.

Presenters:

- Jason Tyszko, Vice President, Center for Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Ian Davidson, Chief Growth Officer, SmartResume
- Deanna Parker, Analyst & Marine Corps COOL Lead, SOLID, LLC

Development of a New Work-based Learning Credential**Day 1:** August 31; **Time:** 3:00pm – 4:15pm**Day 2:** September 1; **Time:** 1:45pm – 3:00pm**Total Time:** 75 Minutes (Day 1 and Day 2)**Location:** Walker, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: Work-based learning provides structured opportunities for skills development within a workplace setting. Common types of work-based learning include internships, residencies, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and training to placement programs. These programs provide individuals with opportunities to develop valuable skills and gain experience relevant to a specific industry positioning them for career entry and advancement. Work-based learning programs can be particularly beneficial for transitioning service members and veterans who have gained high-quality training and skills through military service but need to learn how to apply these skills in a civilian workplace environment. This was the impetus for Congressional authorization for what is now called the DOD SkillBridge program. This session will explore the value of work-based learning programs and the need for the development of an American National Standard to ensure the quality, reliability, and consistency of these programs.

Moderator: Lisa Lutz, President/CEO, SOLID**Panel Membership:**

- Roy Swift, PhD, Executive Director, WorkCred

- Amy Mackenroth, Senior Managing Director of Workforce Development, Dallas College
- Elizabeth Belcaster, CEO, EMB Consultants
- Jeremy Sadlier, Executive Director, American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA)

DOD's SkillBridge Program & Model Programs in Trucking

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 1:45pm – 3:00pm

Total Time: 75 Minutes

Location: Wright Ballroom, Section A, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: The DOD SkillBridge (also called "Career Skills") program is an opportunity for Service members and Military Spouses to gain valuable civilian work experience during their last 180 days of service through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships. Unlike other Veteran's development or education programs, participation occurs while the Service Member is still on Active Duty. Companies and Education/training providers often use SkillBridge to partner together and create pipeline programs to fill emerging and/or high demand career opportunities. This session will provide information about the program and highlight select successful programs, including some of the groundbreaking first SkillBridge programs and model programs in trucking.

Moderator: Panel 1: Lisa Lutz, President/CEO, SOLID, LLC

Panel 2: Elizabeth Belcaster, CEO, EMB Consultants

Panel Membership:

- Panel 1:
 - Gary Schaub, Senior Advisor for Professional Military Education, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness
 - Jerry Elam, Program Manager, Military Partnerships, ABF
 - Mike Hazard, Training Specialist, Veterans in Piping, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters
- Panel 2:
 - Kevin Duesterhaus, Director Driver Services, Office of the Illinois Secretary of State
 - Jafi Roskey, Senior Manager of Military Programs, Werner Enterprises, Apprenticeship Program Manager, Driver Ambassador Manager, Veteran United States Air Force
 - Tom Serafin, Florida Rock and Tank Lines
 - Lindley Davis, Human Resources Manager at Jack Cooper, American Trucking Association

Education and Employment Programs and Initiatives

Day 2: September 1st

Time: 1:45pm – 3:00pm

Total Time: 75 minutes

Location: Wright Ballroom, Section A, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: This session will explore best practices and key strategic initiatives to help ensure successful outcomes for servicemembers, veterans and their families. Learn how industry, academia and government must align and clearly define key expectations to support success outcomes in education that lead to sustainable employment.

Moderator: Esmeralda Silva, Vice President Student Affairs, Alliant University/President, Council of College and Military Educators (CCME)

Panel Membership:

- COL Adam Rocke, Senior Director, Hiring Our Heroes Foundation

- Michael Bianchi, Senior Director, Education and Career Training, D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF)
- Schnell Carraway, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Integration, Education Service, Veterans Benefit Administration

Ensuring the Quality of Educational Opportunities for Service Members and Veterans

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Total Time: 75 minutes

Location: Mitchell, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: Service members and veterans deservedly have access to significant financial assistance to pursue educational opportunities both in-service and post-service. These educational benefits facilitate their ability to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities that might have been out of their reach if it wasn’t for their military service. There is a significant need, however, to ensure that the investments they make in their time and their limited educational benefits are towards high quality programs that will yield workforce advantages. This session will explore some of the measures that are being taken to ensure service members and veterans receive high quality educational opportunities.

Moderator: Joe Wescott II, Ed.D., Legislative Liaison, NC Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs

Panel Membership:

- Gokhan Coskun, Executive Director of Yunus Emre Institute (Turkish Educational and Cultural Center Founder of INTED)
- Desiree Butts, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships, Military & VA Programs at National University

Innovations in Credentialing and Credit for Prior Learning for Academic and Non-Academic Credentials

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 1:45pm – 3:00pm

Location: Wright Ballroom, Section C, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: Academia, Employers, Training Providers, and others continue to see the value and growing demand of innovative and alternative short and long-term credentials. This session will introduce initiatives underway to encourage the adoption of all learning counts such as the validation of soft/human skills, creating badges that account for partial skill attainment towards a credential, credit for prior learning, and the development of training programs that allow an individual to receive on-the-job training and academic credit simultaneously.

Moderator: Susan Acevedo-Moyer, Ed.D, Director of Research and Analysis, SOLID

Panel Membership:

- Amy Mackenroth, Senior Managing Director of Workforce Development, Dallas College
- Gardner Carrick, Vice President, The Manufacturing Institute
- Tom Phillips, Director, United Services Military Apprenticeship Programs
- Casey Andree, M.Ed., Instructional Designer, Education Design Lab

MilGears: Powered by COOL

Day 2: September 1st

Time: 1:45pm – 3:00pm

Total Time: 75 minutes

Location: Mitchell, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: MilGears is a web-based application powered by the Services' Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) platforms that service members, veterans, and other stakeholders can use for career guidance, planning, and decision making. Initially, developed by the Navy, this robust career exploration tool has now expanded to all services. Learn how service members and veterans can use MilGears to identify career pathways for both in-service skills attainment and eventual post-Service employment simply by uploading their formal documentation of their military service records. See how credential providers, employers, and others can use the resulting output to assess the service member's or veteran's skills.

Panel Membership:

- Keith Boring, Director, Navy Credentialing Programs, Interservice Credentialing Working Group Chair
- Susan Acevedo-Moyer, Ed.D, Director of Research and Analysis, SOLID, LLC
- Tom Phillips, Director, United Services Military Apprenticeship Programs
- Command Master Chief Edward Lewis, Force Readiness Command, USCG

Military Spouse Employment

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Total Time: 75 Minutes

Location: Walker, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: There are hundreds of thousands of military spouses who have committed to supporting their partners during their military service. These spouses face unique credentialing, employment, and entrepreneurship challenges due to their frequent moves. We also tend to view military spouses through the same lens as service members and veterans and fail to take into account their unique differences and challenges. Learn about these challenges and about programs and opportunities to alleviate them.

Moderator: Sam Whitehurst, *VP Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services*

Panel Membership:

- Barbara Carson, Managing Director of Programs and Services, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF)
- Cassie Gabelt Byard, Executive Director of Task Force Movement and Military Spouse J.D. Network
- Judy Elias, Founder and President Heroes to Heroes
- Erica McMannes, Chief People and Community Officer and Founder, Instant Teams & MSEP Employer Partner

Promoting Credentialing and Employment in Healthcare

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 3:00pm – 4:15pm

Total Time: 75 minutes

Location: Mitchell, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: Healthcare in the US and abroad are experiencing staffing shortages in nearly every medical discipline. This creates an excellent opportunity for service members, veterans, and their families to fill these voids in both vocational and professional service lines. What barriers are preventing this from happening? The complexity of navigating the pathway for credentialing in the allied health care specialties has in many cases paralyzed these opportunities and subsequently gaining meaningful employment in the healthcare professions. This session will focus on: Identifying the current situation and the barriers that exist, identifying current resources, identifying potential solutions and the stakeholders that can influence these actions, examples on how to navigate and overcome these barriers, and establishing meaningful action items to continue this initiative forward.

Moderator: Brent Murphy, John Patrick University of Health and Applied Sciences

Panel Membership:

- Katie Purswell, Healthcare Director, American Legion
- Julia Gusse, Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Terrell Odom, Ed.D., MS-IDT, MBA, Director, Office for Military-Affiliated Communities, University of Chicago
- Barry Shore, USA Care Living
- Patricia Sandoval, Executive Vice President, Atlas Health Foundation

The Commercial Aviation Pilot and Mechanic Shortage & Strategies for Veterans

Day 1: August 31st

Time: 3:00pm – 4:15pm

Total Time: 75 minutes

Location: Wright Ballroom, Section A, 4th Floor

Summary of Session: We have for years been talking about the looming Pilot and Technician shortage in Commercial Aviation. We are now, in the post COVID era, realizing just how serious it is. Flight Schedule reductions, delays and cancellations have become the norm that in the short term will only get worse. The good news is that the industry is responding in a number of ways that will begin to refill the pipeline and in doing so create numerous pathways for our veterans to begin a career in the industry. We are here today to talk with our panel of experts about how each of their organizations representing, Labor, Airlines and Educators are creating programs and partnerships to accomplish the mission.

Moderator: Chris Moore, Teamster’s Airline Division Representative

Panel Membership:

- Joe Ferreira, Director, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Airline Division
- Marcus Troutman, Director of Continuing Education, Olive-Harvey College
- Daniel Bregman, Executive Vice President, Strategy and Development Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology
- Scott Ferris, Director of Tech Ops Hiring Programs, United Airlines
- Bettina Mrusek, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Aeronautics, Embry Riddle