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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIRGINIA HAS THE FASTEST GROWING VETERAN POPULATION IN THE NATION

VA-ACME Supports Veterans at Professional Development Symposium and Military Career Fair

Norfolk, VA - This year, more than one million service members, veterans and their families are enrolled in college courses. With that in mind, the Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education (VA-ACME) continues a commitment to supporting education within the Virginia military community at the 12th Annual VA-ACME Professional Development Symposium to be held April 16-19, 2018 at the Hilton Norfolk The Main at 100 East Main Street in Downtown Norfolk. With the theme of *The MAIN Focus: Evolving Military and Veteran Education through Modernization*, dynamic speakers include Secretary Carlos Hopkins, Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs; Captain Rich McDaniel, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk; Norfolk City Councilman Martin A. Thomas, Jr.; Delegate Jerrauld Jones, Jr., 89th District of Virginia; plus, updates from Department of Defense Voluntary Education, DANTES, American Council on Education (ACE), Service Members Opportunity College (SOC), Virginia Community College System; and many more. To see the agenda and learn more about the Symposium, visit <https://vaacme.org/symposium/>.

According to the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs website, 1 in 10 Virginians is a veteran. In conjunction with the symposium and in support of transitioning military members, veterans, and their families, VA-ACME will host the 6th Annual Military Job Fair & Education Expo on April 19, 2018, from 9am to 2pm, also at the Hilton Norfolk The Main. To date, Norfolk Works and Dominion Energy have partnered with VA-ACME in delivering this event. While military-centric in nature, the event is free to job seekers and open to the public. Employers and job seekers may register at: <https://vaacme.org/job-fair/>. For more information, contact Florence Addison-Hayes at jobfair@vaacme.org.

VA-ACME awards thousands of dollars of scholarships annually to the military community in Virginia. As the deadline is fast approaching for this year's scholarship program, learn more and be ready for 2019 at this link: <https://vaacme.org/scholarships/>. An additional scholarship opportunity is the Senior Chief Scott DeCoste Memorial Scholarship. Details may be found at www.sdecoste.org. Deadline is April 30 and will be awarded at the 2019 VA-ACME Symposium in conjunction with the VA-ACME scholarship program.

About VA-ACME: *The Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education (VA-ACME)* covers the most military concentrated region in the world. It is the organization's mission to provide progressive and innovative support for an ever-changing academic environment. VA-ACME is committed to addressing military education issues within the Commonwealth of Virginia with three major focus areas: Evaluating and restructuring policies related to acceptance and transfer of credit for veterans, military students, and their family members; Enhancing the educational aspirations of the military populations in the state; Making educational programs accessible in cost, location, and scheduling.