

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Boots to Suits: Veteran Transition Support Virtual Conference Agenda
October 12-13, 2020

Subject to Updates *Last updated 10/05/2020

Day 1-Monday, October 12, 2020

Day 1	Session Title	Speaker/Title/Affiliation	Organization
8:20 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Conference Day 1 -Begins		
8:20 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Keynote	Squoia Holmes , Assistant Director of Veteran Student Services; Dr. Steven Angle , Chancellor; Dr. Yancy Freeman , Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs; and Abeer Mustafa , Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Army Veteran	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	THEC General Session (Executive Director of THEC, PLA, Reconnect Grants, and Military Pathways)	Mike Krause , Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Student Assistance Corporation and Army Veteran; Dr. Ken Hanson , Senior Director of Veterans Education at Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Air Force Veteran	Tennessee Higher Education Commission
10:05 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	1st Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A	2-year/TCAT School Strategies for Engagement and Becoming More Military Informed	Michelle Olson-Kilgore , Director of Student Support at Chattanooga State Community College Chattanooga State Community College
	Concurrent Session B	Data Driven Results: Why the Numbers Matter	Cindy Taylor Williamson , Director of Assessment and SACSCOC Liaison and Sherry Marlow Ormsby , Executive Director, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Institutional Research University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session C	Veteran Advisement on Campus: Helping Student Veterans Achieve New Heights in Higher Education; and Academic Efficiency and Operations	Jason Harville Academic Advisor: Center of Academic Support and Advisement; Erica Holmes-Trujillo , Director of The College of Arts & Sciences Student Success Center (the hub) University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session D	Admission and Orienting to College: Highlighting Resources, Services, and Support for Veterans and Their Family Members	Stephanie Orr , Assistant Director Undergraduate Admissions; Brandalyn Shropshire , Assistant Director, Undergraduate Admissions and Residency Officer University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own		
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Virtual Museum Tour	Charles H. Coolidge-National Medal of Honor Heritage Center	
12:05 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	2nd Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A	Re-charging your battery: Engage in a self-care moment	Tricia Henderson , Director of Center of Student Wellbeing University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session B	LGBTQ+ Veteran Support: Diversity and Inclusion on Campus	Sara Peters , Director of the Center for Women and Gender Equity University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session C	Disability Resource Center: Creating a culture of access	Dr. Michelle Rigler , Executive Director of the Disability Resource Center and Mosaic Program University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session D	Service Animals are Teammates for LIFE	Dan Tarafa, Student , Navy Combat Veteran University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
1:05 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	3rd Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A	Career Services Strategies: Success Beyond Graduation for Those Who Have Served	Donna Cooper , Associate Director of Career Development, Center for Career and Leadership Development University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session B	Boots to Boots: Value of a Vocational Education - 2 year/TCAT School	Jessica Greene , Director of TCAT Student Services at Chattanooga State Community College Chattanooga State Community College
	Concurrent Session C	Internships and Shadowing: How to Reach Out to Area Businesses Who Want to Hire Veterans	Robert Liddell , Executive Director of Center for Career and Leadership Development University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
	Concurrent Session D	Warrior-Scholar Project	Jesse Tossetti , Director of Outreach and Admissions for Warrior-Scholars Project and Marine Corps Veteran Warrior-Scholars Project
2:00 p.m.	End of Conference Sessions- Day 1		
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Virtual Services Fair		
2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Virtual Services Fair-Sessions A	SALUTE National Veterans Honor Society Military One Source Team Red, White, and Blue (RWB)	
2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Virtual Services Fair-Sessions B	UTC Survivor Advocacy Services Quilts of Valor UTC Veteran Entrepreneurship Program UT System-Veterans Network	

Day 2- Tuesday, October 13, 2020			
Day 2	Session Title	Speaker/Title/Affiliation	Organization
9:20 a.m.-12:25 p.m.	Conference Day 2-Begins		
9:20 a.m.	Welcome to Conference Day 2	Squoia Holmes , Assistant Director of Veteran Student Services at UTC	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
9:30 a.m.-10:25 a.m.	1st Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A TN Department of Veterans Services: Empowerment Training – Presentation on military veterans' transition challenges and offers empowering resources to assist veterans' success on campus	Gregg Crawford , Veterans Outreach Coordinator and Marine Corps Veteran; Dan Wolgast , Veterans Outreach Coordinator, UTC Alumni Student and Air Force Veteran	Tennessee Department of Veterans Services
	Concurrent Session B Campus Veteran Resource Centers: A Rally Point for Veterans	Dr. Hilary Miller , Director of the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center	Middle Tennessee State University
	Concurrent Session C Tennessee State Approving Agency: Veterans Education Approval Process (catalogs, handbooks, etc.)	Dr. Ken Hanson , Senior Director of Veterans Education at Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Air Force Veteran; Tom Morrison , Assistant Executive Director, Veterans Education State Approving Agency	Tennessee Higher Education Commission and State Approving Agency
	Concurrent Session D Counseling Services for Student Veterans	Kelly Drake , Associate Director of Counseling Center and Army Veteran; Chris Akridge , LCSW Readjustment Counselor at Chattanooga Vet Center, UTC Alumni Student and Marine Corps Combat V Veteran	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Chattanooga Vet Center
10:30 a.m.-11:25 a.m.	2nd Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A VA School Certifying Official Best Practices	Thomas Cruise , Coordinator & School Certifying Official at University of Tennessee at Knoxville, UT Alumni Student and Air Force Veteran	University of Tennessee at Knoxville
	Concurrent Session B THEC Veterans Financial Aid Options (GI Bill, Reconnect, Pell Grant, etc.)	Mitch Currey , Veterans Education Coordinator at Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Army Veteran; Mary Laphen , Navigate Reconnect Director at Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Tennessee Higher Education Commission
	Concurrent Session C Student Veterans of America	Jared Lyon , President and CEO of Student Veterans of America and Navy Veteran	Student Veterans of America
	Concurrent Session D Vanquishing the Invisible: Women Warriors	Melissa Washington , CEO and Founder of Women Veterans Alliance, disabled veteran small business owner, speaker, entrepreneur, author, award winner, and Navy Veteran	Women Veterans Alliance
11:30 a.m.-12:25 p.m.	3rd Concurrent Sessions Begin		
	Concurrent Session A Transitioning Out of the Military: Women Veterans	Veda Brooks , Director of Women Veterans Office at Georgia Department of Veterans Service's and Army Veteran	Georgia Department of Veterans Service's
	Concurrent Session B TAP 101 and Managing Your Education	Melinda Many , Curriculum Program Manager at Department of Defense, Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA) Transition to Veterans Program Office	Department of Defense, Defense Human Resources Activity
	Concurrent Session C National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators	Dr. Jan Del Signore , Associate Vice Chancellor of Military Affairs at Keiser University and President for the National Association of Veteran Program Administrators (NAVPA); past President of Florida Advisory Council for Military Education (FL-ACME) and Air Force Veteran	National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators and Keiser University
	Concurrent Session D Stronger Together: Community and Collaboration for Student Veteran Resources	Captain Mickey McCamish , Founder of SE TN Veterans Coalition, Executive Director of Riverbend Festival, Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Tennessee; President of Navy League, the Classic 150 Organization, and Military Officers Association of America-Chattanooga Chapter; 2018 chairman of the Chattanooga Armed Forces Day Parade, Executive committee member of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council (20,000 members) and Navy Veteran	Southeast Tennessee Veterans Coalition
12:25 p.m.	End of Conference Day 2		