



# MILITARY CAREGIVING

## Military Families Learning Network

### *Background*

There are approximately 5.5 million persons caring for wounded, ill or injured service members and veterans in the United States (RAND, 2014). In addition to wounded warriors, many military families care for children with special needs and other dependents. Nearly 2 million children and youth are military-connected, the largest group under 5 years of age, and it's estimated that 20 percent or more have special needs (NIH & HSC Foundation, 2014). The numbers of caregivers and care recipients, including those with special needs, are only estimates. Military caregiving, much like caregiving for the population in general, touches many more families than the numbers reflect. Providing support and services for service members, veterans and caregivers is a socioeconomic challenge in the United States, especially amongst the wounded warrior and special needs populations.

### *Military Caregiving*

The Military Families Learning Network – Military Caregiving (MFLNMC) concentration area works to identify professional development opportunities for Department of Defense helping professionals working with family caregivers. It is led by faculty from land-grant colleges and universities and relies on other educational entities and public-/private-sector agencies to help craft in-depth, engaging educational offerings.

The larger Military Families Learning Network provides education across other disciplines in the same manner to address professional needs such as financial security, family development and nutrition. Research and education play key roles in future caregiver initiatives in order to effectively address the needs of military families and the professionals who serve them.

### *Network Concept*



**SUPPORT** professional development and performance improvement through innovative technologies such as interactive web conferencing and online asynchronous learning modules.

**ENGAGE** subject matter experts and military helping professionals to identify needs of the caregiving community through formal and informal evaluation.

**EDUCATE** military helping professionals, service members, and families on issues related to caregiving through quality, reliable programming, listening and responding to their learning needs.

# 2016 at a glance

## AUDIENCE

Military Helping Professionals serving family caregivers of wounded service members and those caring for individuals with special needs.



## CONTINUING ED.



**156** Continuing education credits awarded from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

**1,575** Certificates of completion awarded for training hours.

## VIRTUAL LEARNING EVENT

*Sensitive Topics in Caregiving: Tough Questions & Complex Answers*

**Session #1: Interpersonal Relationships**

**39** Total participants from 'live' session.

**Session #2: Families in Crisis**

**50** Total participants from 'live' session.

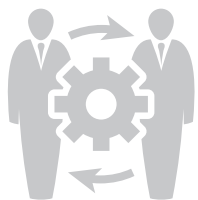
**Session #3: Empowering Caregivers**

**58** Total participants from 'live' session.



## ONLINE COURSES

**36** Online educational courses available through Extension Online, that provides continuing education credit or certificates of completion.



## MFLNMC PROGRAMMING



## SOCIAL MEDIA



**667** Twitter Followers

**22,607** Facebook Followers

**51** Blog Articles Published

## WEBINARS

**9** Professional development webinars.

**439** Total participants from 'live' webinar sessions.



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