



Eastern Regional Conference

East Carolina Heart Institute
Greenville, NC
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Bios of Presenters & Panel Members

Mark A. Stebnicki, Ph.D., LPC, DCMHS, CRC, CCM, CCMC is Professor and Coordinator of the Military and Trauma Counseling (MTC) Certificate Program in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation at East Carolina University. In 2015, he developed the MTC graduate certificate and the Certificate in Clinical Military Counseling (CCMC) in 2016 offered through ECU's Office of Continuing Studies. Dr. Stebnicki is an active teacher, researcher, and practitioner who has written 8 professional texts, 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has presented at over 100 conferences, workshops, and seminars nationally, statewide, and regionally. Dr. Stebnicki's research and professional practice areas include psychosocial rehabilitation for persons with chronic illnesses and disabilities, stress, trauma, and military mental health. He has served on multiple national and statewide boards and professional counseling associations.

James Andersen, Coordinator for Career Services at Coastal Carolina Community College, is a veteran of the United States Army's 82 Airborne Division. Following his military service, James worked in manufacturing and public utilities for five years before enrolling at Catawba Valley Community College. He completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in History Education from Appalachian State University and has spent the past ten years working in community colleges as a History instructor and program director for workforce development. He currently serves as the Coordinator for Career Services at Coastal Carolina Community College, a role that has allowed him to serve the second largest veteran community in the state and the active duty men and women stationed at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC. He is a certified Career Development Facilitator and Global Career Development Facilitator. Among the services James provides is career counseling and academic advising for veterans and their dependents. He partners with community agencies providing assistance and services to veterans and works with local and national employers seeking to hire veterans in their industries. As a veteran who struggled to make the transition from military to civilian life, James embraces any opportunity to share his knowledge and experience with veterans fighting to find a pathway outside of their military service.

Bruce Capehart, MD is the Medical Director for the OEF/OIF Program at the VA Medical Center in Durham and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center. He is affiliated with the National Center for PTSD as one of two PTSD mentors for the VA's mid-Atlantic region, and as a faculty member for the Center for PTSD's consultation program. His clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of behavioral health conditions in the combat veteran. When not seeing outpatients at the Durham VA, Dr. Capehart can be found with the injury biomechanics team at Duke's Pratt School of Engineering where they are funded by various Department of Defense agencies to investigate the biomechanics and physiology of blast and blunt trauma. Dr. Capehart is a Veteran of the US Army Reserve and was called to active duty in 2003 for a deployment as the only military psychiatrist in Afghanistan.

Susan Watkins, MSW, LCSW is a licensed clinical social worker and has an extensive background in the field of posttraumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. As the Transition Care Management (OEF OIF OND) Program Manager for the Durham VA Health Care System, she serves as a case manager and point of contact for over 15,000 returning Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans. She is also the Lead Program Manager for VISN 6. She is active in working with Post Deployment Health Reassessment Activities with Guard and Reserve units in the State. Ms. Watkins has provided educational seminars nationally to enhance knowledge and skills of professionals working with Returning Combat Veterans and in Case Management Programs. Since 2014, she has served as a Co-Chair for NC STRIVE (Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education) and has been instrumental in increasing awareness of military culture, transition-related issues, and potential behavioral health challenges in higher education.

Tim Wiseman, Colonel, US Army (Retired), Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enterprise Risk Management and Director of Military Programs at East Carolina University (ECU), is responsible for developing, implementing and sustaining the university's enterprise risk management program and overseeing military affairs. He previously served in the US Army for 26 years as a finance corps officer and resource manager where his accomplishments include serving with distinction in both command and staff positions at all ranks and levels from 2nd lieutenant through colonel. His military service included tours of duty with the 25th Infantry Division (Light), 1st Armored Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, US Army Special Operations Command, and the US Army Cadet Command. Tim has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Arkansas, an MBA from Syracuse University and a Masters of Science degree in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. He hails originally from Arkansas. Tim, his wife Penny, and their three children moved to Greenville in July of 2009.

Kim Treece, MS is the VetSuccess Counselor on Campus with the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. She is located at East Carolina University in the Student Veteran Services office where she provides a variety of services to student veterans and dependents using VA Education benefits. Services include career counseling, adjustment counseling, and benefits counseling and guidance. Kim earned a Master of Science in Rehabilitation, Clinical and Substance Abuse Counseling in 2000 at East Carolina University. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (2000), Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor of Certification and a Certified Veteran Rehabilitation Counselor (2014), Veterans Benefits Administration. Kim has worked in both public and private rehabilitation sectors since 2000. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association, 2007.

Nicole Jablonski, MS is Assistant Director of Student Veteran Services at East Carolina. Nicole was enlisted in the U.S Navy from 1998 until 2007 as an avionics technician on the EA-6B prowler. After separating from the Navy, Nicole used her Montgomery GI Bill and then Post 9/11 GI Bill to earn her Bachelor of Science in History, her Master of Science in Library and Information Science, a Graduate Certificate in Veteran Services, and is currently a Doctoral student in Adult Education at North Carolina State University. Since getting out of the Navy, Nicole has worked with student veterans, first as a Veterans Affairs work study at the State University of New York at the College of Brockport and then as a Veterans Benefit Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse before coming to East Carolina University in 2015.

Alethia Cook, PhD is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science. She earned her PhD in Public Policy, with emphasis on American foreign and military policies, from Kent State University. She teaches classes in the department's Security Studies program, including Politics of Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Her research focuses on policy-making for complex security issues such as pandemic disease, terrorism, radicalization and weapons of mass destruction. Her recent work has focused on counterterrorism, the factors that influence levels of violence in civil wars, and governments' efforts to defend against WMD.

Charles Gross, MBA is Director for Prior Learning Assessment and Military Credit, The University of North Carolina System and serves as the primary contact for all University of North Carolina constituent institutions regarding the establishment, implementation, and maintenance of a system-wide approach to the assessment and award of credit for prior learning, including military and other workplace training. He also co-chairs, with his North Carolina Community College (NCCC) counterpart, the Military Credit Advisory Committee, which exists to carry out the mandates of North Carolina Senate Bill 761. This bill requires the UNC and NCCC systems to facilitate the awarding and transferring of academic credit for military training and experience. During his twenty-year career in the United States Air Force, Charles was regularly involved in the formal education, training, and professional development of military and civilian managers and leaders. Upon retiring from the Air Force in 2006, Charles began working at Western Carolina University (WCU) as the Director for Military Education, serving

as the chief university point of contact and primary advocate for military-affiliated students, working with faculty, staff, and university administrators to streamline all processes affecting military-affiliated students, and to raise campus awareness of veteran issues. Charles earned an MBA as an adult learner from Liberty University. He is currently completing a Master of Arts in Counseling, and plans to work with veterans in this additional capacity.

Steve Duncan, PhD works with the Veterans Leadership Initiative in the BB&T Center for Leadership Development at ECU. He arrived at East Carolina in the spring of 2003 to assume the position of Director of Military Programs, retiring from that position in 2016. In this role he oversaw both the army and air force ROTC programs, as well as managing policies dealing with military and veteran students. Dr. Duncan started the university's Distinguished Military Service Society which has raised over 250K in ROTC scholarships. He was the catalyst for the Freedom Wall and Memorial Walk which honors veterans during a ceremony each year. During his tenure ECU was honored with the Defense Freedom Award, and became only the second university in the nation to win this recognition. He also worked alongside the athletic department to build the annual Military Appreciation Day football game event into an outstanding recognition ceremony. Dr. Duncan completed his PhD at the University of Arizona and has taught at two other universities in addition to East Carolina. Prior to arriving at ECU, Dr. Duncan had a 30+ year career with the Department of Defense.

Jeffery Boone, MA is a loving husband and father of two grown sons, grandfather of two, godfather of a daughter, and three god-grandchildren - affectionately known as Pop Pop, a native of Kinston, NC and a graduate of Kinston Park Avenue. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years; diversity consultant. Mr. Boone is a graduate of Antioch New England Graduate School, MA Marriage and Family Therapy, multicultural clinician, University of Southern Maine, Chaplain Maine Medical Center, and Pastor of Faith Chapel Saco Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and marriage and family therapist for the Vet Center in Greenville, NC.

Jonathan Forte, MS is Administrator of the Greenville VA Health Care Center (HCC) and is responsible for ensuring that Veterans in Eastern North Carolina receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive health care at the Greenville VA HCC, Morehead City VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and the State Veterans Home in Kinston, NC. Prior to moving to North Carolina, Jon was the Assistant Director for the VHA Office of Emergency Management in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw the daily operations of 100 field and headquarters staff, working tirelessly to ensure the continuity of healthcare operations for Veterans, throughout the Veterans Health Administration 1,600 sites of care during hurricanes, wildfires, mass casualty events, and other incidents. Jon hold degrees from the University of Scranton, in Northeast Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Health Administration. He is also Board Certified Health Care management as a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives. Jon resides in Greenville, North Carolina with his wife Liz, a Certified Nurse Midwife, and his daughters, Madeline and Louise.

Regis Gilman, EdD is the Executive Director of ECU's Office of Continuing Studies with oversight of services and support to online and off-campus degree-program students, continuing professional education, the lifelong learning program, testing and proctoring centers, military outreach, summer school, and the Gateway Technology Center collaborative. Dr. Gilman has 40+ years' experience in adult and continuing higher education. She completed a Master's Degree in Adult Education from Drake University, and then earned her Doctor of Education in Educational Policy and Leadership - Higher Education from the University of Kansas. While at Appalachian State University she completed a post-doc Master of Arts in Educational Media-Instructional Technology. Dr. Gilman joined East Carolina University in 2016, coming from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL where she had served as Dean of the School of Continuing Education. She believes in recognizing the many experiences and accomplishments of adult learners, and their impact on higher education, particularly recognizing experiential learning through Competency Based Learning, Credit for Prior Learning; CLEP, Advanced Placement, DANTES Testing and departmental challenge tests. Dr. Gilman serves as ECU's institutional point of contact for the ACE College & University Partnerships, and the Council of College and Military Educators. She is married to retired Chief Stephen Hume, USN-SSN

James Simpson, MS is Manager of Military Talent Acquisition for Pike Enterprises, LLC. James served as a Marine for 24 years (1987-2012). Roles included Supply Chain Manager, Recruiter, Instructor, and Logistics Analyst. While on active duty James completed a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management. After a successful career in the Marine Corps, James transitioned into a role as a transition advisor at Camp Lejeune. He spent four years assisting Marines, Sailors, and family members with finding employment, enrolling in benefits, selecting colleges and degree programs, and analyzing personal budgets. For two of those years he served as an internal staff member with Marine Special Operations Command providing transition support and coordinating job fairs and hiring events for Camp Lejeune. In 2016 James accepted a position with the State of NC as the State Liaison and Program Manager for North Carolina for Military Employment. In this role he scheduled, planned, and executed NC4ME hiring events across the state of NC. NC4ME coordinated 2443 interviews for veterans and military spouses with 44.5% leading to second interviews or offers of employment from Aug 2016 to Mar 2018. James' current position is Manager of Military Talent Acquisition for Pike Enterprises, LLC. which is headquartered in Mount Airy, NC. Pike has a nationwide footprint providing integrated construction, repair, and engineering services for distribution and transmission powerlines and substations. Pike continuously expands product/service offerings to supply customers with the ideas, technology, experience, manpower, and equipment to perform any job. James will be recruiting from military installation across the country to connect with and hire veterans to fill Pike's expanding roles.

Emily Ellis, MBA is a Recruitment Resource Specialist with Syngenta. Emily offers a unique background with experience across multiple industries, including agriculture, technology, pharmaceuticals, recruitment outsourcing and higher education. She started her career as an academic and career counselor at the Rochester Institute of Technology in upstate New York. However, when she and her family relocated to the Raleigh area, her interest in joining the recruiting world burned strong and she embraced the opportunity to make a career transition along with her geographic transition. She dove immediately into the agency recruitment space, recruiting first in the tech industry and then in pharmaceuticals. As the next step toward corporate recruiting, she then moved into a lead sourcing specialist role within recruitment

outsourcing, working with clients such as Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, and Credit Suisse. Most recently she joined the in-house recruitment team at Syngenta, which focuses on how to feed a rising population, sustainably. Emily has a Masters in Business Administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Business, Marketing from the State University of New York at Brockport. She prides herself on getting to know her candidates and thinking outside of the box to match them to opportunities that suit their goals and are mutually beneficial for the hiring managers. Not only does she assess skill sets, she looks at cultural fit and future growth potential. However, the academic and career counselor blood still runs strong through her veins and she truly enjoys mentoring others as they navigate their career paths.

Chauncey McLeod, MSW, is Director of the Greenville Vet Center. Mr. McLeod is a veteran of the United States Army, enlisting in the Army in 1992, serving until 1995. After his active duty tour, he continued to serve in the National Guard and Army Reserves. Mr. McLeod has been deployed twice under Operation Noble Eagle at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Goldsboro, NC and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as a Company Commander from May 2007- May 2008. Mr. McLeod currently serves as a Major with the Army Reserve Element under Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Suffolk, VA. Mr. McLeod has as a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Psychology and Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. He has worked with worked with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as a Social Worker and in North Carolina Public Schools with behavioral challenged children. He has been with the Vet Center program since May 2005. Mr. McLeod has also served as the Chairman of the National RCS African-American Working Group 2012-2015. He is a native of Beaufort, SC and now resides in Winterville, NC.

Mel Markowski, PhD is Professor Emeritus of the Marriage and Family Medicine Program in the College of Health and Human Performance at ECU. He currently serves as a Military and Family Life Counselor for Marine Corps Air Station - Cherry Point (NC), Ft. Campbell (KY) and Ft. Bragg (NC). He is also a Marriage and Family Therapy consultant for the Veterans Outreach Center here in Greenville. Mel, a Fulbright Scholar, earned his BS in Philosophy from LaSalle University, a MA in Philosophy from St. Stephens College, a MA in Psychology from East Tennessee State University and his PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Florida State University. He is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to the People and the State of North Carolina.