NMSU Military, Veterans and Families Education Summit
Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Program Addenda

10:15 a.m. Mr. Michael Yudin, Representative Office of United States Senator Jeff Bingaman
Helping More Military Veterans and Their Families Attend College: The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, strengthening its provisions by addressing the rising costs of college, simplifying the financial aid process, ensuring students are prepared to succeed in and graduate from college, helping students succeed in graduate education, and reforming the student loan system.

Our service men and women risk their lives for us every day, and we owe it to them to help them pursue a college education when they return home. The Higher Education Opportunity Act recognizes our veterans by:

- Allowing service members to defer payments, interest-free, on Federal Direct Loans while they are on active duty.
- Enabling U.S. students who leave their college for military service to re-enroll easily when they return.
- Ensuring that military benefits do not count against service members' eligibility for federal grants and loans to pay for college.
- Providing new college scholarships for children and family members of service members who have died since 9/11.
- Creating a new on-line clearinghouse for service members to learn about the college benefits available to them.

Source: Excerpt from *Higher Education Opportunity Act Summary (7/25/08),* Office of United States Senator Jeff Bingaman, email 10/15/08, M. Goodman.

11:30 a.m. Mr. Lou Helwig, Director of Field Operations, New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs for Secretary of Veterans Affairs Garcia

For Further Information:
http://extended.nmsu.edu/military/index.html