

# NETWORK NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SEP. 18-20** | Cultural Competency Awareness, Action and Advocacy  
2018 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**SEP. 25** | Paying for College: The Forever GI Bill and Repayment Plans  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

**SEP. 27** | Strategies to Support Child Communication Before Words Emerge  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm ET

## Learning AND Making a Difference: Will You Join Us?

This year's virtual conference is just around the corner! Many people have been working hard to bring the conference to fruition, and I consider myself lucky indeed to be surrounded by colleagues and presenters who are committed to and passionate about this year's conference. One thing that has made these many months of planning so seamless is a shared acknowledgement among MFLN and DoD staff that cultural competency—and our productive awareness, action, and advocacy across identities, experiences, barriers, and institutions—is sorely needed.

Ours is a time of polarized discourse, and of protest; of injustice and disenfranchisement, and of hope; of avoidance, but also of speaking out and speaking up. We each come to this world and operate in it depending on where our identities locate us on a continuum of privilege. Some of us have the privilege to be passive, to think or to say, "that is not my problem," or "that doesn't involve me." Others of us know what it is to experience the burden of inequity on multiple playing fields, know the possibilities and risks that come of speaking out. But it seems we all have the ability to be courageous.

This conference, and your participation in it, is a call to respectful and thoughtful conversation, no matter your identities or experiences. It is courageous to acknowledge, reflect on, and share openly the uncomfortable realities in our world today. It is courageous for us each to identify

and be present in our many unique roles that can contribute to those realities. I am confident this conference and its conversations will create a lasting and positive impact on all who choose to participate. I challenge each participant, as I challenge myself, to use this conference as an opportunity to create a positive shift in the world around us by looking inward, and returning that gaze with positive action for a more just workplaces and communities.

We are pleased to provide a series of speakers that are ready to guide us through the phases of awareness, action, and advocacy necessary for positive change. While this conference is for everyone, it will be an especially informative learning experience for professionals working with and advocating for diverse individuals and families across the country and around the world.

Make sure to RSVP and sign up for conference news and resources, and I look forward to learning with you and from you in September!

Brigitte Scott, PhD  
Director of Program Development and Evaluation  
Military Families Learning Network.



**Cultural**  
COMPETENCY

awareness  
action  
advocacy

## Webinar Reviews!

*"Very helpful webinar. Information was well presented, and resource information is outstanding. Thank you."*

Mental Health Care in TRICARE: Recent Enhancements to a Great Benefit

*"This was a wonderful presentation that was organized and easy to follow."*

From Communication to Conversation: Expanding Language Development in the Early Childhood Years

*"Great topic focus that helped me to increase my depth of understanding and to identify a few new resources I can incorporate into practice. Thank you!"*

Family Finances Series: Separation & Single Parenting in the Military

# [ NEWSBITES ]



## Helping Families Deal with the Realities of a Disability

When a child is diagnosed with a disability, it can be a stressful time for the people who love the child. Service providers can offer suggestions and resources to help parents/guardians cope with the realities of living with a family member with a disability... [Read more.](#)

## Opening Lines of Communication: Asking Financial Questions before Marriage

One key aspect of planning for the many years ahead is getting on the same financial page with your partner. Though this may not sound like the world's most romantic conversation, it's key...[Read more.](#)

## But WHY? How to Navigate Discussions about Divorce with your Children

Coming up on the two-year mark of our divorce, I naively assumed that the hardest part at the beginning- the news of the divorce followed by the series of Q&A that followed for several months after- had ended...[Read more.](#)

## Ask an Expert Series: Supporting Dual Language Children and Families

The presence of a variety of people the child hears speaking a language and with whom they interact in that language, will increase children's ability to learn the language...[Read more.](#)

## Anchored | Episode 15

### Bridging the Gaps: Helping Wounded Warriors Heal at Home

Wounded Warrior Project's Independence Program helps warriors live life to the fullest, on their own terms. It is designed for warriors who rely on their families and/or caregivers because of moderate to severe brain injury, spinal-cord injury, or other neurological conditions. In this episode, we will talk with both the regional director for the Independence Program and a contracted provider for this program to explore this resource in detail.

[Listen to this podcast.](#)

## Show Up Inspired!



## Rebuilding After Trauma - Lessons for Work & Life

On Healing and Hope: Lessons learned through research and treatment with service members experiencing Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

[Listen to this podcast.](#)

## Money Moment Podcast Series:

- [Date Night on a Budget](#)
- [Stretching Your Grocery Dollar](#)
- [Back to School Savings](#)



**MILITARY FAMILIES**  
LEARNING NETWORK