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DoD's Center for Deployment Psychology Launches Training Program to Prepare Psychology Graduate Students for Military-Focused Internships

Accepting Applications Now

Bethesda, MD - The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) has announced a new training program to help prepare psychology graduate students for pre-doctoral internships at military treatment facilities.

The "CDP Summer Institute: Preparing for a Military-Focused Internship" is designed for psychology students interested in applying for Department of Defense internships. The goal of this pilot program is to help trainees strengthen their military knowledge and clinical skills to be more competitive for these internships. The 6-day course is geared towards students pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology who are one to three years away from their internship.

The training will be held June 8 – 13, 2015 on the campus of USU in Bethesda, Maryland. Applications are currently being accepted. The application deadline is January 5, 2015.

"Many of the more than two million Service members returning from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan will experience behavioral health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic brain injury (TBI), sleep problems, and substance abuse," Dr. Paula Domenici, Director of Civilian Training Programs, CDP, said. "These issues, in turn, will affect the more than five million family members who have seen a Service member deployed."

"A career as a military psychologist can be very rewarding, but graduate students interested in this career path may not feel adequately prepared to succeed at a military internship site," Dr. Domenici continued. "They also may lack an adequate background in military behavioral health. Attending the Summer Institute will hopefully give them the tools they need to apply for a military internship and start the process for becoming a military psychologist."

The focused course will provide attendees practical information about working with Service members and Veterans through didactics, experiential exercises and panel sessions. Participants will receive training on a number of topics including:

- Types of work experiences for military behavioral health providers
- Advanced military culture and the deployment cycle
- Cognitive-behavioral strategies used in military settings
- Ethical dilemmas unique to military settings

There also will be a session on applying to military psychology internship programs.

Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

To learn more about this program and to apply, visit <http://www.deploymentpsych.org/CDPSI>, or contact Dr. Holly O'Reilly at horeilly@deploymentpsych.org.

About USU:

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, founded by an act of Congress in 1972, is the nation's federal health sciences university and the academic heart of the Military Health System. USU students are primarily active duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who receive specialized education in tropical and infectious diseases, TBI and PTSD, disaster response and humanitarian assistance, global health, and acute trauma care. A large percentage of the university's more than 5,200 physician and 1,000 advanced practice nursing alumni are supporting operations around the world, offering their leadership and expertise. USU also has graduate programs in biomedical sciences, public health, clinical psychology and oral biology, committed to excellence in research, which have awarded more than 1,500 degrees to date. The University's robust research program covers a wide range of areas important to both the military and public health. For more information about USU and its programs, visit www.usuhs.edu.

About CDP:

The Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) www.deploymentpsych.org trains military and civilian behavioral health providers to deliver high quality deployment-related behavioral health services to military personnel and their families. Established in 2006, the CDP is headquartered at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland. Since 2007, the CDP has trained more than 20,000 professionals to assist Service members, Veterans and their families throughout the deployment cycle.