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Dear College Administrator,

I am writing to encourage your attendance at the Third Annual Colorado Veterans Higher Education Summit at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville, Colorado on 2 August 2013.

Colorado has nearly 25,000 enrolled students who are veterans. That ranks us 11th in the nation in veterans' college attendance. These veterans are unlike the normal college students in that they tend to be older, have families, are receiving veteran's benefits and or GI Bill assistance and perhaps most importantly, have life experiences that are unique within the college population—they have served the nation in time of war. As a result of these differences, they have needs that are somewhat unique. Some find the challenge of higher education difficult, from deciding on a career path, to maintaining solid study habits and interacting with fellow students, as well as managing their finances.

Over the past three years the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, a seven-person Board appointed by the Governor, has assisted with a Veterans in Higher Education Summit. It is at this Summit where college administrators, education experts, as well as current and former veteran students come together to help identify the unique challenges and needs of the student veteran population and address best practices in meeting those needs. Many colleges have established veteran student organizations or advisory groups; some colleges provide veterans affairs administrators or counselors to assist veteran students in meeting those challenges as they seek to transition from military life to successful civilian careers.

The Summit consists of speakers, panel discussions and seminars which establish dialogue among students, administrators and veterans' service organizations. I encourage you to send a representative to attend the Veterans in Higher Education Summit. The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs has seen tremendous benefits for both veteran students and college administrators as they work together to better address the unique challenges of student veterans and ensure their success beyond the classroom.

Sincerely yours,

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William "Robby" Robinson
Chairman