

**2021 PETE TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP  
OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**



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# Community Partnerships During COVID, Texas

**PARTNERS:**

**Fort Sam Houston  
Independent School District**

**Fort Sam Houston  
Elementary School**

**Joint Base San Antonio**

**JBSA Fort Sam Houston  
School Liaison Office (SLO)**

**Army Environmental Command (AEC)**

**Lincoln Military Housing**

**Yoga Day Nonprofit**

During the COVID-19 restrictions, we were a closed campus. This limited our ability to host community activities. Consequently, we designed opportunities for our students and families that extended beyond the walls of the school.

We collaborated with the School Liaison Office (SLO) to host a drive thru “Back to School Bash” in August distributing school supplies to nearly 200 families. Our campus staff, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), Child Development Center (CDC), and Youth Services staff lined up along a two-mile route to hand out virtual learning school supplies.

In spring, we teamed up with the SLO to host a Purple-up wave parade honoring our military children. Campus staff, Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), SLO, Army Band, and Security Forces provided lines of waving staff to around 250 families. We also partnered with Lincoln Military Housing and Yoga Day Nonprofit to offer virtual yoga classes to all families living on Fort Sam Houston. We were already providing weekly virtual yoga classes to our campus families. With the help of the housing office we were able to reach all families living on the installation and offered free stress-reducing and emotional-resilience strengthening activity.

We also partnered with the Army Environmental Command (AEC) to host an in person Nature Walk for our 140 kindergartners. Students ran through seven STEM-based stations that the AEC personnel organized.

We are proud of the outreach we accomplished to meet the needs of our students during the challenges of virtual/face-to-face instructional settings.

## Project PARTNERS (Preparing Adolescents for Relevant Training: Nurturing Early Responsibility and Success), Missouri

### **PARTNERS:**

**Knob Noster R-VIII Public Schools**  
**Whiteman Air Force Base**  
**Whiteman Air Force Base Exceptional Family Member Program**  
**Stars and Strikes**  
**Whiteman Inn**  
**Whiteman Library**

Project PARTNERS is a combination of classroom instruction at Knob Noster R-VIII Public Schools with career exploration and on-the-job supports for students with developmental disabilities at Whiteman Air Force Base to prepare them for competitive employment. The students participated in three 10-week rotational internships at job sites located on the base. This project is an example of a true partnership at the local level. EFMP, Flight Chiefs, Base Commander, Force Support Squadron Commander, School District Employees, School Administration, Students and Families came together to provide this opportunity for students to grow in their independence and confidence while provided local businesses with the opportunity for changes in business culture and attitudes regarding hiring people with disabilities.

During this inaugural year, students participated in competitive employment at the base bowling alley, Stars and Strikes. For this rotation they were certified for three years with ServSafe for food handling and food safety. During their internship, students also learned customer service skills, appropriate attire, punctuality, following directions of a supervisor or other staff, cooking food items, cash handling, inventory management, and keeping their areas clean. During their second rotation at the Whiteman Inn, they built on the skills they learned during the first rotation. They learned about housekeeping duties, check in and check out procedures, and general hospitality procedures. Their third rotation at Whiteman Library focused on discharging library books, preparing activities for the youth and summer program, answering phones, taking orders for pick up and using technology tools.

## Connecting Families, Communities and Schools; Student Focused, Partnerships Driven for New Mexico, New Mexico

### **PARTNERS:**

**Holloman Air Force Base**  
**Kirtland Air Force Base**  
**Public Education Department**  
**New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support**  
**New Mexico Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission**  
**New Mexico Military Children's Education Council**

Cannon Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base, Kirtland Air Force Base, the Public Education Department (PED), and the New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support (OMBP), the NM Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and the New Mexico Military Children's Education Council (NM's MIC3 state council) have created an ideal relationship between the military installations, local community and state entities. This partnership benefits not only our military students but also enhances the lives of our community students. The relationships between our military installations, communities, the New Mexico PED and OMBP continue to flourish and develop a community-wide enthusiasm for our military-connected students and veterans.

The three New Mexico Air Force bases work together strategically in collaboration with our community and state-wide partners to ensure we are doing what is necessary for our military students and their families.

An example is the introduction of legislation that supports the needs of military families. In collaboration, at least four bills were introduced, adopted and signed into law. One newly passed law allows for Early School Enrollment for military families PCSing to a New Mexico military installation before they arrive in New Mexico and have a physical address to prove residency. Another new law is for the Public Education Department to adopt the Purple Star Public School Recognition Program. This program awards schools who go above and beyond to support military-connected students as well as schools without military-connected students, but who recognize and celebrate military service.

## Hands-on Education and the Preservation of Aerospace History, Utah

### **PARTNERS:**

**Utah Military Academy  
Hill Air Force Base  
Hill Aerospace Museum**

The Utah Military Academy (UMA) and Hill Air Force Base partnered as a need arose at the Aerospace Museum for outside support and an UMA instructor saw how he could expand student knowledge and skill, thus opening the door for potential job opportunities. The Hill Aerospace Museum is one of the largest tourist attractions in Utah and has a tremendous need for volunteers to help with a large variety of tasks. Since its inception, cadets have been involved in supporting hundreds of projects to help improve museum displays, and several of them have gone on to work in the aerospace industry.

This partnership has expanded to the school coordinating with the museum to do internships and volunteer work. Three to four times a year, 30-50 cadets, directed by the JROTC, spend half a day at the museum doing everything from cleaning planes, to pulling weeds, to moving assets. The school, as part of the museum crew chief program, sponsors four of the aircraft in the museum. Additionally, when the museum hosts any programs, they turn to the school to provide a variety of support to those special programs.

The Memorandum of Understanding between UMA and Hill AFB for the program at the museum is the only one of its kind. It has blossomed into an amazing relationship that has resulted in amazing opportunities for UMA cadets, thousands of hours of support to the museum, and a program that will benefit all including the local community.

## Readiness & Resiliency (R2): Military Dependent Students are Ready to Learn, Alaska

### **PARTNERS:**

**Fort Wainwright School Liaison Office  
Eielson Air Force Base School Liaison Office  
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District  
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District  
Military Student Support Coordinator**

The COVID-19 Pandemic hit Alaska and closed our schools as well as put new transitioning military families in quarantine or restriction of movement (ROM) for 14 days. There was an immediate need in getting school materials into the hands of these newly transitioning military connected students. The Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB School Liaison Officers (SLOs) sprang into action and created the Readiness & Resiliency (R2): Military Dependent Students are Ready to Learn program. The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's Military Student Support Coordinator assisted as back up to them.

Parents contacted the school for delivery of supplies. When the school personnel had the school materials ready for pickup, the School Liaison Officers were contacted. The SLOs came to the school, got the students' addressed, picked up school materials, and took them to the quarantined or ROM house or hotel.

The R2: Military Dependent Students are Ready to Learn program is in alignment with the Military Child Education Coalition's Core Values of Collaboration, Integrity, Relevance, and Service as well as with LTG (Ret) H.G. "Pete" Taylor's opinion that "real goodness happens at the local level." The evidence to support the R2: Military Dependent Students are Ready to Learn program are the countless thank yous from parents and students who have transitioned to the Fairbanks North Star Borough and used the program. We have letters and pictures from parents, school officials, and installation leadership stating what an invaluable program this is for military children and their families!

## Spread Hope, Not Germs, Italy

### **PARTNERS:**

**Sigonella Naval Air Station  
Sigonella Middle High School  
Sigonella Middle High School MCEC Student 2 Student®**

The S2S club started a campaign to bring hope and joy to members in nursing homes around the world. We wanted people who were separated from their loved ones due to COVID-19 to know that even from across the ocean or from different countries that we cared about them. We wanted to send letters to give them encouragement and interaction during these difficult times. Our goal was to send 1,000 card and letters by the end of May and we needed the entire base's help to meet this goal.

Our students recorded radio spots to rally people from around the base to understand how important it was for people to reach out with a handwritten note. They religiously collected cards every week, tallying them up and sending them off to different nursing homes around the world. Their goal was simple - have a good message, send encouragement, and let people know they cared about them.

Our students felt people needed more encouragement than just during a holiday which lead to the 1,000 card goal. Currently, they've collected and sent over 1,400 cards and the number is growing! Pre-K students have brought some of the greatest drawings anybody could ever want to have hanging on their walls. Our students are committed to the end of the school year and have decided to continue for another year because they see the value in this simple idea doing good for others and bringing our community together.

