

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION

eArmyU Mentoring News

FORT RILEY UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER Issue 3

14 September 2004

eArmyU Mentoring Campaign

*Real leadership is being the person others
will gladly and confidently follow.*

Fred J. Rodríguez, Ph.D.

Directorate of Education

To celebrate Fort Riley Day, Coach Bill Snyder paid tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces at the opening kickoff of the KSU-Fresno State football game. He said:

Please join me in welcoming our guests from Fort Riley. On behalf of our university and our football program, please know how very much we appreciate you, our armed services who continually make truly great sacrifices to preserve the freedom and the safety we have always enjoyed in these United States of America.

In late July I was honored to have the opportunity to visit the hospital at Fort Riley and spend time with several young soldiers who had been injured in the war in Iraq. I told one young man who had been seriously injured how much his courage, valor and sacrifice meant to all of us and how much he meant to our country. His response was not that of a bitter person, but one of a true, loyal and great American. He said simply: 'Just doing my job, Sir – Just doing my job.'

I am confident that I speak for every K-Stater here today when I say to our Fort Riley neighbors: We respect you, we admire you and we love you.

Mentoring at Fort Riley

Coach Snyder's inspiring and heartfelt comments remind us all of our commitment to our soldiers at Fort Riley and all of our soldiers around the world. At Fort Riley we are committed to educational excellence and the need to mentor our student-soldiers as they pursue their educational goals. Once our soldiers recognize and understand that we genuinely want to see them succeed and are committed to helping them, as Coach Snyder mentions, they will gain confidence and know they can complete that degree. Echoing Coach Snyder's humanistic outlook, John C. Maxwell, in his book *Leadership 101*, states: "Everyone wants to feel that he counts for something and is important to someone. Invariably, people will give their love, respect, and attention to the person who fills that need."

Investing the Time

The major dimension to leadership is its ethical commitment. An educational, ethical commitment means mentoring and investing the time to ensure the success of students. As Fort Riley initiated its eArmyU mentoring program, many leaders from the Fort Riley

community have volunteered to mentor student-soldiers. Recently, the leadership at KSU and the surrounding Manhattan area were invited to join Fort Riley's mentoring program. Like Coach Snyder, these scholars, educators and leaders are stepping forward. Karen Dunkelberger, USD 361, wrote, "After reading your email and accompanying eArmyU Mentoring Newsletters, I have decided that I am interested in becoming a mentor in your program...It sounds like it is a wonderful program for our troops here state-side and abroad." Char Henton and Dr. Adrienne Leslie-Toogood, KSU, respectively stated: "What a positive program," and "I would be happy to be a mentor."

Mentoring and Building Community

Hence, Fort Riley's vision of mentoring is bringing together military leaders, educators and scholars from Fort Riley and the community at-large to serve as mentors. Like the soldiers who have sacrificed for their country, these mentors too are giving of themselves for a truly worthy cause.

Anyone else who would like to become a mentor can send an email expressing interest to earmyu@riley.army.mil. All mentoring requires is a few words of encouragement, coaching and motivating. As we all cheer for the K-State team during this football season, remember those who are sacrificing their lives to ensure that we enjoy a safe, secure community as Coach Snyder so eloquently reminded us.

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