September 28, 2016

Dear Partner Institution:

Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education is pleased to announce a call for new degree program applications to become a part of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Degree Network System (DNS). In response to extensive input from the Services, DoD launched an effort to make the DNS more reflective of high-demand occupations and workforce trends. Accordingly, SOC is actively reviewing degree programs for network development in an array of emerging career fields.

For 30+ years SOC has maintained a DNS on behalf of the DoD. The SOC DNS consists of degree-granting colleges and universities that have adopted policies outlined in the Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help Service members and their adult family members earn college degrees. Many courses offered by DNS participating institutions have two-way guaranteed transferability, making it easier for Service members to complete associate and bachelor's degrees no matter where they move during their military careers.

The enclosure shares the long-term plan for developing new networks and rollout dates so that institutions can submit applications for DNS participation. Several existing networks will be strengthened by adding institutions. DoD seeks to integrate roughly twenty of the best-aligned programs in each of these areas.

As you prepare to submit your degree programs for possible inclusion in the proposed networks, we encourage institutions to review and consider a commitment to the SOC Membership Criteria page at http://www.soc.aascu.org/socdns/DNSMember.html - membership. A key focus in our selection of programs will continue to be guaranteed transferability as it is a core feature of the SOC DNS.

As SOC DNS continues network development in high-demand occupational fields, institutions can find details about how to proceed at http://www.soc.aascu.org/socdns/DNSMember.html#-call-for-programs. We look forward to working with you as we improve the SOC DNS with enhanced options for Service members.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bilodeau
Chief, DoD Voluntary Education
OASD Readiness (Force Education)

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

Informational updates will be available online at
http://www.soc.aascu.org/socdns/DNSMember.html#call-for-programs

Program submissions in the following networks will be accepted during the period 15 October through 30 November 2016:
- Homeland Security (4-Year)
- Health Services Management (4-year)
- Applied Science and Technology (2-year)
- Psychology (2-year)

Program submissions in the following networks will be accepted during the period 1 April through 15 May 2017:
- Automotive Maintenance (2-year)
- Electronics Technology (2-year)
- Accounting (4-year)
- Human Resources (4-year)
- Information Systems Management (4-year)
- Marketing (4-year)
- Technical Management (2- & 4-year)

Instructions for program submissions:
 http://www.soc.aascu.org/socdns/DNSMember.html#call-for-programs
- Only submit degree programs aligned with the proposed networks during the submission period assigned.
- Include the following items in your submission:
    o Degree program requirements
    o Curriculum
    o Course descriptions for all major and major-related courses
    o A specific point of contact for these programs
- Submit the required program information to socdnscirc@aascu.org