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Intersections International Announces Launch of Military Cultural Competency Training

Innovative workshops address gap between veterans and successful employment, education opportunities

New York, NY: In anticipation of the July 4th holiday, Intersections International announces the launch of its military cultural competency curriculum, *The Basics and Beyond*, with accompanying workshops. Building on its success with the veteran-civilian dialogues, this innovative curriculum combines interactive dialogue, activities, and educational components to provide an immersive experience. Workshops are targeted to academic institutions, businesses, and community organizations looking to improve the retention and success of their veteran employees, or the engagement and satisfaction of their veteran clients. Workshops are available in 90-minute, half day, and full day formats and are modular in nature, allowing for individual consultation based on the specific needs of each organization.

When developing this curriculum, Intersections International aimed to address a number of issues:

- Student Veterans of America report that over **one million veterans and their families pursued higher education** using GI Bill benefits between 2002 and 2010. Student veterans tend to be older than their peers, and often pursue education while simultaneously working and supporting their families.
- A 2011 US Department of Labor report shows that younger veterans (Post 9/11 era) and African American veterans are **disproportionately affected by unemployment**.
- A 2010 Gallup report found that Veterans experience **lower levels of well-being in the workplace** compared to their nonveteran peers.
- A follow-up study commissioned by Veteran Affairs surveying 245 businesses and six fortune 500 companies found that both veteran and supervisor respondents agreed that **providing workplace support during military-to-civilian transitions is critical to successful employment and retention**.

Regarding the curriculum, **Reverend Robert Chase** said "This landmark curriculum provides veterans and civilians with a dynamic, interactive tool...employers, community leaders, and academic counselors can create a common language about the deployment experience and practice techniques that allay fears and increase sensitivity."

Aynisa Leonardo, LCAT ATR-BC, of Military Resilience Project said, "The curriculum stands out from other trainings in that it covers a wide range of topic areas, from basic to advanced, while also offering a diverse range of information delivery points. It offers the chance to work with presenters who have unique and substantial expertise in mental health, military, artistic, and/or nonprofit settings. This curriculum will help people learn and integrate information from all eras of military and societal events as they have shaped and continue to shape our communities."

To schedule a consultation or learn how to better support your veteran employees and clients, contact Molly Pearl, Service Together Program Manager at mpearl@intersections.org or 646-539-8193.

About Intersections International: Intersections International leads people to unite across lines of difference in mutual pursuit of social justice, globally and locally. Our four innovative programs stand at the intersection of veterans and civilians, divided nations and peoples, artistic engagement and community values, and the Christian population and LGBTQ equality. Learn more about our programming at www.intersections.org