

## DAU Senior Service College Fellowship Begins by Diane Williams and Dr. Jerry Davis

This year's Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) "Kickoff" July 29 welcomed 24 Fellows to the Class of 2013-14. The Fellows are located at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Warren, Mich.—three of the Army's Life Cycle Command Centers. Orientation week, led by DAU leadership at each location, consisted of briefings, welcome speakers, and special presentations

The DAU Fellows, in a seminar via DAU TelePresence, were welcomed by the Honorable Katrina McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), and **Dr. James McMichael**, Acting President, DAU. McFarland engaged the fellows in an interactive discussion on topics including the importance of innovation, sequestration impacts, training challenges and concerns from industry. Dr. McMichael provided perspectives on the DAU fellowship, follow-on assignments and the importance of DAU achieving Military Education Level 1 (MEL 1) certification in March.

While this will be the second SSCF DAU class to receive MEL 1 credit, the DAU SSC class 2012-13 was the first to receive the MEL 1 designation. The MEL 1 certification helps Department of the Army civilians compete with their military counterparts for key leadership positions, special training, and areas of increased responsibility.

During the first few weeks after orientation, the fellows were engaged in various activities and classes. Activities included following

- Comprehensive Soldier/Family Fitness—Performance and Resilience Enhancement Program (CSF-PREP), by SAIC;
- Harvey Coleman's "Empowering Yourself" workshop to define success and learn how to play the unwritten "games" of work and life;
- Book review on *Getting to Yes*;
- Mount Everest simulation exercise; and seminar on Decision Traps;
- Program Management Course (PMT 401) began its 10-week course instruction on critical thinking;
- Mentoring workshops;
- Research Workshops;



- DAU courses including: Forging Stakeholder Relationships (ACQ 452), and Leader as Coach (ACQ 453).

Regional deans and DAU leadership met with the SSCF fellows to challenge them to excel and take full advantage of the outstanding opportunity afforded them in the coming year.

While at Sterling Heights, Mich., the fellows met with Dr. Paul Rogers, Director, U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Warren, Mich., who spoke to them. Dr. Rogers, who is a member of the Senior Executive Service, focused his presentation on a number of key issues for the TARDEC. He outlined his delight with the new focus on the Army's long-term strategic thinking, which he said allows for a more reasonable planning process. He also emphasized the importance of the SSCF program in developing his next crop of senior leaders.

Fellows also attended a protocol class called "Dine Like a Diplomat," conducted by Leah Hawthorn, owner of Advanced Business Image & Etiquette, LLC. The class discussed proper introductions, receiving line etiquette, and Continental Dining style of eating.

One of this year's fellows stated the fellowship is "more challenging than I expected" and that the "quality of the fellows in the program is extremely high." Further adding that they are currently enjoying PMT 401 class they are enrolled in, which they find they are "relevant and good lessons" and "well worth the time invested."

For acquisition individuals interested in meeting qualifications to attend the DAU Fellowship, the Army announcement will be posted early 2014 and can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/defense-acquisition-university-senior-service-college/announcement/>

Due to the MEL-1 approval of the SSC Fellowship Program in 2013, the requirements for SSCF Program selection next year may require completion of the appropriate level of Civilian Education System (CES) training, which is found at <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/ces/>. Guidance will be included in the Army Announcement for the next Senior Service College Fellowship Program.



Diane Williams (HSV Director), Jim McCullough (SSCF Director), Jim Oman (APG Director), Mike Roche (WRN Director), Leah Hawthorn (ABI), and Ann Lee (HSV Coordinator).