

17th February 2017

FROM THE CHAIR...

Greetings! I am proud to serve as the 5th Chair of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. The work we do is most rewarding. Our former Chair, Kate Wren Gavlak (CA) would always say, "Doing the **RIGHT THING** for children." I want to publicly thank Kate for her service and leadership to the organization, and to the schools and children we serve. A 35-year educator, Commissioner Gavlak was the Superintendent for the Travis Unified School District for over 12 years and retired this month. I also welcome our new Rules Committee Chair, John "Don" Kaminar (AR) to the leadership team. A Special Projects Manager for the Arkansas Department of Education, he retired in 2013 as a Colonel after 30 years of active duty and reserve service in the Army.

At our Annual Business Meeting in October, we approved a new strategic plan to ensure we meet our core mission through *successful educational transitions*. These words accurately reflect the Commission's past year which has been one of tremendous change. Under our new Executive Director, Cherise Imai, and the national team, we established goals and action plans, rebranded with a new logo and publications, and are currently improving our website and training. Cherise's endless energy and her relentless passion for military families has taken us to a new level. We appreciate this hard work.

As the Superintendent of Schools in Middletown, Rhode Island, we are devoted to ensuring success for ALL of our students, with a focus that is student-centered and collaborative. Likewise, MIC3 with our Commission's 50 member States and the District of Columbia continue to work together to *'level the playing field'* for military students and ensure equal access to a quality education alongside their civilian peers.

While our nation and the world continues to change around us – it brings new challenges and opportunities. Now...more than ever, we need to strengthen our foundation, to help support a positive environment for our children. Together, we can achieve our transformative goals, and I ask all of you for your renewed commitment to the work at hand. Our work matters and let's continue to make a difference.

Best wishes,

Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)
Chairman