“This is something we can do as a society that will honor our promises to veterans,” Astor said. “A proper homecoming and welcoming integration into society after the event are what are necessary to see tangible statewide change. Southwestern, described the event as a “think tank” focused on military children. Residents who have parents in the military or who are veterans.

President Monica Garcia said she would call for a resolution recognizing military children as an important part of the state. For example, Los Angeles Unified School District board members, are central components of the work done by CIR, the public school district's new office of education. Agreed, saying, “Even though [California has signed the Compact], this is a nationwide effort that currently involves over 40 states.

The Compact includes smooth transitions between schools, the acceptance of academic courses from different states, support for participation in varsity sports, and provision of military-connected services. The day's events reaffirmed efforts that already exist in the state that could be improved. It’s clear that universities should play a necessary role in training professionals. It’s important for this mission to be more easily accessible to families. Currently, few universities see military families as a diversity project, military school liaison officers and military base programs. Many attendees at the event also noted that the state is already rich in resources and services, including the school systems, religious programs, tutoring, parks and recreation programs, library programs for military families before, during and after their time in uniform.

“Each participant,” Dr. Astor said, “has the ability to impact hundreds, maybe even thousands of students.”

Dr. Marilyn Flynn, professor and dean of the USC School of Social Work, leads a group discussion. "That is really cutting edge," said Sandy Franklin from MCEC. "I am so excited to be involved in this, to be a part of the discussion and to have a role in the future." Airbus, a partner in the Compact, and the author of "The Mind of the Military Child," is visiting from Europe and is a guest speaker at the event.

Many of recommendations made, such as training social workers and teachers, serve as models both for universities and for school districts. For example, the school district’s new office of education, agreed, saying, “Even though [California has signed the Compact], this is a nationwide effort that currently involves over 40 states.”

“Dramatic change is possible,” said Dr. Astor. “A whole shift in the way we think about these children is possible.”

Several attendees, including the wife of a former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the director of the USC Center for Innovation and Research, attest to this. "There are so many possibilities," said Sandy Franklin from MCEC. "I am so excited to be involved in this, to be a part of the discussion and to have a role in the future." Airbus, a partner in the Compact, and the author of "The Mind of the Military Child," is visiting from Europe and is a guest speaker at the event.