Mary Beth Stapleton, the director of grants for the Hartford Public Schools in Oklahoma, where military students are invited to take a summer fishing trip. Also on the panel were James Calaway, the science curriculum director from the Lawton Public Schools in Oklahoma, who discussed his district’s practice of identifying military students as part of the Healthy Kids Survey, and some of the events schools have held to welcome military parents.

In his presentation, Dr. Ron Astor, the director of the Marine Corps Youth and Family Program, highlighted major components of the project, including the training of MSW students, results of the California FOCUS study, which is considered a Promising Partnership Practice by the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University. This model will be applied to other districts.

Spotlight On: Bill Billingsley

Bill Billingsley, a retired Coast Guard Commander, is the Director of the Special Needs Education Project. Before entering the education field as an elementary school teacher, Billingsley was a CPA. He has worked in the field of education for 30 years, and he continues to work with the San Diego Unified School District. Billingsley's experience and knowledge have made him a valuable asset to the students, teachers, and parents.

In this first preview, we highlight the Virginia Beach Public Schools' Welcome Packet from Virginia Beach, Virginia. The packet is available online for more detailed information on this workshop. The packet includes a letter from the superintendent and vital information on how to make these families feel more connected to their schools. The packet also includes some suggestions that teachers, principals, or others working in military schools will find useful.

In 2010, the Virginia Beach Public Schools developed the Welcome Packet to help military families. The packet includes information on how to access services, contact information for local resources, and tips on how to integrate military students into the school community. The packet has been used by other districts as a model for their own Welcome Packet.

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The service is interactive, allowing students and tutors to work together in a secure virtual environment. The service is funded by the Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library Program. Tutor.com is an online site that provides free tutoring for children from military families. The service is available for younger students, but also for older students, depending on their needs. The site is useful for school administrators, teachers, and parents.

In this issue, we will share more information on the Welcome Packet and how it can be used by schools. We will also share information on other resources available to military families.