



2022 Annual Report – State of Ohio MIC3

Ohio is ready for the Annual Business Meeting 2022 of the *Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission* (MIC3) – and America will be more ready to support our Military-connected youth come 2023 with 40+ Purple Star States.

On behalf of the members of the *Thomas D Rutan MIC3 State Council* here in the Buckeye state and our leading secondary point of contact – Mr William Merkle of the *Ohio Air and Army National Guard*, I formally and respectfully submit this annual report.

All the gratitude to our colleagues and partners for your expertise, time, and service to our Military-connected students and families, and their local schools.

During the 2021-22 school year, the Rutan Council convened on four occasions (August 31, December 2, March 29, April 14). Additionally, the Council published three editions (Fall, Winter, Spring) of *The Purple Star Bulletin*. An Agenda and Minutes from a Council meeting is included as examples.

In the September 2021, funding was awarded by the *Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*, *Department of Veterans Services*, and the office of the Governor, *The Honorable Mike DeWine* to veterans' associations and groups.

Funds are established in partnership to the *Montgomery County Educational Service Center* and *United Services Organization* through the Ohio Cares initiative to support the sacred & shared mission of PreK12-MIL.

Numerous Federal, State, Local, and Nonprofit resources are to be used for products and pamphlets, and direct outreach of printed materials within schools and communities for Ohio's Military Families, Veterans, and local Educators.

In partnership with the Ohio Air and Army National Guard and *Department of Education*, Team Ohio's MIC3 hosted Purple Star Roundtable Sessions, Town Halls, and Interactive Webinars.

The Town Halls were recorded and are posted on the *Ohio MIC3 / Purple Star's* YouTube Channel. In one of the Town Halls on Health and Behavioral Supports, the *Adjutant General of Ohio Air and Army National Guard* provided Keynote Remarks.

In the summer before the 2021-22 school year, this Council organized an Online Review Team & Task Force. This team of *Purple Star School Liaisons* would review needs and supports to be distributed and improved and recommended to Team Ohio.

The leadership of Jenn Davis (Huber Heights District) and Pam Gayheart (Fairborn District) and Ashley Twedt (Clear Fork Valley District) was instrumental in this volunteer space to accomplishing success and development to take the Ohio MIC3 / Purple Star's Google Site to achievable levels.

The Ohio School Liaison Janet R Wynn Memorial MIC3 First Annual Awarding Ceremony for Military Youth was hosted on 16 May 2022, at Olentangy Liberty Middle School (OLMS). This Award was presented to three students in the State of Ohio during 2021-22.

Two of these honorees, which are siblings are students at OLMS. 7th grader Evie Stone and 6th grader Kai Stone received this Award for their outstanding grit, determination, and perseverance while their mother was deployed overseas during the school year. Their father formerly served in the Uniform of the Armed Forces. In less than five years, Purple Star hosts some 40 States with PS Schools.

The Purple Star Award's Class of 2022 notifications were announced via email to district superintendents, school principals, and the designated local liaisons on 11 April 2022 during *Ohio Military Family Spirit Week* and Month of the Military Child. Nearly 100 schools were honored as new schools or renewed campuses this spring of 2022. 430+ Purple Star Schools now call Ohio home.

All the gratitude to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo A DeMaria and Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr Stephanie K Siddens,

and the professional staff of Jared Copeny, Kim Hettel, Valerie Kunze, David Schklar, and Jennifer Vargo at the Department of Education.

The *Collegiate Purple Star Award* recognizes those public and independent colleges and universities in Ohio that are supportive and inclusive of Military-connected students as designated by the Department of Higher Education. Designations will be determined by a Collegiate Purple Star (CPS) Advisory Committee after evaluation and recommendation.

This advisory committee will be appointed by the *Chancellor of Higher Education* and is composed of members from stakeholder organizations, which includes the Rutan State Council for MIC3. Through the development of this high honor, Ohio delivered another first in the nation tribute to schools and campuses supporting Ohio's Armed Forces, their Service-members and families.

The launch of this Award was hosted on 8 March 2022 at Hilliard Davidson High School – a January 2020 Purple Star honoree. The Inaugural Class of CPS was announced the week of Armed Forces Day 2022.

The *Purple Star National Convening of Schools and Communities'* planning committee of fourteen states and leaders and educators was formed as an all-volunteer effort in November (Military Family Appreciation Month) of 2021 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Ohio's local Purple Star leaders and friends.

This ad-hoc team is planning the first ever series of national conferences to bring together educators of *Purple Star initiatives across the nation* and indeed, around the globe; to share successes, lessons learned, and improve overall effectiveness. Team Ohio contributes seven volunteer leaders in these efforts.

During the 2021-22 school year, a *K-12 Educational Advisory Council* was established for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and region. The region hosts four counties and 29 school districts in which active-duty Military-connected students are enrolled. The Commanding Officer of W-P, Colonel Patrick Miller, and the installation's School Liaison, Mrs Trina Pauley serve as the leaders of this charge and council.

Throughout 2021-22, members of this Council provided briefings and trainings during state-wide professional educators' association conferences and meetings,

including the *Ohio Educational Service Centers Association, Ohio School Counselors Association, and Ohio School Boards Association.*

Each month at the *National Veterans Memorial and Museum*, a RallyPoint is hosted. RallyPoint is a monthly series that brings Veterans' topics and programs and Veterans themselves, front, and center. April is the Month of the Military Child, and NVMM highlighted stories and resources of the families who support our Service-members and the resources available to them. NVMM was established in downtown Columbus on 30 October 2018 and dedicated by General Colin Powell, U.S. Army (Retired). On 2 April 2022, RallyPoint's topic was Impacting Military Children through Ohio's MIC3 and Purple Star Schools.

Our Ohio sacred and shared mission for the communities of PreK12-MIL continues. All the gratitude to this all-volunteer force of more than 500 Ohioans from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. *Team Ohio is Team U.S.A.*

RUTAN STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pete LuPiba, Council Chair

Thomas Rutan, Commissioner Emeritus

Chris Picha, Department of Veterans Services

Trina Pauley, School Liaison Officer - Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Kristin Ronai, Ohio High School Athletic Association

Shari Obrenski, Ohio Federation of Teachers

Becky Hornberger, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators

Jackie Spector, United Services Organization

Tim Freeman, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators

Tom Perkins, Buckeye Association of School Administrators

Tammy Puff (U.S. Army Veteran), The Honorable Mike DeWine - Governor

First Lieutenant Jason Durell (U.S. Army), School Counselor - Olentangy Local

Lieutenant Colonel Roberson Hill, 88th Mission Support Group U.S. Air Force

Senator Frank Hoagland, State Senate

Leader Kenny Yuko, State Senate

Representative Brian Lampton, House of Representatives

Leader Allison Russo, House of Representatives

Jared Shank, Department of Higher Education

William Merkle, National Guard

Darren Miller, Ohio School Counselor Association (Crestview Local)

Adreana Tartt, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Callie Haas, Association of Purple Star Schools (Penta CTC Counselor)

Kathy McFarland, Ohio School Boards Association

Chad Wyen, Highly Impacted District Superintendent - Mad River Local

Bill Stratton, U.S. Army - Education Supports

Cherie Chenault, U.S. Navy Operational Support Center

Corey O'Brien, Association of Purple Star Schools (Hamilton Township HS Teacher)

Michelle Lewis, Editor of *The Purple Star Bulletin* newsletter (Hyatts MS Teacher)

Erin Lunday, Wright Patterson Air Force Base Community

David Schklar, Department of Education - Ohio Troops to Teachers

Ashley Twedt, Association of Purple Star Schools (Bellville ES Teacher)

Valerie Kunze, Department of Education - Purple Star Schools & Military Day

Faithfully submitted on this 29th day of June in the year 2022 on behalf of the Members of the Thomas D. Rutan MIC3 State Council in Ohio.

*MIC3 Commissioner Pete LuPiba on behalf of The Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor (LuPiba is a United States Navy & '06 Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran).

State Chair of Rutan Council, Pete LuPiba

Cell 614-949-8584

Email Pete.LuPiba@obm.ohio.gov

Ohio's Secondary Point of Contact, William Merkle

Cell 614-296-7694

Email William.J.Merkle5.ctr@army.mil

