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The first GI bill provided education to 450,000 engineers, 14 Nobel Prize winners and three Presidents. As a society, we should achieve the same result with the post-9/11 veteran's educational benefit.

In August 2009, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the implementation of new legislation to expand educational benefits for veterans of the U.S. armed forces who served on active duty after September 1, 2001. At the same time, experts reported serious concerns about the future adequacy of the U.S. engineering and science workforce. The post-9/11 veteran's educational benefit opened the door to an unparalleled opportunity for the United States to expand its technical workforce while serving those who served. Post-9/11 veterans include a diverse and pre-qualified pool of future talent for the nation's engineering and science employers; 15 percent are women and over 30 percent are underrepresented minorities. The new benefit will expand the financial opportunities available to help them pursue their post-secondary education. Ushering them into technical fields and shaping them into workforce-ready engineers and scientists, will require a wider community of partnerships among the veterans themselves, the nation's educational institutions, technology firms, the government's technical and scientific organizations, and others. To jumpstart the process, NSF's Division of Engineering Education and Centers sponsored a workshop on April 13-14, 2009 and implemented a small start-up grant program to assist engineering schools in an effort to attract and serve veterans. Several of these projects focus on preparing veterans for career in computer science and in particular cyber-security.

So I commend the Colloquium for Information System Security and Education for gathering idea, evidence and best practices on Educational Approaches to

Transition Former Military Personnel into the Cybersecurity Field (and other STEM disciplines). The wide range of topics contained in this issue is important individually but must be interconnected into a full range of services for veteran students. Success is dependent on a portfolio of factors and student veterans deserve support in all of them. This support must come from collaboration among academia, government and industry. Through this issue the Colloquium for Information System Security and Education is a key resource for foster this collaboration.

Thank you.

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