

Announcement from the New Mexico Military Institute Board of Regents

The New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) Board of Regents is pleased to announce the campus visits of two distinguished candidates in the search for our next Superintendent and President. These visits are a pivotal part of our selection process, and we invite the NMMI community to participate in the upcoming Town Halls.

Schedule of Events:

Monday, May 13: David Olwell, PhD

- **Event:** President/Superintendent Candidate Town Hall
- **Time:** 12:00 PM MST
- **Location:**

In Person: Mabee Lecture Hall

Via Zoom and recorded:

<https://nmmi.zoom.us/j/95417229068>, Meeting ID: 954 1722 9068 954 1722 9068

Dr. David Olwell is a retired LTC of the US Army and currently serves as the Dean of the Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering at Saint Martin's University. He holds advanced degrees from the United States Military Academy and the University of Minnesota.

Tuesday, May 14: Voris McBurnette, EdD

- **Event:** President/Superintendent Candidate Town Hall
- **Time:** 12:00 PM MST
- **Location:**

In Person: Mabee Lecture Hall

Via Zoom and recorded:

<https://nmmi.zoom.us/j/92569579097>, Meeting ID: 925 6957 9097

Brigadier General Voris McBurnette currently oversees the Joint Forces Staff College of the National Defense Staff College in Norfolk, VA, and commands the 100th Division (Training). He holds degrees from Saint Augustine University, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the US Army War College, and North Carolina State University.

Attached, you will find the biographical summaries of the candidates. We look forward to your participation in these important discussions.



LTC David H. Olwell, Ph.D., United States Army (Retired) has been the dean of the Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering at Saint Martin's University since 2015. Prior to that, he was on the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School for 17 years. He was on the mathematics faculty at West Point for six years.

Dr. Olwell enlisted in the Army in 1974 and after initial training and jump school was assigned to the 1st Ranger Battalion as an infantryman. He was selected to attend West Point, graduated in 1980 with distinction, ranking 7th in his class, and was commissioned as an infantry officer. He then spent three years in an airborne unit (1/509 IN ABCT) in Italy, and then three years in the 9th Infantry Division, where he commanded an infantry company and was the battalion operations officer. In all he served 26 years in the United States Army and retired in 2000 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He attended the University of Minnesota and earned an MS in Mathematics, and then taught three years at West Point. He then returned to the University of Minnesota and earned a doctorate in statistics, followed by another three-year tour on the faculty of West Point. Dr. Olwell directed the Mathematical Sciences Center of Excellence at West Point from 1995-1998. His final active-duty assignment was on the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), retiring in 2000.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd award), Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Canadian Jump Wings, and Italian Jump Wings.

Dr. Olwell returned to the faculty at NPS as a civilian. He was the chair of the Department of Systems Engineering at NPS from 2004 – 2009 and was responsible for the rapid growth in students and the national rankings of the department. He was the elected faculty secretary and faculty president at NPS. He was tenured at NPS as a full professor of systems engineering. He was the principal investigator on over \$6M of sponsored research projects.

Dr. Olwell was a member of the 2011-12 Fellows class of the American Council of Education. He spent the year at the University of Hawaii system, with its three colleges and

seven community colleges, shadowing the system president. His fellowship project examined technology transfer opportunities for the University.

Dr Olwell served as the lead academic on the Command Inspections of both the Naval War College (2013) and the Naval Academy (2014), making significant recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy for the strengthening of their programs. He was the assistant team chair for the regional accreditation of the California Maritime Academy. He served six years on the engineering accreditation commission of ABET and has chaired two dozen accreditation visits around the world. At NPS, he was awarded the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal three times, and the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service medal once.

Dr. Olwell was appointed dean of engineering at Saint Martin's University in 2015. Dr. Olwell established the computer science department at Saint Martin's University. He was responsible for the growth in a program serving transitioning military members called Washington Veterans to Technology, which has placed over a thousand veterans into information technology careers. He recruited and developed a diverse faculty. He established a chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and served as its advisor for two years. He was the Veterans Club Advisor for many years. He has been a strong supporter of campus ministry. He has served on the budget committee, regional re-accreditation task forces, education policy and curriculum committee, assessment committee, study abroad committee, and student financial aid committee. He has successfully chaired multiple search committees for administrators. He has been a successful fundraiser for the engineering school. Dr. Olwell also serves on the board of a local Catholic High School, which has been ranked as the best high school (public or private) in the county.

Dr. Olwell and his wife, Karen, have been married for 41 years. They have three sons and one grandson.

In his 26 years in uniform and 35 years in academics, Dr. Olwell has emphasized the development of the whole person – students, faculty, and staff. He has consistently enabled faculty and staff to help talented and diverse students to succeed, with a special emphasis on veterans. He has taken a systems approach to education and has developed effective programs that meet the needs of the community and student body. In turn he has marketed these programs to students and employers, growing enrollments. He has taught military personnel as cadets and officers for 23 years and as veterans for 9 more years, and understands the unique benefits for young men and women of studying in a structured military environment.



Brigadier General Voris W. McBurnette, Ed. D

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, BG McBurnette is a results-producing executive leader with several decades of experience as a management professional skilled in leading and directing all aspects of an organization to include grants / projects and operations. His gained expertise emanates from managing multiple projects and developing leadership programs in the U.S. Military and Public Educational sectors. Those experiences support the growth, development, and retention of diverse talent, leading large-scale programs and projects, successful teaming with colleagues, all while utilizing an outcome-based/ results-oriented approach. Also, an international traveler, he works well across different functions, geographies, and multi-national conditions. He has an innate ability to motivate, influence and optimize senior leadership, stakeholders, and peer groups – driving realization of planned strategic objectives and organization-wide initiatives and improvements.

He has commanded at all levels commensurate to his rank and is currently the Division Commander of the 100th Division (Leader Development) at the United States Army Reserve. There, he leads over 4,000 Soldiers and civilians in providing training, education, and mentorship to the Army's future leaders. Of major emphasis is the delivery of the Army Reserve's Professional Military Education (PME) Intermediate Level Education (ILE) as governed by the Army's Command and General Staff College (CGSC) and the Non-Commissioned Officer Academies (3) across the United States. His military professional experiences include being the 36th Commandant (college president) of the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) a part of the National Defense University (NDU) where he formulated academic policy by supervising joint curricula planning and preparation, ensuring excellence in teaching joint education. BG McBurnette provided executive leadership, oversight, direction and management of the respective schools, their programs, initiatives, operations, and resources to include the prestigious Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS), the Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JCWS) and the Joint Command and Control Information Operations School (JC2IOS).

His previous duty to Commandant was as the Brigade Commander of the US Army Pacific Support Unit, Fort Shafter Flats, Honolulu Hawaii. Where he commanded an organization that specializes in augmenting the United States Army in the Pacific Area of Operation. And prior to that experience he was the Director, Center for Applied Strategic Learning (CASL) a part of the National Defense University where he confirmed the development of joint war fighters and other national security leaders by providing educational war gaming and experiential learning engagements, products, and events for the five colleges within NDU.

BG McBurnette's personal education corresponds to and supports his professional experiences and goals. He holds a Doctor of Education (educational leadership and supervision), and Master's degrees in Strategic Studies, Adult Education, Educational Administration, and History. His Bachelor's degree is also in history. His military education also supports those goals having completed Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, United States Army Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College (resident). His multiple degrees are a reinforcement of his dedication to education as a pillar of successful leadership.

Having also been a professional teacher and administrator earlier in his civilian career, BG McBurnette holds current certifications as a social studies educator (6-9), principal (K-12), and superintendent of schools in the state of North Carolina. He taught social studies for three years before working over a decade in three high schools as a school level administrator. During this time, he was a member of the administrative team at W.G. Enloe High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, that in the year 2000, was named the Ronald E. Simpson Magnet School of the Year. He went on to become a principal and district level leader (Chief Academic Officer) in the school system governed by Department of Public Safety for the State. He led initiatives in all aspects of Curriculum and Instruction, Title I and Career and Technical Education for the district to include all grants, new technology initiatives and compliance issues. Developed plans for interpreting the school program to the community; provided activities which facilitate the professional growth of the district / school staff and enhanced the quality of the instructional program. He also holds U.S. military certifications as a historian, instructor and Joint Planner. He is also a writer, as he has co-authored and edited a command history entitled: *108th Training Command: A History of Embracing Innovation and Shaping the Future from 1946-2010* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010).

BG McBurnette's military awards and honors include: The Order of Saint Maurice (Centurion), from the National Infantry Association, The Combat Order of the Spur 3rd Squadron / 4th Cavalry Fort Hood (service in Iraq), the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Silver Hourglass and "M" Device), Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (with 2 Bronze Service Stars), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab and Parachutist Badge.

Brigadier General McBurnette and his wife Nikki have one adult son.