

CITATION

Helping National Guard Families After Deployment:

A University-Military Collaboration

Adrian J. Blow, Professor
Department of Human Development and Family Studies
College of Social Science
and
Michigan Army National Guard
represented by Nick Anderson, State Family Programs Director

The Community Engagement Scholarship Award honors Adrian Blow, associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and the Michigan Army National Guard for their partnership in studying risk, resilience, and coping in National Guard families post deployment, and in developing interventions for these personnel and for community mental health professions based on these study findings.

Dr. Blow's research has focused on studying reintegration processes, including risk and resiliency factors, of National Guard soldiers and their families post deployment. His research has contributed to the understanding of both individual issues and familial processes that help these members and their families survive a stressful combat deployment.

This partnership has existed for the last decade between the Michigan Army National Guard and Dr. Adrian Blow and his team at Michigan State University. A major goal of this partnership has been to understand and improve the reintegration processes of National Guard Service members and their families. This partnership has resulted in improved reintegration programs post deployment, the Buddy-to-Buddy peer to peer support program, and training of almost 800 mental health providers around the state of Michigan in working effectively with military personnel and their families. Finally, this partnership has resulted in nearly \$3 million dollars in funding, over 20 publications, and was a featured story on the BIG network's series LiveBig.

This university-community collaboration provides an excellent example of the scholarship-guided outreach that Michigan State University is committed to as a land-grant university. Such collaborations are systematic, have practical and theoretical significance, and include a mutually beneficial relationship between MSU and a community partner. This particular partnership merits recognition for making a difference in the lives of military veterans and their family members. In addition, this work has revolutionized and strengthened the practice of mental health providers around the state in their ability to offer evidence based care to military veterans and their families.