

Partnership Established with Defense Acquisition University



VA Deputy Assistant Secretary Jan R. Frye, left, and Defense Acquisition University (DAU) President Frank Anderson, right, sign the partnership agreement between DAU and the VA Acquisition Academy.

On June 22, 2010, on the campus of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) in Fort Belvoir, Va., Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics Jan R. Frye and DAU President Frank Anderson signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a strategic partnership between DAU and the VA Acquisition Academy (VAAA) based upon the shared mission of caring for the war fighter and the Veteran, and their shared goal of developing the acquisition workforce

The VA Acquisition Academy is the first of its kind in a civilian agency created to train and certify the entire acquisition team through a competency-based program. DAU is one of the Nation's most honored corporate training institutions leading the transformation of the Department of Defense acquisition workforce through cutting edge curriculum development and innovative delivery of learning resources.

The memorandum of understanding establishes a cooperative relationship between the training organizations to promote the understanding and improvement of acquisition practices that will enhance government and contractor communication, collaboration and effectiveness on government programs, and will seek to identify educational opportunities that are mutually beneficial to both parties.

During the signing, Frye thanked DAU for the teaming effort noting that he believes the partnership will yield positive growth for both parties. Anderson lauded VA for taking positive steps to improve the quality of VA's acquisition workforce saying that the partnership was a natural evolution of ideas and practices.

DAU Board of Visitor's President General Tuttle, who was also in attendance, said he applauds the effort and believes it will benefit the acquisition workforce of both agencies. He noted that the Board of Visitors looks forward to annual progress reports on projects and initiatives developed by the partnership.

"It takes a highly trained acquisition workforce to effectively award and manage contracts to execute our critical missions," remarked VAAA Chancellor Lisa Doyle. "The Acquisition Academy and DAU already have a strong relationship based on a common mission," said Doyle, "and we look forward to partnering with DAU toward achieving our shared goals."

The VA Acquisition Academy was created in response to the growing acquisition workforce crisis to train and certify current acquisition, contracting, program/project managers, and Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives and to develop the next generation of acquisition professionals. The goal of the Academy is to continue to grow, get it right for the VA, and open up as a resource for other government agencies.

For more information about the VA Acquisition Academy, visit www.acquisitionacademy.va.gov.