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NEWS RELEASE

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Mar. 23, 2011

Students interview Lovell FHCC veterans as part of school project

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. – High school students from New Trier Township High School paired off with military veterans from the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center today to conduct interviews and discuss experiences as part of their Service Learning Project.

The sophomore students arrived at the federal health care center prepared with questions and a desire to learn first-hand accounts of life in the military, explained New Trier Township High School teachers Ariell Bachman and Trisha Randall.

“The veterans are talking about stories from their past that we’ve never had a chance to experience,” said Sophomore John Lee of Wilmette, Ill. “It’s so cool to hear the details and to experience their passion for our country.”

Veteran Robert Howard, of North Chicago, Ill., spoke with Lee and fellow 10th grader Garrett Bazil about his experiences being deployed to the middle east. “It’s so important that we share all aspects of life in the military and life as a veteran,” said Howard of his service. “I really feel that service to the country is a genuine reflection of the country itself.”

Randall explained that the project was to highlight how society shapes a person and the experiences and labels that come with that shaping. “For our students, this is a great opportunity to connect with their community and identify how to deal with the labels placed on one another.”

Bachman echoed many of the same sentiments, and noted that meeting veterans was a great way to broaden her student’s horizons while speaking with people they otherwise may not meet. For students like Lee, this was exactly the point.

“For me, I now understand that being a veteran means much more than I ever imagined,” said Lee.

About the Lovell FHCC: The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is the nation’s first fully integrated medical facility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Established on Oct. 1, 2010, the facility integrates all medical care into a federal health care center with a single combined VA and Navy mission, serving military members, Veterans, military family members and retirees.

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**Suggested photo and cutline. High-resolution version is available upon request.*



Veteran Robert Howard (center), of North Chicago, Ill., speaks with New Trier Township High School Sophomores Garrett Bazil (left) and John Lee (right) at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Mar. 23 as part of a class project to identify with their community. *(Photo by Jonathan Friedman)*

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