Entertainment Industries Council Shines a Spotlight on Veteran Mental Health and Reintegration Challenges and Solutions

Current edition of Entertainment Industries Council’s Spotlight On e-newsletter and 16th Annual PRISM Awards Showcase addresses help-seeking storylines, myths and realities surrounding the challenges of returning service members

Los Angeles, CA (November 12, 2012) The Entertainment Industries Council (EIC) issues its latest Spotlight On newsletter, featuring Castle star Jon Huertas, with a focus on Veterans and their mental health challenges and solutions, based upon a recent forum conducted by EIC in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This Spotlight On sheds new light on ever-increasing national concerns: reintegration and support services. Just like those who never served in the military, Veterans may experience mental health issues and difficult life events that are unrelated to their service. However, the difficulties of service, such as combat, noncombat training exercises, other traumatic military experiences, and repeated deployments, may complicate their efforts to deal with those issues. In observance of Veteran’s Day, additional resources for reporting on these issues are being released. These issues, and others, are also highlighted in EIC’s 16th Annual PRISM Awards Showcase, airing nationally on video-on-demand, online at FXnetworks.com and on local broadcast stations.

“To enhance the accuracy of their journalism and storytelling, EIC has produced a variety of local and national resource materials and offers access to experts through First Draft technical assistance service. Examples of excellence in depiction are also highlighted in the 16th Annual PRISM Awards, hosted by Dr. Drew Pinsky. The nationally televised awards program features Veteran and actor Mark Valley with a special tribute to Veterans and detailed information from both MakeTheConnection.net and LifeLine resources,” said Brian Dyak, President and CEO, Entertainment Industries Council.

“When developing characters who will eventually experience mental health challenges related to their service in the Armed Forces, consider including the sequence of events and people that lead characters to seek out help. This demonstrates the reality that not all Veterans experience cataclysmic events before taking steps to find appropriate support. No matter the catalyst, the first step to seeking mental health services and managing any type of mental health challenge is to recognize help is needed and available,” said Marie Gallo Dyak, Executive Vice President, Entertainment Industries Council.

Resources for reporting may be found at www.eiconline.org/vamentalhealth.pdf

About Entertainment Industries Council
EIC, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1983 by leaders of the entertainment industry to bring the power and influence of the industry to bear on communication about health and social issues. The organization is considered to be the chief pioneer of entertainment outreach and one of the premiere success stories in the field of entertainment education. EIC provides information resources for entertainment creators through innovative and time-proven services and methods of "encouraging the art of making a difference" from within the entertainment industry. EIC produces the simulcast national television special PRISM Awards Showcase which addresses accurate portrayals of prevention, treatment and recovery from drug, alcohol and tobacco use, and mental health issues.
health concerns. The organization also produces the *S.E.T Awards*, honoring positive and non-stereotypical portrayals of science, engineering and technology.

EIC also addresses issues such as diabetes, ADHD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, foster care, women’s health, firearm safety and injury prevention, sun safety and skin cancer prevention, human trafficking, terrorism and homeland security, eating disorders and obesity, seat belt use and traffic safety, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The organization has also launched an initiative to increase the public profile and interest in science, engineering and technology. EIC’s web site is www.eiconline.org. The *PRISM Awards* web site is www.prismawards.com.