

Front Lines

April 2019 Edition

Greetings and welcome to this the April 2019 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Initiative Program. Here is a very full look at what is happening...



Congratulations to Our Graduates: A hearty "JOB WELL DONE" to our 42 fellow student veterans who will be graduating on May 16. May your future endeavors bring you success wherever you may go. You've completed a major first step in having "Your Futures Begin."

Summer 2019 Registration: Registration for Summer 2019 classes is now open. Now is the time to begin thinking about appointments with a counselor for scholastic and career path guidance.

Summer 2019 Registration cont.: The following are important steps for all to follow:

- **Make sure to see your GI Bill® Certifying Officer at your respective campus Admissions & Registration Office ASAP.** Now there is no guarantee that Post 9-11/CH 33 benefits (BAH and book stipend) will arrive immediately after the start of the semester.
- **Note also that anytime you adjust your schedule (i.e., add classes, drop classes, etc.) YOU MUST SEE THE GI BILL® CERTIFIER.** Simply going to the Registration Office does not complete the process for student veterans using the GI Bill®. The Certifiers are the link with the VA. They handle the submission of paperwork to insure you are getting the proper benefit payment and conversely to insure you are not caught in an overpayment situation.

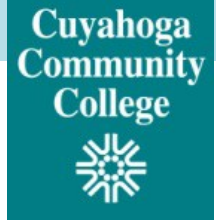
Your GI Bill® Certification Form: Electronic Submission Now Available: We are pleased to inform you that the GI-Bill® certification form is now available for electronic submission. This form must be completed at the start of each semester in which you intend to use your VA education benefits. Please note that when you access the form you will be prompted to log in using your Tri-C ID number and My Tri-C Space password. Once you complete and submit the form it will be sent directly to the certifier at your selected campus. Here is the live link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/VaCertification/>

Here are the steps for completing the form:

- Log in to My Tri-C Space
- Click on the Student tab
- Scroll down, and on the right hand side of the page under "Academic Support -> Specialty Services", click "Veterans Services"
- Once the Veterans Services and Programs page loads, click "Education Benefits Information & Resources"
- On the right hand side under "Additional Resources" click "GI Bill® Semesterly Certification Form"

Complete the form, paying close attention to the dialogues that appear when clicking certain drop downs and fillable boxes.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form is successfully submitted.



Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019 Veterans Enrollment Guidelines](#)
- **View new information** on our [website](#) for career fairs, job postings through Ohio Means Jobs, web and community resources.
- RTA U-Pass Program: provides FREE unlimited RTA ridership to Tri-C credit students.
- Graduation Calculator to ensure your personal and academic goals
- Don't want to take classes in summer, but still want to earn rewards? Check out our 15+ Perks Program!

FAFSA - Get ahead of the game and submit your 2019-20 FAFSA! Call us at [216-987-4938](tel:216-987-4938) to schedule an appointment or to have your financial aid questions answered. Filing near or after the deadline may affect your access to Financial Aid. Note also that the new Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) requires that you have filed for FAFSA to be eligible for this grant.

Campus Support Teams at the Ready: An important reminder to all that the Cuyahoga Community College Veteran's Initiative has been organized in an effort to provide a broader range of services to you. Part of that re-organization has been the development of Veteran Campus Support Teams. The Veteran Campus Support Teams are comprised of specialists from key departments which data tracking has shown are those departments in which veterans require services. Those departments include:

- GI Bill® Certification
- Counseling
- Financial Aid
- Recruiting
- Student Accessibility Services
- Key Career Transition Centers
- Veterans Education Access Program

As noted, the documented experience of the Veterans Initiative has shown that these are the major areas of inquiry from our student veterans. A complete list of your respective Campus Veteran Support Team members is found on the Veterans' website at: www.tri-c.edu/veterans

Veterans Education Access Program – At the Ready: The Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) at Tri-C provides FREE comprehensive support services to eligible veterans who need additional help in Math, English and Science to complete their first degree. If you are enrolled or have been placed in a remedial Math or English course and are in need of additional help in these areas, please call the VEAP main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes are already underway, so do not delay!

VEAP Tutoring Information: All should also note that VEAP provides tutoring services.

Monday: Metro Open Tutoring 10-2

Tuesday: East Tutoring by appointment 10-3 (Call 216-987-4938 for appointment time)

Wednesday: Metro Open Tutoring 11-3 *except* days of Education Workshops (workshops are usually the 1st Weds of each month), West Tutoring 2:00-6:30

Metro Computer Lab hours 9-4 M-Th. Fridays by apt.

Support Resource – Veterans' Success Tool Kit: The Tri-C Veterans Initiative has partnered with HealthJourneys, to bring to you free of charge a series of self-guided streaming meditations known as the *Veterans' Success Tool Kit*. Listening to guided imagery and meditation yields a wide variety of benefits. Research shows it helps with stress, sleep, pain, confidence, focus, emotional resilience and inner peace. That's why we've brought together some of the best streaming meditations we could find, by some of the foremost masters in the mind-body. These are available free, 24/7, for website: www.tri-c.edu/veterans. The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.

County Scholarships Available Again For Summer Semester: Thanks to the generosity of the Cuyahoga County Executive and the Cuyahoga County Council, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative has again been awarded an allotment of dollars from the Cuyahoga County Veterans Fund. In turn these funds are being used to create general scholarships to assist student veterans, military affiliates (including spouses and dependents of disabled veterans), and Active Duty and Reserve personnel **who no longer have any military-related educational benefits remaining or has exhausted all funding sources (partial GI-Bill®, FTA, FASFA-Pell grant, OCOG).**

This **non-refundable** general scholarship will be distributed as **one award per semester**. Unused funds will be returned back to the general scholarship fund at the end of the semester. *You cannot apply twice for an award in the same semester.* Scholarship dollars can be used for **both** credit and non-credit courses (workforce certification courses) and books. Awards will be on a case-by-case basis for students that are full time or part time. If approved, the scholarship dollars will be credited directly to your student account.

You will have an option to select \$500 **or** \$1,000 general scholarship. You may **either** directly apply the funds towards your tuition **or** have the amount desired separated into tuition and book money. *If you opt into separating your chosen amount this decision cannot be reversed.* Applicants must have the following completed: Must be an active and registered Tri-C student (current student photo ID and student ID number) and registered for classes for the semester of scholarship use. Students that receive FASFA-Pell and/or Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) must have exhausted those benefits before being considered for this scholarship.

Check www.tri-c.edu/veterans to download a copy of the application, or stop by your respective campus Veterans Service Office. All applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Smartphone feature provides immediate access to Veterans Crisis Line: The VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple's iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone's contact list. **Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.**

Greetings from Tri-C's Mandel Humanities Center! This message is intended for all Tri-C students who are also veterans of the United States Armed Forces. I want to make you aware of one of the most unique academic programs at Cuyahoga Community College: the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Scholars Academy. This program is designed to cultivate thoughtful, civically engaged leaders in northeast Ohio. Military service can be outstanding preparation for a program like ours, and I hope that you will consider applying for the Fall 2019 semester if the Mandel Scholars Academy is a good match with your goals and strengths.

Mandel Scholars take a series of three courses during their time at Tri-C. The first is *The Individual in Society*, where you are introduced to the study of the humanities and engage with questions like "what does it mean to live well?" and "what is justice?" The second course is *History of Cleveland*, which will give you an understanding of our region that is both broad and deep, preparing you to address future challenges in light of our past. The third course, *Community Engagement*, will give you the opportunity to work with a partner organization and a team of Academy peers to address a problem or fulfill a need in our community.

In addition to completing this unique academic curriculum, Mandel Scholars attend a minimum of three co-curricular Achieving Leadership through Active Preparation (ALAP) events each semester. Recent ALAP events have included meet-and-greet sessions with former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Starbucks CEO Emeritus Howard Schultz, interacting with Tri-C President Alex Johnson, and forums at The City Club of Cleveland. In February 2019, Mandel Scholars took an all-expenses-paid trip to Montgomery, Alabama, where they walked in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and learned about the civil rights movement in America.

Finally, Mandel Scholars have the opportunity to apply for the Mandel Continuing Scholars Program, a selective opportunity designed to help students transfer into the Mandel Honors College at Cleveland State University upon completion of their associate's degrees. Along the way, Mandel Continuing Scholars receive summer stipends and are issued laptop computers which are theirs to keep.

The program includes generous scholarship support, and the application requirements are simple:

- Fewer than 20 hours of college-level coursework completed by the end of Summer 2019
- College-level English and Math completed or eligible
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 earned at Tri-C if a current student
- Two letters of recommendation and an in-person interview with Mandel faculty/staff
- Full-time enrollment (minimum 12 credit hours/semester) for four consecutive semesters

To apply, or if you have any questions, contact Mr. Herbert Mausser, Director of Honors & Scholars Programs, at Herbert.Mausser@tri-c.edu or (216) 987-4660, or Mr. Ra'Shawn Brown, Mandel Center coordinator, at Rashawn.Brown@tri-c.edu or (216) 987-2361. We hope to hear from you soon!

Employment Opportunities / Links

[Department of Veterans Affairs Link with the VA on Facebook](#)

[City of Cleveland](#)

Veteran Job Search Assistance: If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit www.gunnyret.com to schedule a "First Call".

[Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Support:](#)

[VA JOBS Home](#)

Ohio.gov

USAJobs

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](http://VeteransMilitaryJobs.com)

[Ohio Federal Government Jobs](#)

Unsure of a career path? Check out Career Coach: Create an Account, discover your interests, potential career stats, and career scopes in your local area that are adjacent degree paths with Tri-C programs. Make sure to check out the MOS option to see what your military skills transfer to in our programs.

Additional Resources: More links to resources of which you can take advantage...

[Scholarships for Military Spouses & Children](#)

[Student Loan Forgiveness: Joining the Military](#)

[VA Home Loan Calculator](#)

[The Ultimate Military Moving Guide for Your Next PCS](#)

[How to Help Your Child Cope When Your Spouse Has a Military Deployment](#)

[Jobs for Veterans: How to Find a Civilian Career](#)

[Resources for Military Families: A Path to Advocacy for Your Child](#)

[The Funeral Planning Guide for Veterans](#)

[Women Veteran Resources](#)

VOLUNTEERISM: Here are some great opportunities to put your military experiences to work benefiting others in need.

National Park Service Volunteer Opportunities: Make a vital contribution to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and our community! You can help the park fulfill its mission to provide visitor enjoyment and preserve resources. The mission of CVNP's Volunteers-in-Parks Program is to engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. The volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Depending on the volunteer position, volunteers will work with staff from National Park Service, the Conservancy for CVNP, Countryside Conservancy, and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

<https://www.nps.gov/cuva/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>

<https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/experience/volunteer/>

The **American Red Cross'** unwavering commitment to members of the U.S. military, its veterans and their families continues to grow and develop more than a century after Clara Barton first recruited nurses to support the U.S. Army. Today, the Red Cross is meeting the needs of a changing military and expanding services to veterans. Red Cross support of military members and their families enhances morale and contributes to increased operational capability in several ways. New volunteers: visit <https://redcross.org/neo> Click on "volunteer" tab.

Cleveland Municipal Court's Veterans Treatment Docket needs volunteers – preferably military veterans to help Veterans transition to a successful life. If you are interested in volunteering to help our veterans successfully re-enter civilian life, please contact Derek Moore at (216) 664-4712 or via email at moored@cmcoh.org for additional information.

Needed: 'A few good mentors': The Cuyahoga Common Pleas Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) is a judge-monitored treatment program for military veterans. A key component of the program is volunteer Veteran Mentors who volunteer their time to help veterans re-adapt to civilian life. For more information visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iTF8wYXhqE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing

Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at www.vets.gov/education/apply/.

The VONAPP system (old 22-1990 site) still contains other important forms such as compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation, employment, burial benefits, change in place/training and dependent application for VA benefits.

Do not use forms 22-1990N or 22-1990E to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill, CH30 or CH1606. The 22-1990N is for National Call to Service only. The 22-1990E is for family members to use transferred benefits.

CONTACTS:

VA Regional Office
(St. Louis, MO)
1-888-GIBILL-1
(1-888-442-4551)

Direct Deposit Center
1-877-838-2778

Enrollment Certification
1-877-823-2378

Military Transcripts

Be sure to have your transcripts evaluated to determine if you can receive academic credit for your military training. The process can take up to four weeks, so keep an eye on your Tri-C email for notification that your transcripts have been evaluated. A counselor and program manager will advise you on how credits can be applied to your specific degree. The primary contact for military transcripts is Chris Dorsten at 216-987-3664 or chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu.

Joint Services Transcript (JST):

Order your free official transcripts and review unofficial transcripts and summaries of equivalent credits. Register at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

Air Force veteran?

Check out Air University at www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/ to review various options for ordering your transcripts.



Which Veterans Education Benefit Should I Use?

DEPENDENT

- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 35: Dependents Educational Assistance

VETERAN

- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- Chapter 31: Voc Rehab (Service-Connected Rehability)
- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for veterans education benefits.

STILL SERVING?

ACTIVE DUTY

- Tuition Assistance

RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD

Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
- **Chapter 1607:** REAP*
- **Tuition Assistance**

No Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves)
- **Chapter 1606**
- **Tuition Assistance**

*REAP has been terminated for all applicants, with complete termination expected in November 2019.

Disclaimer: This is a visual aid and not an exhaustive explanation of benefits; nor does it include every possible scenario of benefits eligibility.



Education Benefits Deadlines & Reminders

Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Application Deadlines:

November 1st for Spring Semester

April 1st for Summer Semester

July 1st for Fall Semester

CAC ONLY Access

Scholarship letter changes to another school?

NOBE issue? [see link](#) for NG contacts

GI Bill Semester Certification Form Submission

Dates: Need to be submitted in advance to the academic start date of intent (typically 30 prior window).

[GI Bill Semester Certification Form](#)

Transferring benefits to another school?

[VA Form 22-1995](#)

But I am a dependent?

[VA Form 22-5495](#)

Make sure you turn these in to your certifier to report changes in class schedule, major, transferring from one school to another so you are certified correctly.

VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS & NEWS

Tri-C Memorial Day Commemoration



We remember the fallen.

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) is committed to veterans.

Whether you're a discharged veteran, a member of the Guard or Reserve or on active duty, you and your family are welcomed home at Tri-C.

JOIN US
Tri-C's Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Event
Friday, May 24, 2019 / noon – 2 p.m.
Western Campus
11000 Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, OH

tri-c.edu/veterans
216-987-3193



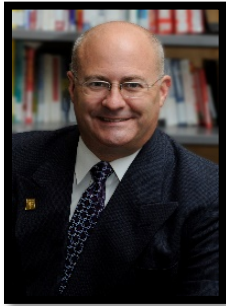
2019 Cleveland National Air Show dates released, featuring U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds: August 31 through September 2, 2019

<https://fox8.com/2019/01/04/2019-cleveland-national-air-show-dates-released-featuring-u-s-air-force-thunderbirds/>

National Veterans Memorial & Museum in Columbus, Ohio

For more go to: <https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/nvmm-dedication-and-grand-opening.pdf>

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – 2017 Inductee
Executive Director
Veterans Initiative
Cuyahoga Community College