



## Front Lines – January 2012 Edition

Greetings and welcome to this the January 2012 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College’s Veteran Services & Programs.

First and foremost... Happy New Year! May all of you enjoy much success this coming year both at school and at home.

Second... welcome to the newest members of our veteran campus community here at Tri-C. As of the Spring 2012 semester, there are again approximately 1,000 veterans enrolled in credit course at the College!

Here’s a very full look at what’s happening...

**Veteran Campus Support Ready To Go:** All student veterans -- especially those of you new to Tri-C this semester -- are reminded that the Veterans Campus Support Teams at each respective Tri-C campus (EAST, METRO, WEST, WEST SHORE, and The Veterans Education Connection Center at Louis Stokes VAMC – Wade Park) are “open for business.” The Support Teams will be able to assist you with day-to-day access to resources and opportunities both here at the College and in the Greater Cleveland Community. These folks are you “first starting point” in helping you with veteran issues both on and off campus. Your 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 | ACCESS (disability services) |
| Counseling            | Enrollment Services          |
| Financial Aid         | Career Centers               |
| Recruiting            | Veterans Upward Bound        |

Here are the Veteran Support Team key contacts:

<b>METRO</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone</b>
GI Bill Certification	Della Hilbert	MSS-G 23	216-987-4164
Counseling	Robert Patterson Joseph Malone	SSC 130 SSC 130	216-987-4343 216-987-4271
Financial Aid	James Gardner	MSS-109	216-987-3585
Enrollment Services	Della Hilbert	MSS-G 23	216-987-4164
ACCESS (disability services)	Lisa Husamadeen	MLA 103	216-987-4344
Career Center	On duty specialist	MSS 207	216-987-4913
Recruiting	Della Hilbert	MSS-G 23	216-987-4164
Veterans Upward Bound	On duty specialist	MLA 301	216-987-4938

<b>WEST</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone</b>
GI Bill Certification	Damian Thorkelson	WSS G100	216-987-5203
Counseling	David Nardecchia	WSS G108	216-987-5382

	Andrea Borders	WSS G108	216-987-5380
Financial Aid	Lisa Sutyak	WSS G244	216-987-5053
Enrollment Services	Judy La Riccia-Grant	WSS G100	216-987-5177
ACCESS (disability services)	Chuck Patti	WLA 102	216-987-5079
Career Center	On duty specialist	WSS 101	216-987-5575
Recruiting	Tracy Shuman	WSS G201	216-987-5179
Veterans Upward Bound	On duty specialist	MLA 301	216-987-4938

#### **EAST**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone</b>
GI Bill Certification	Evelyn Anderson	ESS 1202	216-987-2015
Counseling	Kevin Kuntz Dr. Christopher Hawkins	ESS 2210 E3 2216	216-987-2048 216-987-2548
Financial Aid	Sharon Brown	ESS 1600	216-987-2166
Enrollment Services	Evelyn Anderson	ESS 1202	216-987-2015
ACCESS (disability services)	Paul Shane Susan Sawyer	EEC 119	216-987-2052
Career Center	On duty specialist	ESS 1103	216-987-2567
Recruiting	Evelyn Anderson	ESS 1202	216-987-2015
Veterans Upward Bound	On duty specialist	MLA 301	216-987-4938

#### **CORPORATE WEST/ WEST SHORE**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone</b>
GI Bill Certification	Damian Thorkelson	WSS G100	216-987-5203
ACCESS (disability services)	Rose Kolovrat	WLA 102	216-987-5077
Financial Aid	Andrea Clark	WSHCS 101E	216-987-3889
All other services	Brenda Pongracz	WSHCS 101G	216-987-3897

**LOUIS STOKES VAMC – Wade Park:** The new Veterans Education Connection Center (VECC) distance learning lab located at the Louis Stokes VAMC at Wade Park. The VECC is located just off the first floor of the Main Lobby in Room 1B-420. Matt's direct line is 216-791-3800, ext. 6830.

**Note:** In all cases, it is recommended to call first to schedule an appointment with the Support Team members at your campus. Additional information, including links to veterans' resources outside of the College can be found at the Tri-C Veterans' website: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans)

**GI Bill Certifying Officials:** All student veterans using any form of the GI Bill are also reminded that whenever you register for classes, add classes, or drop classes... YOU MUST SEE YOUR CAMPUS GI BILL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS. The Certifiers are the direct link with the Regional VA Educational Benefits Office in Buffalo. Your GI Bill Certifiers are as follows:

At WEST it is Mr. Damian Thorkelson (216-987-5203). At EAST it is Ms. Evelyn Anderson (216-987-5203). At METRO it is Ms. Della Hilbert (216-987-4164). Forms submitted at West Shore and the Louis Stokes VAMC locations will be forwarded for processing.

**Veterans Today Club:** With 1,000 student veterans at Tri-C you should all be aware that there is a great opportunity for networking through the Veterans Today Club. Current membership is just over 300 and growing. For further information about joining and participating, contact your campus Veterans Today Club coordinator at 216-987-4938.

**Military One Source eNewsletter!** The link below will take you directly to the new MOS eNewsletter. Each month, this newsletter covers topics of interest to both single service members and military families: Healthy Living, Family Life in the Military, Personal and Family Readiness, Career and Education Spotlight, and Tools and Resources. By clicking on any one of those topical panels, you will be able to access the monthly article! Read all five articles or just one, the choice is yours, but all of the options are available within one easy to use format!

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/enewsletter>

**Veterans Benefits List:** Follow the link the below for a list of Web sites that provide **information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them**. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all Veterans, the only catch is: you have to ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask for it. You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests.

[Veterans Benefit List](#)

**VA Adds Chat Feature to Online Application for Health Benefits:** Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits now that the Department of Veterans Affairs has enhanced and streamlined its online Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits." This revised online application now features a chat function which will allow Veterans to receive live assistance while they are filling out the form. Additional enhancements to the process include simplification of questions relating to military service in Southeast Asia during the Gulf and in the Vietnam wars. Several additional minor enhancements make the application easier and faster for Veterans to complete. The 10-10EZ application is divided into six different sets of information, including personal information, insurance information, employment, military service, and a financial assessment. Since November 2000, nearly 400,000 Veterans have already used the online 10-10EZ to start receiving health care benefits from VA. Future enhancements to the online application will include a 10-10 EZR Health Benefits Renewal Form for Veterans to update their personal information and a special 10-10EZ designed specifically for demobilizing military service members. Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez). Veterans may also contact VA at 1 (877) 222-8387 (VETS), visit the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility) or apply for health care benefits at any VA medical center at <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp> with the help of a VA health care eligibility specialist.

**Solon Company Looking for Vets:** Triton Products of Solon Ohio is looking to fill the following positions with veterans:

The first job is for a warehouse employee. The job requires employee to: pick, pack and ship orders as required. Follow detailed instructions to build kits and final products. Must be detail oriented. Able to work 5 days per week - 1<sup>st</sup> shift 8-5 Monday through Friday. Able to lift 50 lbs. Work with shipping companies and learn logistics processes. Computer skills are a plus. Vacation and benefits available.

The second job opening is for a job is for a customer service person. Answering phone and directing customers to correct department. Computer skills are required for order entry, invoicing and filling out customer templates to add new items. Very detail oriented work for internal and external documents. Able to communicate with customers and assure they are receiving information requested. Phone skills and ability to handle issues and requests for quotes. Some telesales required. Customer service and previous sales experience is a plus. Vacation and benefits available.

For further information about both of these opening contact

Terry Palermo  
Triton Products  
30700 D Carter Street.  
Solon, OH 44139  
PH: 440-248-5480  
Fax: 440-248-5483

Email: [tpalermo@tritonproducts.com](mailto:tpalermo@tritonproducts.com)  
Go to [www.facebook.com/tritonproducts](http://www.facebook.com/tritonproducts)

Whew!... That's it for now... More as I get it...

*CDR Rick DeChant, USCG (ret)*  
*Executive Director*  
*Veteran Services & Programs*  
*Cuyahoga Community College*