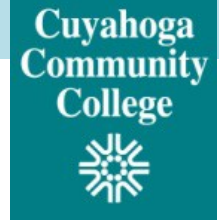


Front Lines

December 2017 Edition



Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2018 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!

Greetings and welcome to this the December 2017 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 Veteran Graduates: A hearty congratulations to ALL student veterans who will be "making the walk across the stage" at the Wolstein Center on December 19 as graduates! The best to all of you in your future endeavors.

Spring 2018 Registration Underway: Spring 2018 registration is underway. As noted during previous registration evolutions, those of you planning on using GI Bill benefits for Spring Semester 2018 should plan on stopping by to see the GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Enrollment Center Office as soon as possible (West, Westshore & Corporate College West – Kristen Ibanez, Metro – Della Hilbert, East – Vanessa Traylor and Maria Oriti). You should also be stopping by your respective Counseling Office to insure you are tracking with your academic plan. The reason for the early "jump" is to avoid any delays in processing GI Bill checks in St. Louis. The early start helps to ensure your account is credited with payment prior to the start of the semester. Lack of payment to the account could result in possible disenrollment. Let's stay ahead of the game!

Veteran 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
- ACCESS (disability Enrollment 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 begin soon, so don't delay! Check out the VEAP website at www.tri-c.edu/veap.

Holiday Stress Resources Available: The holidays are stressful enough and add to that final exams and transition to the home front issues and things can get a little overwhelming. For those who bear the burden of transition and/or post-traumatic stress—whether Veteran or family member—VA has a wide range of [resources available to help](#). Additionally, the Veteran Combat Call Center is available 24/7 at 1-877-927-8387.

Your Veteran Service Team!



Lerner Veterans Center/East Campus – 2nd Floor ESS: Welcome to the Fall Semester! My name is Alaina Foster and I am your Program and Services Administrator here at East, located inside the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on the 2nd floor of the Student Services building. We have many programs planned for the fall semester starting with a visit from the East Side Vet Center every 1st Monday during the Fall Semester. We will also be visited by veteran representatives from local 4-year colleges including Baldwin Wallace University, Cleveland State University and Kent State University to name a few.

Metro Campus Veterans Center: Metro Veteran Services & Programs Office MSS 5th floor

- Learn how to maximize your veteran benefits to your unique situation
- Create a plan of action with our steps to success to save time and money
- Learn how to navigate veteran/academic scholarships while tackling financial aid
- Access employment, education, and community resources in your own backyard
- Explore Veteran Education Assistance program Refresher courses in math and English

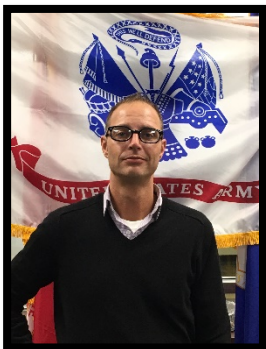
SGT G's hours of operation:
Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 9am-1pm
Phone: 216-987-6137



Meet your Metro Veteran Representative: Mrs. Ashley Gorbulja

Ashley is continuing to serve in the Ohio Army National Guard as an NCO and has been serving Metro Campus veteran student population for going on four years. She is a recent 2016 graduate of the University of Akron of two degrees and currently pursuing her Masters at Northeast Ohio Medical University. She is able to provide personal and relevant experiences to include an array of resources and benefit knowledge on the various processes of returning to school and continuing your education. Stop in to see her today!

West Campus NEW Crile Veterans Center: West Student Services (WSS) room G112



Meet your West Veteran Representative: Mr. Matthew Miller

Matt is an Army veteran with a vast array of experience with Veterans Affairs and has been with Cuyahoga Community College for nearly 10 years. He encourages ALL veterans to visit the new western campus veteran footprint as the new veterans lounge offers tutoring opportunities, transfer assistance, education benefit enrollment, Veterans Administration access and above all a private study area for veterans only!

Phone: 216-987-5204

Additionally check out:

**Brunswick University Center / Westshore / Corporate College West Representative
Mr. Mick Munoz**

Locations:

BUC 122

WSHCS 101

CCW 108

Phone: 216-987-3536



**Cleveland Louis Stokes VA Medical Center Wade Park: Veteran Education Connection Center
Representative Angela Hobbs**

Location:

2nd Floor Atrium-146B

Phone: 216-791-3800 ext. 6830

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 Reability)
- **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:

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: to ensure proper enrollment and funds hit account for the start of the semester.

April 30th for Summer Semester

June 30th for Fall Semester

[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.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Launched in 2011, MakeThe Connection.net connects Veterans, their family members and friends, and other advocates with mental health information, local resources, and inspiring stories of recovery.



Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination **at no cost**. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: **VAFLU**

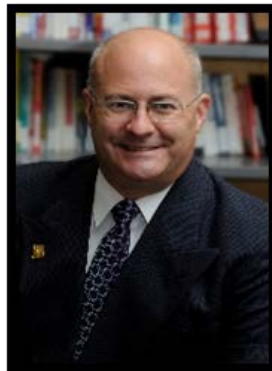
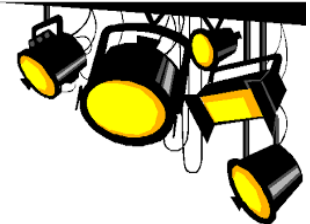
In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.
- To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.



Veteran Spotlight



CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)

Executive Director

Veterans Initiative - Cuyahoga Community College

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – Class of 2017 Inductee

Richard DeChant, Jr., 61, of Fairview Park in Cuyahoga County, served in the U.S. Coast Guard including tours in the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Richard is the Executive Director of the Veterans' Initiative for Cuyahoga Community College. Under his leadership, the College was recognized as a Military Friendly Institution in 2017, marking eight consecutive years with this distinction. He was chair of a White House Council on Strong Cities/Strong Communities seeking best practices in developing a seamless transition for veterans looking for employment and employers looking for veterans. During his tenure with the TSA Operations for Northeast Ohio, he received both the Department Homeland Security Heroism Award and the Cleveland Police Department 2006 Citizen Heroism Award for helping to subdue an armed gunman at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. He is the co-chair of the Northeast Ohio Veterans Community Task Force, focusing on leveraging VA resources. He also is active in the Greater Cleveland Fisher House, the Ohio Values Veterans Military Committee and Hospice of the Western Reserve among many other organizations. He co-authored Ohio House Bill 488, which requires all state colleges to establish veteran service offices and review military training for college credit. He also helped create national legislation that established the first standard Military Training Transcript for use by colleges through the 2012 Defense Re-Authorization Act.

It would be remised that without saying, Mr. Richard DeChant's many accomplishments, philosophy on leadership, and action-oriented passion to serve his community at large, is deeply reflected in his commitment to the Cuyahoga Community College Veterans Initiative.

He is our veteran of the month partly because he is too humble to boost about his own accomplishments. This induction is a great honor... if you ask him he will always give credit to his team but, in front of every good team is a leader that's actions inspires you to learn more, do more, and become more.

Thank you for your service... on behalf of the Veterans Initiative Team.



"Always do more than is required of you."

George S. Patton

In conclusion...

Happy Holidays to All: I think we all would agree we have a lot to be grateful for this Holiday Season. Primarily if you are reading this, you are home and not deployed. For all who have “been there and done that” we know there are no “bad days” here at home. That being said as we head into the Holidays let us also not forgot that some of our fellow veterans who although they are home are still struggling with multiple issues. Keep an eye out for them and let us do what we can to help.

Also – as you join your family and friends in Holiday cheer and celebration – take a moment to remember all of our service men and women around the world who will spend Christmas and New Year is manning a post, patrolling a perimeter, or standing a watch. May they all be safe.

Finally,... remember too all who have served in ALL conflicts and never returned home to enjoy another Holiday Season with their families. May they and their families be at peace...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

*CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret) Executive Director
Veterans Initiative
Cuyahoga Community College*