

Front Lines

February 2019 Edition

Greetings and welcome to this the February 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...



A Decade of Dedication – Military Friendly 10 Years Straight: The news is in...and Tri-C has again been recognized as a Military Friendly Institution of Higher Learning in the Victory Media/Ernst & Young national survey. This year we came in ranked Number 3 among the 700 participating community colleges. **This award marks “A Decade of Excellence” for the Veterans Initiative as this is the 10th straight year the College has been given this recognition.**

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.

Summer 2019 Registration: It's hard to believe but registration for Summer 2019 classes will open on March 18th. Now is the time to begin thinking about appointments with a counselor for scholastic and career path guidance.

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

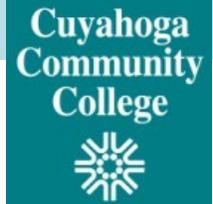
- **Make sure to see your GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Admissions & Registration Office ASAP.** Now there is no guarantee that Post 9-11/CH 33 benefits (BAH and book stipend) will arrive immediately after the start of the semester.
- **Note also that anytime you adjust your schedule (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.

Veteran Center Outreach Open Houses: The Veterans Initiative will be hosting Veterans Center Outreach/Recruitment events at its campus veterans' centers on March 5 (Metro), March 6 (CCW), March 7 (West), and March 8 (East). Additional details can be obtained by call (216) 987-3193, or by contacting you respective campus veterans/ service representative.

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



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!

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!

Here's the tentative schedule for 2019 VEAP classes.

Spring II	Wkday Mar 19-May 9	Sat Mar 23-May 11
Summer I	Wkday May 28-July 18	Sat Jun 1-July 20

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: 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.**

[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](#)

[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](#)

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

19 Discounts Members of the Military Did Not Know They Could Get: The following is a link to the Veterans Discount Club and to some interesting resources for veterans and military families of which you may not be aware. As always, read carefully and do the "additional homework" if needed.

<https://veteransdiscountclub.com/19-discounts-members-of-the-military-t/>

Joint Veterans Annual Luncheon: Saturday, Feb 23, 2019. Read more [here](#).

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/>

Outward Bound (OB) Costa Rica: Outdoor education has a [proven positive impact](#) on veteran's mental and physical health, and VOB has a number of outdoor adventure courses focused on leadership, growth and a commitment to serve that are a good fit for veterans. OB has a **15% discount** only for veterans to apply towards their course tuition and currently holds a partnership with the Veteran's Affairs Office of the United States where OB is able to accept educational funds for professional development courses, including VOB Semester Courses.

· OB's 65-day [Outdoor Leader Semester](#) course is designed to train future professionals of the Outdoor Industry. You can earn 7 internationally-recognized certifications and 10 semester credits while hiking, rafting, diving, and rappelling your way through off the grid areas of Costa Rica and Panama.

· Embark on OB's 85-day [Coast to Coast Expedition](#) that includes a 26-day cross-country trek that will push you to expand your boundaries and give you new cultural awareness. Hike from the Caribbean to Pacific Coast while immersing yourself in the local culture with homestay families, experience whitewater rafting and kayaking, learn to scuba dive, and engage in service projects. POC is: Ryan Gibson/Enrollment Manager Outward Bound Costa Rica/International toll free: +1.800.676.2018 or Direct: +506.2278.6062 Additional info at: www.OutwardBoundCostaRica.org

Attention Women Veterans...



Become Unstoppable in Every Part of Your Life

PRESENTED BY THE TRI-C VETERANS INITIATIVE AND THE WOMEN IN TRANSITION PROGRAM



Saturday, March 16, 2019

Corporate College® East | 4400 Richmond Road | Room 126
Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128

Registration

7:30-8 a.m.
Coffee and pastries available

Conference

8 a.m.-5 p.m. | Lunch provided
Register at https://tri-c_empoweredwomen.eventbrite.com

This interactive and experiential workshop is for women who are:

- Transitioning within their current job environment
- Graduating from college
- Returning to the workforce after an absence
- Veterans transitioning to civilian life/employment



Join **Rear Admiral June Ryan, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)**, to discover how you can increase your confidence, tackle daily challenges, and live your passion and life's purpose.

Learn straightforward, scientifically proven and measurable techniques that will help you navigate from where you are to where you want to be.

Gain the momentum you need to become unstoppable and achieve your goals in every part of your life!

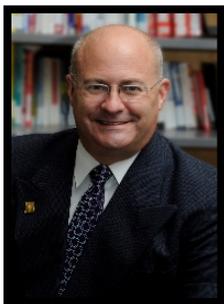
Those who have experienced Rear Admiral Ryan's workshop have said:

"RADM Ryan's presentation was engaging, inspirational and motivational, with practical ideas that can be put into immediate action."

"The Admiral's presentation helped me reset my personal growth and career path going forward. It really made a difference!"

18-1474

That's all for now... Good luck with your academic endeavors this semester!



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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