Greetings and welcome to this the March 2014 edition of Front Lines, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College’s Veteran Services & Programs.

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

**ATTENTION ALL VRAP Student Vets – IMPORTANT!** Attention all student veterans who are using the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) benefit… The VA’s authority to issue payments under the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) ends on March 31, but it is providing one-time payments for currently enrolled students who have not yet completed their training period. If you are currently enrolled in a training program, please make sure your school Certifying Official has submitted your enrollment certification by March 17 to ensure payment for your enrollment period. Most of you have already done this. More importantly, don’t forget to verify your enrollment in WAVE or IVR on or after March 31. Learn more at [www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/education.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/education.asp).

**Summer 2014 Registration:** It’s hard to believe but registration for Summer Session 2014 is underway as of March 4. For those of you planning on attending classes during Summer Session 2014, now is the time to begin getting things in order particularly if you plan on using the GI Bill. The earlier you register, the earlier your paperwork gets to the VA, and the better chance you have that your GI Bill checks arrive in time to avoid being dropped from classes. Check-in with your respective Veterans Campus GI Bill Certifiers will be able to assist you if needed. Here’s the contact information:

**WEST, WEST SHORE & BRUNSWICK Campuses:** Damian Thorkelson. His office is located in WSS G220 in the Admissions and Registration Office. Damian’s direct line is 216-987-5203.

**METRO Campus:** Della Hilbert. Her office MSS G23 is located in the basement of the Student Services Building down the hall from the Business Office. Della’s direct line is 216-987-4164.

**EAST Campus:** Evelyn Anderson. Evelyn is located in ESS 1101 B. Her direct line is 216-987-2015.

In all cases, it is recommended to call first to schedule an appointment with the Certifier/Coordinator at your campus.

**Interested in maintaining full time enrollment at Tri-C over the summer?** For those who wish to maintain full time enrollment at Tri-C over the summer, it is important to know what “full time” means! There are 4 different sessions that students can choose from, based on course availability and the student’s schedule.

1. The Full Term is 10 weeks, and runs from May 27-August 3. **Full time for the full 10 week term is 7 credit hours.**
2. Session J is 5 weeks, and runs from May 27-June 29. Session K is also 5 weeks, and run from June 30 to August 3. **Full time for the 5 week terms is 4 credit hours.**
3. Session L is 8 weeks, and runs from June 9-August 3. **Full time for the 8 week term is 6 credit hours.**

Each session completes the same material as a traditional 16 week semester, in a condensed amount of time. This is why it appears as though you can take fewer credit hours to maintain full time, but remember: the pace is accelerated! Please be sure you work closely with your academic counselor and your certifying official to ensure you are enrolled in courses within your major.
Become a Member of the New Veteran's Today Club at TRI-C!

The Veteran’s Today Club is intended to foster a sense of community and provide an opportunity for men and women to learn and demonstrate leadership skills. Membership is open to all enrolled veterans at TRI-C.

Purpose:

- Help veterans transition and adapt to academic life;
- Assist veterans and their families in securing veteran related benefits and community support services;
- Provide on-campus peer-support and formal mentoring;
- Provide an opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills;
- Engage in fund raising activities to support the purposes of the Club;
- Provide activities and events where veterans can develop a learning community to achieve their educational and career goals, and
- Provide a forum for faculty, staff, and administration to foster a better understanding of the educational needs of student veterans.

Call Mr. Duane Evans Jr. at 216-987-3406 if you are interested in becoming a member.

Next Club Meeting
Wednesday April 2, 2014
2pm -3pm
MSS.5th floor

SALES - CAREER FAIR - WED. MARCH 26TH @ 6PM * NEW COMPANIES ATTENDING! Cleveland, OH: United Career Fairs is a national recruiting solution that specializes in Sales, Business Development, Marketing, Customer Service, Retail & Sales Management. We have over 20 years of experience in producing our events in major markets across the country. We host over 150 events annually, and are proud of the relationships we have established with Fortune 500 companies as well as local small businesses. This is a great opportunity for you to meet face to face with multiple decision makers! Our … more

Honoring Military Women of Past, Present: The Department of Veterans Affairs joins with the nation to observe Women's History Month in March by recognizing and honoring women Veterans. Duty. Honor. Pride. These words reflect the spirit of generations of American women who have sought to defend the rights and freedom of others. The history of women in the armed forces began more than 222 years ago with women who served during the American Revolution and continues through the present day. The VA is honored to serve these women who have contributed so much to our Nation. Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly 8 percent of the total Veteran population and 6 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. The VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of VA patients. In recent years, VA has undertaken a number of initiatives to create or enhance services for women Veterans, including the implementation of comprehensive primary care throughout the nation; staffing every VA medical center with a women veterans program manager and regional offices with a designated woman Veterans coordinator; supporting a multifaceted research program on women's health; improving communication and outreach to women Veterans; and continuing the operation of offices like the Center for Women Veterans and the Women Veterans Health Strategic Healthcare Care Group. For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth.

And to all of our women veterans at Tri-C… BRAVO ZULU on a job well done and thank you for your service!!

Finally…

Please mark your calendar and forward to your friends and contacts. Thanks

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12th ANNUAL
RALLY FOR TROOPS
SUNDAY, April 27, 2014
CLEVELAND PUBLIC SQUARE-SW Quadrant
11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON
The RALLY FOR TROOPS is open to the PUBLIC and is held in the South West quadrant of Cleveland’s Public Square (directly in front of Terminal Tower). MONICA ROBINS of WKYC will be the Master of Ceremonies and sing the National Anthem. The Rally is a tribute to honor Ohio’s Fallen Hero’s, all veterans and their families for their many sacrifices. As in past years the Rally will conclude with a reading of all of the names of Ohio's Fallen Heroes from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. FREE parking in Horseshoe Casino parking lot at W.3rd and Superior and Tower City Parking lots. The RALLY will take place regardless of the weather so please dress accordingly as it is outdoors and will last approximately one hour.

As in past years, one of the highlights of the Rally is the arrival of several thousand of motorcyclists riding into Public Square beginning around 10:00 AM from various Harley-Davidson dealerships in North East Ohio. Participating dealerships include Rock and Roll City Harley-Davidson(Cleveland); Lake Erie Harley-Davidson(Avon); South East Harley-Davidson(Bedford Heights); Western Reserve Harley-Davidson (Mentor); Century Harley-Davidson(Medina); Adventure Harley-Davidson(Dover); Carlton Harley Davidson(Mantua); Mad River Harley-Davidson(Sandusky) and Rubber City Harley-Davidson(Akron). Most of the groups will begin to stage at 8:30 and depart at 9:30 AM but please check with each dealership for more details. In the event of bad weather, please come by car, as it’s important to express our continuing support for the many sacrifices of our troops, veterans and the Gold Star families.

Rock and Roll City Harley-Davidson (Cleveland), located at 14550 Lorain Ave., will provide post “Rally” food and entertainment from 12:30 to 2:30 PM.

Every member of the Armed Forces is somebody’s son or daughter, worthy of our respect, our pride, our devotion and our never ending streams of support, love and prayers.

Rally for Troops LLC Organizer: John “KIKS" Kikol call 440-263-8121 or kiksharley@aol.com

That’s it for now… More as I get it…

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