Greetings and welcome to the October 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…

**Veterans’ Day Reflections:** Despite the constant barrage of news about the struggling economy I think we all would agree we have a lot to be thankful for this Veterans Day. First and foremost if you’re reading this you’re probably 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 Veterans’ Day and the upcoming Holidays let’s not forget 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’s do what we can “to cover their six.”

Let’s also take a moment to remember all of our service men and women around the world who will spend Veterans Day manning a post, patrolling a perimeter, or standing a watch. May they all be safe.

And 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.

Take the time to show your Veteran Pride on November 10th by wearing red, white and blue or something reflective of the branch of service in which you served (such Army, Navy, USMC sweatshirt, etc.).

**Veterans’ Day – Tri-C Flag Pole Ceremonies:** Note that on Monday, November 10th the Veterans Initiative will be conducting Veterans Day Ceremonies at the main flagpole the Metro and East Campus, and at the flagpole in the Veterans Memorial Garden at the West Campus. Activities will begin at 11 am. Ceremonies are being held on Monday as the College will be closed Tuesday, November 11th for Veterans Day observance.

**Veterans Day – Cleveland City Hall:** The area’s largest Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on traditional Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11 in the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall located at 601 Lakeside Avenue in downtown Cleveland. Ceremonies begin at 11 am. The year’s event will honor one of Tri-C’s own student veterans. Refreshments will be served.

**Spring 2015 Registration Underway:** Spring 2015 registration is underway as of OCT 13. As noted during previous registration evolutions, those of you planning on using GI Bill benefits for Spring Semester 2015 should plan on stopping by to see the GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Enrollment Center Office as soon as possible (West – Damian Thorkelson, Metro – Della Hilbert, East – Evelyn Anderson). 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!

**Fall Open Houses:** The College will be conducting Open Houses at ALL campuses on October 18, 2014 from 10 a.m. to noon. Locations are as follows:

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Eastern | ESS President’s Lobby 2nd Floor | 4250 Richmond Rd., Highland Hills  
Metropolitan | Liberal Arts, Room 102 | 2900 Community College Ave., Cleveland  
Western | Student Services Building | 11000 Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma  
Westshore | WSHCS Building Atrium | 31001 Clemens Rd., Westlake  
Brunswick University Center | 3605 Center Rd., Brunswick

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At the Open Houses you will explore your academic options and discuss the steps for enrollment and financial aid AND sit down with a counselor who will guide you through the course selection process. For more information or to register for an open house, visit [www.tri-c.edu/openhouses](http://www.tri-c.edu/openhouses)
**Veterans' Career Expo:** The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) is hosting a Veterans’ Career Expo on Monday, November 3rd. The expo will be held downtown at The Q and will run from 10 am – 2 pm. This expo is for veterans and military personnel on active duty, in the guard or reserves. **This is a FREE event.** There is no cost for the Veterans that attend and they will be able to receive Monsters hockey tickets upon completion of the event. All you need is proof of military service. ODJFS will have a minimum of 50 businesses, along with colleges, technical schools and veteran organizations. This event is not only to help veterans get jobs but to help them with their careers and quality of life. Veterans that pre-register will get an email the week before the event with the businesses that will be attending in order for them to do research and prep for the event. Individual companies will also be sending me information to send out to the pre-registered Veterans so they are as informed and prepared as possible.


**Iraq War Veterans Can Claim Ohio Veterans Bonus:** Veterans who served in Iraq have taken advantage of the Ohio Veterans Bonus in increasing numbers this year, but time is rapidly running out to claim this benefit – the deadline for those who served in Iraq is Dec. 31, 2014. Through Sept. 30, the Ohio Veterans Bonus program has paid 83,399 total claims, amounting to more than $67.4 million. While some claims are for multiple periods of eligibility, claims for Iraq service represent 23,876 of this total, the most of any period. The Bonus team is approving an average of more than 160 applications each week. The eligible period of the Ohio Veterans Bonus for service in the country of Iraq is from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011. The deadline of Dec. 31, 2014, is for applications made for this service. No deadline has been announced for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for those who served in Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world, since Oct. 7, 2001.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is open to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amount of the Bonus is higher for those who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. It is also open to the next of kin of those who were killed in action or died of disease as a result of in-country service. The Bonus is not subject to federal or state taxes, and can be used for any purpose. The specific criteria for award of the Ohio Veterans Bonus is service in the Armed Forces, anywhere in the world, of more than 90 days active duty, not for training, during the periods of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For Iraq, the eligible period is from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011; for Afghanistan, it is from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents at the time they apply.

The bonus pays $100 a month to veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, up to a maximum of $1,000. For veterans who served elsewhere, the payment is $50 a month up to a $500 maximum. Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in-country can receive $1,000, plus up to $500 for months of service elsewhere. Family members of those killed in action or who died of disease as a result of their in-country service can receive a bonus of $5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of $6,500. Veterans needing more information or to request an application can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, visit [www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov), or visit any county veterans service office (see [www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov) for an interactive map of the county offices).

**Restoring Your VA Entitlement:** The benefits of a VA home loan are many. The rates on VA loans are as competitive as any other, don’t have monthly mortgage insurance, reduced closing costs and oh let’s don’t forget there is no down payment required. Quite a deal, right? For those who have never used their VA home loan benefit to buy and finance a home, when researching the best program requiring little or nothing down there’s no better choice than the VA program. And for those who have already enjoyed the benefits of the VA home loan, guess what? You can enjoy it again. It’s not a one-shot deal. Check out: [http://www.veteransresources.org/2014/08/restoring-va-entitlement/?utm_source=Feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Veterans+Resources+Feed#U_YCYaPD-Hc](http://www.veteransresources.org/2014/08/restoring-va-entitlement/?utm_source=Feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Veterans+Resources+Feed#U_YCYaPD-Hc)

**FINALLY – A Salute to Military Families: November is Military Family Month.** The official proclamation for this recognition notes that we owe each day of security and freedom that we enjoy to the members of our Armed Forces and their families. Behind our brave service men and women, there are family members and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and provide unending support.

During Military Family Month, the nation celebrates the exceptional contributions of our military families, and reaffirms its
commitment to these selfless individuals who exemplify the highest principles of our Nation. Across America, military families inspire us all with their courage, strength, and deep devotion to our country. They endure the challenges of multiple deployments and moves; spend holidays and life milestones apart; juggle everyday tasks while a spouse, parent, son, or daughter is in harm’s way; and honor the service of their loved ones and the memory of those lost.

Just as we hold a sacred trust to the extraordinary Americans willing to lay down their lives to protect us all, we also have a national commitment to support and engage our military families. They are proud to serve our country; yet, they face unique challenges because of that service.

That’s the update for now… More as we get it.

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