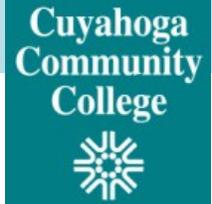


# Front Lines

## March 2020 Edition



Greetings and welcome to the March 2020 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...



### Open Letter to Students

Cuyahoga Community College has moved classes online in order to comply with CDC guidelines. We are still working with and for our students remotely. We are working to assist you through electronic means, including phone, email, and other forms of virtual assistance. If you need help, call us at (216) 307-6385, and leave a voicemail. We will return your call within one business day.

We will be reaching out to you within the next couple of weeks. The incoming number may look unfamiliar, and we will leave a voice message if you are unable to answer. We will also be using email to reach out and see how you are doing. For more information please see the link below to Tri-C's COVID-19 Student Information page.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/administrative-departments/business-continuity/covid-19/student-resources.html>

If you have further questions, you can also contact your Veterans Center representative using the information below:

Veterans Initiative Team	Name	Email
Program Coordinator	Soledad Tosta	<a href="mailto:Soledad.Tosta@tri-c.edu">Soledad.Tosta@tri-c.edu</a>
East	Alaina Foster	<a href="mailto:Alaina.Foster@tri-c.edu">Alaina.Foster@tri-c.edu</a>
Metro	Joan Sweeny Dent	<a href="mailto:Joan.SweenyDent@tri-c.edu">Joan.SweenyDent@tri-c.edu</a>
West	Matt Miller	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Miller@tri-c.edu">Matthew.Miller@tri-c.edu</a>
Westshore/Brunswick	Mick Munoz	<a href="mailto:Mick.Munoz@tri-c.edu">Mick.Munoz@tri-c.edu</a>
VECC (VA Hospital)	Angela Hobbs	<a href="mailto:Angela.Hobbs@tri-c.edu">Angela.Hobbs@tri-c.edu</a>
VECC Tutoring	Jeremy Wong	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Wong@tri-c.edu">Jeremy.Wong@tri-c.edu</a>
VEAP Math tutoring	Gary Bass	<a href="mailto:Gary.Bass@tri-c.edu">Gary.Bass@tri-c.edu</a> OR <a href="mailto:VEAPmath@gmail.com">VEAPmath@gmail.com</a>
VEAP English tutoring	Laura Cole	<a href="mailto:Laura.Cole@tri-c.edu">Laura.Cole@tri-c.edu</a> OR <a href="mailto:VEAPEnglish@gmail.com">VEAPEnglish@gmail.com</a>
Interim Executive Director	Marjorie Morrison	<a href="mailto:Marjorie.Morrison@tri-c.edu">Marjorie.Morrison@tri-c.edu</a>

### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019/20 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!

## **Spring and Summer Registration.**

Hello!

As we all adjust to new ways of doing things, we want to encourage you to continue with the mission! If you are currently enrolled in classes, please remember that we have tutors designated to assist veterans. So, if you are challenged by the transition, please let us know so that we can work together to find workable solutions.

Registration is now open for both summer and fall. You can register online, and access certification forms via <https://www.tri-c.edu/veterans/>. Remember that the VA will only pay for classes that are part of your program sequence. If you have questions, you can reach out to your Veteran Center Campus rep or you can call 216-307-6385 and leave a voice message.

## **Deployment**

If you receive orders to deploy, please contact your campus center representative for further direction.

## **Free/low cost Computer and internet (WiFi) information**

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is teaming with PCs for People to provide computers to students so they can continue their studies as Tri-C shifts to online delivery of many classes following the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

To be eligible, a student must live in a household with an income below the 200% poverty level or be enrolled in an income-based government assistance program. Federal Pell Grant recipients would qualify.

Students can apply for a computer through PCs for People, a nonprofit dedicated to getting computers and affordable internet service into the homes of low-income individuals.

Registration can be done by calling 216-777-4441 or emailing [ohio@pcsforpeople.com](mailto:ohio@pcsforpeople.com).

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation is covering the cost of the computers for eligible Tri-C students. The Foundation launched the project to address needs created by the response to COVID-19.

Computers and “internet hotspot” devices from PCs for People will be distributed to **approved applicants** at two Tri-C sites this week. Details on pickup locations will be provided following registration.

Given that the distribution is for education purposes and will be done outside, it will take place despite recent actions to limit access to campus buildings given the COVID-19 outbreak. Campus police will be at both sites to direct traffic.

Visit [pcsforpeople.org](http://pcsforpeople.org) to learn more about the organization.

## **Tri-C Operations under COVID 19 Restrictions**

From March 24 through at least April 6, all on-site student services and classes are suspended, and access to Tri-C buildings will be limited to staff involved in critical areas of operation, such as Public Safety and Plant Operations. Most classes are now online. A few hand-on courses will need in-person instruction, but that will not happen just yet. The College will provide guidance on labs and other hands-on learning classes as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as we determine the best solution under these circumstances. Students who have questions should contact their instructors. If you do not know how to reach your instructor, [contact your associate academic dean](#).

## **Work-Study Students**

If you have a federal work study job on campus, you should be eligible to continue to be paid, as this position is part of your financial aid packet. Contact your supervisor if you have questions or call us at 216-307-6385. UNFORTUNATELY if you are a VA work-study student, you cannot be paid if you worked for a department that was on campus that is now operating online. However, you can communicate with the VA to see if other positions are available with other companies.

## **Federal Student Loan Payment Info, Interest on Student Loans Waived During National Emergency**

Secretary DeVos announced that the office of Federal Student Aid is working to provide student loan relief to tens of millions of borrowers during the COVID-19 national emergency.

All borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility during the national emergency. This will allow borrowers to temporarily stop their payments without worrying about accruing interest. Please note that you must request suspension of payments. It is not an automatic suspension.

## **Housing Allowances to Continue, reference move to online delivery**

Overall, housing allowances will not be affected for most students. However, students should contact their Veterans Campus Center if they are taking 900 level courses or if they have other concerns.

Veteran Students should have received information assuring them that BAH will likely not be affected by online delivery. For more information see

<https://link.militarytimes.com/click/19784606.2549/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vZWR1Y2F0aW9uLXRyYW5zaXRpb24vMjAyMC8wMy8xOS9naS1iaWxsLWJlbmVmaXRzLXRvLWNvbnRpbmVILWRlc3BpdGUtY29sbGVnZS1jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy1jbG9zaW5ncy1hZnRlci1lbWVyZ2VuY3ktZml4LXJ1c2hlcY10aHJvdWdoLWNvbmdyZXNzLw5c95041bdabb342a165ec60eC774418c3>

From Ohio's State Approving Agency:

Great news from VA regarding GI Bill payments! Please see the following message:

We have worked with Congress to preserve GI Bill benefits for those of you impacted by COVID-19 during this difficult time. The Senate and House passed S.3503 and the bill is headed to the President to sign, which will give VA the authority to continue GI Bill payments uninterrupted in the event of national emergencies.

The new law allows VA to pay education benefits regardless of the fact that your program has changed from resident training to online training. Also, you will continue to receive the same monthly housing allowance payments that you received for resident training until 12/21/20, or until the school resumes normal operations of resident training. We're working to immediately implement the new changes.

This will come as a great relief to your GI Bill recipients and we ask that you help us communicate this message. Please keep in mind that VA will need time to develop guidance on how to proceed.

## Time running out for transfer of benefits

“Long-serving troops and reservists have a little less than two months remaining to transfer their Post 9-/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse or children before a new restriction kicks in on July 12.

While soldiers still must serve for six years before being allowed to request a GI Bill transfer, they will no longer have the opportunity to do so after they have served longer than 16 years.

This new rule will affect senior active-duty personnel and those who for whatever reason are unable to transfer any portion of their benefits to one or more dependents before that July 12 deadline.”

From [https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/transition/2019/05/23/new-gi-bill-transfer-rule-will-impact-older-service-members/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Rebootcamp%2003.20.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Rebootcamp](https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/transition/2019/05/23/new-gi-bill-transfer-rule-will-impact-older-service-members/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Rebootcamp%2003.20.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Rebootcamp).

## Dates of Note

**Session B Withdrawal refund dates** for students:

100% -- Friday, March 27

70% -- Wednesday, April 1

50% -- Monday, April 6

25% -- Thursday, April 9

**Other dates of note:** Last day to withdraw with a W grade has been moved to **April 24** (from April 10); this gives students about 2 additional weeks to withdraw. Change for Drop for Non-Payment – moved from April 3 to **April 24**

## Frequently Asked Questions

Follow this link for valuable information including information about free WiFi.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/administrative-departments/business-continuity/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions-students.html>

## Emergency Funds

Tri-C is continuing to make emergency funds available to students as usual and to assist them through this transition to online learning. If you have a need for technology and resources to participate in virtual courses, please contact the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office. Financial aid staff will determine eligibility for and potential access to emergency funds for students from the College which can be used for any educational resource, food or other expense, including technology, associated with their education.

## Army Reserve Puts Drills on Hold

[https://www.stripes.com/the-army-reserve-halts-monthly-training-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-1.623003?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm\\_campaign=Daily+Headlines](https://www.stripes.com/the-army-reserve-halts-monthly-training-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-1.623003?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines)

The Army Reserve on Wednesday halted monthly training and virtually all official travel through the end of March for the vast majority of its roughly 200,000 soldiers, Lt. Gen. Charles Luckey, the Army reserve chief announced. The suspension of monthly battle assemblies for reserve units could last longer, the general said in a Facebook message.

## Complete Your Census

We All Benefit When We Respond to the Census. Your response to the 2020 Census can help shape your future and the future of your community. Counting everyone helps communities receive funding needed for health care, education, emergency services, and more. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions in our communities.

## Commissary Hours

Be aware that commissary hours may be impacted by the current health crisis. Consider calling ahead to determine hours of operation and possible restrictions.

## Lunches for CMSD Students

[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001nZYmNHWajyt0baZqhIPwuHFWQ0kQQMUonYQ7VFdYUxUP05U3pOxexT6q-KEsjZ22rWnAmM3BP9wjDO7o\\_qXbKhhcEnbaFvJ72jEXqQMDPUE\\_8sCbeax-zL61vUSIB3Y7rkP-Ue2soqngMTMc\\_E-CdKqo2wjaOU6n02o1tzcAgOG1P8izbHugD4XpfifrKHCKESZFd7wATzwDTY4YA0zTHGOPxjZg-5vCtZuicpW5vmlm77R6dZaucQXf7GkYSVuWS25hisi2KgHoGPFZvJnQ==&c=kRcwe3iujgrTVipd8CsZzVFdaYJ2E\\_oKq-930ooGsCyM0XzaYVfC7w==&ch=s6g2H9EXDBxxu2SRbG8Mh\\_fm5JLWRiSZse9gYtG8V4JDxJTPquo7QQ==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001nZYmNHWajyt0baZqhIPwuHFWQ0kQQMUonYQ7VFdYUxUP05U3pOxexT6q-KEsjZ22rWnAmM3BP9wjDO7o_qXbKhhcEnbaFvJ72jEXqQMDPUE_8sCbeax-zL61vUSIB3Y7rkP-Ue2soqngMTMc_E-CdKqo2wjaOU6n02o1tzcAgOG1P8izbHugD4XpfifrKHCKESZFd7wATzwDTY4YA0zTHGOPxjZg-5vCtZuicpW5vmlm77R6dZaucQXf7GkYSVuWS25hisi2KgHoGPFZvJnQ==&c=kRcwe3iujgrTVipd8CsZzVFdaYJ2E_oKq-930ooGsCyM0XzaYVfC7w==&ch=s6g2H9EXDBxxu2SRbG8Mh_fm5JLWRiSZse9gYtG8V4JDxJTPquo7QQ==)

## Call Before Going to the VA

Veterans: Call before visiting your VA facility. Got a fever, cold, cough or flu-like symptoms? Are you worried that you have a viral illness? The last thing you want to do is get out of the house to see the doctor, exposing yourself (and others) to more potential bugs and viruses. VA can make it easier and safer to get back to health with virtual care through My HealthVet and the VA Video Connect app on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

## Online Resources

### ***ONLINE ENROLLMENT SERVICES***

#### **Academic Counseling:**

- [Counseling Center Hours and Information](#)
- [e-Advising](#)
- [Schedule an Appointment](#)

**Application for Admission:** [Apply](#)

**Assessment/Testing:** [Testing Center Hours and Information](#)

#### **College Credit Plus (CCP):**

- [College Credit Plus Information](#)
- [CCP Student and Parent Checklist](#)

**Financial Aid:** [Student Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

**International Student Services:** [International Student Information](#)

**New Student Orientation:**

- [Information and FAQ](#)
- [Online Orientation](#)

**Registration:** [Register for Classes](#)

**Student Accessibility Services:** [Information and Resources](#)

**Tuition Payments:** [Pay Tuition](#)

***ONLINE STUDENT SERVICES*****Bookstore:**

- [Barnes & Noble Bookstore](#)
- [Find Textbooks](#)
- [Textbook Rentals](#)

**Career Services:**

- [Career Services Information](#)
- [Student Career Services](#)
- [Schedule an Online Appointment](#)

**Library:**

- [Library Information](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Access Your 'My Library' Account](#)

**Psychological Counseling:**

- [Personal Counseling](#)
- [Help Is Here](#)

**Technology Learning Centers:** [Hours and Locations](#)

**Transfer Centers:**

- [Transfer Center Information](#)
- [Schedule an Appointment](#)

**Tutoring Services:**

- [Tutoring Information](#)
- [Smarthinking Online Tutoring](#)

**Veteran Services:** [Veteran Resources](#)

**The VA Debt Management Center (DMC)** sent out this message on Monday, March 23, 2020. We want our partners working with Veterans and their families to be aware that if COVID-19 is affecting someone's ability to repay their debt with the DMC, they can reach out to the DMC to request assistance. Please feel free to share this message widely within your organization.

They have also placed this message on their website:

**Attention Veterans and Family members who have a VBA overpayment.**

If you are affected by the COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS), have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact DMC at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

**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
- Student Accessibility 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](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans)

**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 you and your family,** courtesy of Health Journeys and Sounds True. All can be accessed via the College's Veterans website: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans). The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.