

FrontLines

SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION



LETTER TO STUDENTS

Wow — this summer has both crawled along and flown by. Do you feel the same? So much has changed, and yet many things remain the same. Summer followed spring, as it always does. Guess what follows summer? Yep — you know that one!

We all know that the only thing constant is change. And the more we prepare for change, the better. This edition of our newsletter addresses some of those changes. You'll see pictures of how our campuses have changed to better protect all of us. Change is also easier to take when we've had some input into those changes — so we're asking for your input as we change our newsletter format.

Whether we want things to change or stay the same, it's important to make our voices heard. We hope that each of you will exercise your voice by voting in the upcoming election. Regardless of which "side" you're on, it's clear that this is a time when voices need to be heard — through the ballot box. We've included information on how to make sure you're registered, and we encourage each of you to make a voting plan.

One last word about change: Much of the way we view change is our attitude. My 95-year-old father likes to watch reruns on TV — mostly old Westerns. Sometimes he'll complain about the program, telling me it's not as good as it used to be. When I remind him that it's the same show he's always watched, he simultaneously chuckles and grumbles, saying, "It's still not as good as it used to be."

Staying the same is often convenient, and usually less stressful. But staying the same results in stagnation. How will you embrace change?

*Marjorie Morrison, Interim Executive Director, Veterans Initiative;
Director, Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP)*



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The Veteran Services Team Is Here to Help!



Need assistance with enrollment, registration, financial aid or benefits? Help

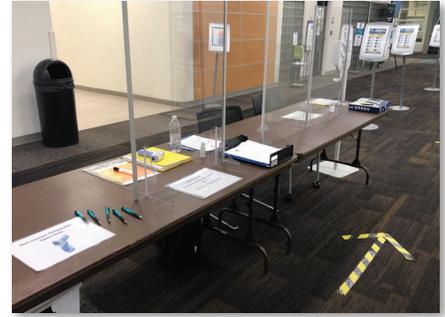
in English or math? Referrals to community services? Let us know how we can help you achieve your academic goals!

Call the Veteran Services remote phone line at 216-307-6385 or email a specific team member.

Veterans Initiative Team	Name	Email
Eastern Campus	Alaina Foster	alaina.foster@tri-c.edu
Metropolitan Campus	Joan Sweeny Dent	joan.sweenydent@tri-c.edu
Western Campus	Matt Miller	matthew.miller@tri-c.edu
Westshore Campus/BUC	Mick Munoz	mick.munoz@tri-c.edu
VECC Tutoring	Jeremy Wong	jeremy.wong@tri-c.edu
VEAP Math Tutoring	Gary Bass	gary.bass@tri-c.edu
VEAP English Tutoring	Laura Cole	laura.cole@tri-c.edu

Campus Safety Measures and Hours

Though Tri-C campuses are not completely open right now due to COVID-19 restrictions, some departments — such as enrollment, registration and financial aid — are open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you do come to campus, expect to have your temperature checked at a campus Welcome Station. **Face coverings are required**, and all students, faculty, staff and visitors must sign a Statement of Personal Responsibility. [Visit Tri-C's coronavirus website for more information on precautions and procedures on campus this fall.](#)



MTC



Brunswick



Brunswick



Westshore

Racial Justice

Tri-C is one of 20 local organizations that recently signed a declaration vowing to address racism as a public health crisis. President Alex Johnson posted a public statement addressing the issue of racism and promising that Tri-C will work to help find solutions. As a direct result of this call to action, the College has formed a Racial Justice Task Force to begin determining the best course of action for creating unity within the College and the greater community. [Read Dr. Johnson's statement here.](#)



★ Important Information ★ ★ About G.I. Bill® Benefits and ★ ★ Expanded Eligibility ★

Did you know that G.I. Bill® benefit levels have changed under the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (Forever G.I. Bill®)? Eligibility has actually been expanded under certain circumstances. [Learn more here.](#)

Changes have also been made to the G.I. Bill® Basic Housing Allowances due to COVID-19. [Click here for more information about in-person versus online requirements for BHA.](#)



Financial Aid Information

If you're seeking other types of academic financial aid, be sure to check out Tri-C's [Student Financial Aid and Scholarships webpage](#).

Take a look at Tri-C's [Full Tuition Assistance program](#), which offers an amazing opportunity for individuals pursuing a certificate or degree. It might be a great option for you or someone you know!

As always, check with your campus rep if you're using military education benefits, as they could be impacted if you choose to use other financial aid.



Fall Classes

Another semester is here! Fall classes started Aug. 24, but there's still time to register. Although the VA will only pay for courses that are part of your program sequence, you can see if you qualify for Full Tuition Assistance to cover the cost of courses not covered under military benefits. Contact your campus rep or leave a voicemail at 216-307-6385 with questions.



Attention: Students who are National Guard members!

As always, if you receive orders to deploy at any time during the semester, please contact your campus rep for further direction.



Debt Management Help From the VA



The VA Debt Management Center (DMC) is offering temporary financial relief for those who are unable to pay their GI Bill® benefit debt due to the COVID-19 crisis.

What are your options?

If you're unable to pay your existing VA debt due to the COVID-19 crisis, you can request a temporary collection suspension, hardship refund of offsets or an extended repayment plan. Call 800-827-0648 for information on these relief options and to select one.

If you've already made payment arrangements for your debt and would like those arrangements to remain in place, no further action is needed.

DMC has suspended all collection action on veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Treasury during the crisis.

Call 888-442-4551 with questions about your VA benefits or the status of a claim.

Visit va.gov/debtman for the latest information.



More From the VA

Please call before visiting your VA facility. Got a fever, cold, cough or flu-like symptoms? 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.

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



Articles of Interest

The latest news from around the web:

[VA Makes Changes to Prescription Delivery Due to Post Office Delays](#)

[Defense Department Schools to Start Remotely](#)

[30,000 Troops Kept in Quarantine](#)

[Black Employees Describe Racism at VA](#)

[Remembering 9/11 From the Pentagon](#)

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

*Election season is here,
and your vote is important.*



There are three ways to vote:

1. Mail-in Voting

Check your registration status at 443vote.com.

Request a vote-by-mail/absentee ballot **now** at 443vote.com. It will be mailed to you after Oct. 6.

Drop off your ballot at the Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland) or mail it ASAP.

Track your ballot request and your ballot at 443vote.com.

2. Early In-Person Voting at the Board of Elections*

[Early voting dates and times for the Nov. 3 General Election in Cuyahoga County](#)

**If you request a mail-in ballot, you can't vote in person.*

3. In-Person Voting on Election Day** (Tuesday, Nov. 3)

Go to your polling location to cast your vote.

***Check your polling location — there may be fewer this year due to poll worker availability.*

Check with your county Board of Elections for up-to-date information.

[Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website](#)



New Look

We're making adjustments to our newsletter and would like your feedback! Please [take our survey](#) and give us your opinion on how you'd like future issues to look.



Online Resources

ONLINE ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Academic Counseling

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

Application for Admission: [Apply](#)

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](#)