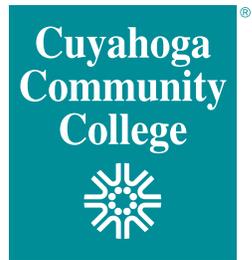


# FrontLines

## NEWSLETTER



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to our December newsletter! Be sure to check out the special note from Dr. JaNice Marshall, Collegewide vice president of Access and Community Connections. We appreciate the unparalleled support Dr. Marshall provides for our program and our veteran students.

What's your favorite day of the year? As December approaches, I usually begin to think about my favorite day. This year, Dec. 21 ranks high on my list. It is not my birthday, and there are no special anniversaries or memorable events associated with the date. What is significant about it is that it's the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere (Dec. 22 in non-leap years).

It's not that I'm celebrating short days and so much darkness — rather, it's the opposite. Because it's the shortest day, it means that we've turned the corner on winter darkness and that each day will be a little longer. By the time January rolls around, we've gained a noticeable amount of daylight.

Life — especially academic life — can be that way sometimes. It can be tough to see progress. Remind yourself that just as our days get longer second by second, minute by minute, your academic plan is a journey. Slowly but surely, you will begin to see real, observable gains. The trick is to stick with it and keep going! If you need assistance to get traction and keep momentum going, remember that we're here for you.

#### One more thought ...

November and December are filled with a wonderfully diverse set of celebrations, both civil and religious in origin. Light in the midst of darkness is a common part of these festivals. One such celebration that recently came to my attention is Diwali. This festival celebrates the victory of light over darkness, knowledge above ignorance, and hope rising above despair. These sentiments are especially fitting as we move out of 2020 and into 2021.

I wish each of you light and knowledge and hope as you conquer each phase of your journey.

*Marjorie Morrison, Interim Executive Director, Veterans Initiative*

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### VET RESOURCES

Subscribe to the weekly VA newsletter for information about resources available to veterans and their family members — including giveaways and freebies! Visit <https://www.va.gov/VetResources/> to sign up!



VetResources is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Have a resource to share? Post it on **#VetResources**

## SPRING CLASSES

Spring registration is open! Be sure to register early to get the best selection and ensure that your benefits are in place so you can avoid delays. **Remember, you must file certification documents every semester if you are using military educational benefits.** [You can access the form here.](#)

Be sure that you have a current FAFSA on file. You may want to seek scholarship dollars if you are only receiving partial benefits or if you want to take a class that is outside of your program. Remember that the VA will only pay for classes that are part of your program sequence — however, you may qualify for Full Tuition Assistance to cover the cost of classes that are not covered under military benefits. Contact your Veteran Center campus rep or leave a message at 216-307-6385 for more information.

## SPECIAL NOTE FROM DR. JANICE MARSHALL



Comprised of veterans and civilians, the Tri-C Veteran Services team demonstrates excellence in service to current and future student veterans and their families, as well as active military members. The team focuses on veterans' unique access and success needs, providing academic and social supports based on resilience and grit. They work diligently to provide support to student veterans earning a college degree or credential from day one to graduation to employment.

Tri-C will continue to reach more veterans and active duty members through its [Access Centers](#) located throughout Cuyahoga County. The Access Centers were created to connect future Tri-C students with strategic partners who work with us to help remove barriers to a high-quality educational and workforce experience. We must work even harder to connect veterans and their family members to services that will help them lead full and purposeful lives.

Cuyahoga Community College is fortunate to have a knowledgeable, capable and compassionate team in its Veteran Services offices College-wide. I witness their individual and collective commitment to excellence daily. This, coupled with students' focus and commitment to completion, will lead numerous veterans to graduation this month. The values and skills gained during your time of service have translated into leadership on campus and as a team. I offer you my deep gratitude for what you do and how you do it — one day at a time.

*JaNice Marshall, Ed.D.  
Collegewide Vice President  
Access and Community Connections*

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### JOAN SWEENEY DENT



Joan Sweeney Dent joined the U.S. Army after graduating from the University of Dayton and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. She served from 1989 to 2015, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Joan deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. She also served in Korea, Germany and many locations throughout the United States.

Joan received a two-year ROTC scholarship to complete her bachelor's degree and used Federal Tuition Assistance funding to complete her master's degree from The Ohio State University.

Since retiring, she has used her GI Bill for coursework at Lorain County Community College, Tri-C and Cleveland State University. Joan currently serves military-affiliated students at Metro Campus. She also volunteers with the Cleveland Metroparks, We Run This City and Guitars For Vets.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### SHAILAH WILLIAMS



National crises that have dramatically impacted Ohio over the past several months prompted Gov. Mike DeWine to respond with Operation Guardian Serenity III, deploying members of the Ohio National Guard to assist local police departments. Western Campus student Shailah Williams was activated with the 437th Military Police Battalion, and the Veterans Initiative was there to guide her through the anxiety associated with active duty orders. Shailah has made

it clear that her education remains a top priority. With the assistance of a completion scholarship from the Youth, Adult and Community Connections program, she can continue her studies without interruption.

### ARTICLES OF INTEREST



A recent settlement is making it easier for veterans with a less-than-honorable discharge to have their case reviewed for possible upgrade.

[Click this link for information on improving your discharge status.](#)

### GET INVOLVED!

Student veterans at the Western Campus are invited to join the Veterans Today Club. Email [matthew.miller@tri-c.edu](mailto:matthew.miller@tri-c.edu) for more information.

Veteran or military-affiliated employees are invited to join the new veteran employee resource group. Email [alaina.foster@tri-c.edu](mailto:alaina.foster@tri-c.edu) for more information.

Veteran students and employees who wish to submit stories or photos for this newsletter can email them to [gary.bass@tri-c.edu](mailto:gary.bass@tri-c.edu) for consideration. All submissions are subject to approval by the College prior to publication.



### HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS ON PEARL HARBOR

*By Matt Miller, Western Campus Veteran Center Representative*

Dec. 7, 2020, marks the 79th anniversary of the surprise attack on the U.S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan. And while it's easy to get lost in the imagery of memorialization and the pageantry of patriotism, it's often difficult to recall the individual acts of heroism that occurred on that pivotal morning. It's nearly impossible to comprehend the deceitful nature of the attack or the overwhelming firepower of the Japanese Navy. Gigantic battleships listed, exploded and sunk in just a few short moments. Nearly 2,500 people lost their lives during the raid, and U.S. Naval capabilities were significantly wounded. The geopolitical effects were far-reaching, and the United States declared war on Japan the following day.



In the aftermath of the attack, 51 Navy Crosses were awarded for valor in the face of the enemy — one of them to Mess Attendant Third Class Doris Miller. In today's language, Miller would be best described as operating in "beast mode" that morning. Shortly after he finished serving breakfast to the crew of the USS West Virginia, the battle stations alarm sounded. Miller moved to his station on the battleship deck. Once up top, he found his position had been damaged and began to make his way toward the ship's command bridge, where he personally secured the boat's captain, Mervyn Sharp Bennion, who was mortally wounded. After carrying the captain to a safer position, Miller manned an anti-aircraft gun until he again moved the captain to his final command position. Captain Bennion died commanding his sailors to his final breath and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

This all took place under intense Japanese fire, with continued strafing and dive-bombing attacks on Miller's exact position. He maintained his gun until he was out of ammo; he then began helping sailors escape the inferno of burning oil and fuel to the quarter deck of the ship.

For these acts of extreme heroism, Doris Miller was awarded the Navy Cross. It was pinned to him by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz aboard the USS Enterprise in May 1942. Miller was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross. Sadly, he was killed during the Battle of Makin on Nov. 24, 1943.

## MATH MOMENT

Remember the old PBS music videos from Schoolhouse Rock!? One that I remember well is “My Hero, Zero.” [You can watch it here.](#)

If you just can’t get enough of this superhero, check out some historical perspectives. Did you know that zero wasn’t always around? Many early civilizations did not use zero as a numerical value. [Click here for more zero facts!](#)



## THE VETERAN SERVICES TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!



Need assistance with enrollment, registration, financial aid or benefit information? Struggling with English or math? Looking for 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 team member for assistance.

Team/Location	Name	Email
Eastern Campus	Alaina Foster	<a href="mailto:alaina.foster@tri-c.edu">alaina.foster@tri-c.edu</a>
Metropolitan Campus	Joan Sweeny Dent	<a href="mailto:joan.sweenydent@tri-c.edu">joan.sweenydent@tri-c.edu</a>
Western Campus	Matt Miller	<a href="mailto:matthew.miller@tri-c.edu">matthew.miller@tri-c.edu</a>
Westshore/Brunswick	Mick Muñoz	<a href="mailto:mick.munoz@tri-c.edu">mick.munoz@tri-c.edu</a>
VEAP Math Tutoring	Gary Bass	<a href="mailto:gary.bass@tri-c.edu">gary.bass@tri-c.edu</a> <a href="mailto:VEAPmath@gmail.com">VEAPmath@gmail.com</a>
VEAP English/Math Tutoring and VECC Tutoring	Jeremy Wong	<a href="mailto:jeremy.wong@tri-c.edu">jeremy.wong@tri-c.edu</a> <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>

Remember, if you receive orders to deploy, contact your campus representative for further direction.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### 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](#)

### 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](#)

