

Front Lines

April 2018 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the April 2018 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...

Fall 2018 Registration is Underway

The following are important steps for all to follow:

- **Make sure to see your GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Admissions & Registration Office ASAP.** Now there is no guarantee that Post 9-11/CH 33 benefits (BAH and book stipend) will arrive immediately after the start of the semester.
- **Note also that anytime you adjust your schedule (i.e., add classes, drop classes, etc.) YOU MUST SEE THE GI BILL CERTIFIER.**



Simply going to the Registration Office does not complete the process for student veterans using the GI Bill. The Certifiers are the link with the VA. They handle the submission of paperwork to insure you are getting the proper benefit payment and conversely to insure you are not caught in an overpayment situation.



Get ahead of the game and submit your 2018-19 FAFSA! Call us at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment or to have your financial aid questions answered. Filing near or after the deadline may impact your access to Financial Aid.

County Scholarships Available: Thanks to the generosity of the Cuyahoga County Executive and the Cuyahoga County Council, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative has been awarded an allotment of dollars from the Cuyahoga County Veterans Fund. In turn these funds are being used to create general scholarships to assist student veterans, military affiliates (including spouses and dependents of disabled veterans), and Active Duty and Reserve personnel **who no longer have any military-related educational benefits remaining or has exhausted all funding sources (partial GI-Bill, FTA, FASFA-Pell grant, OCOG)**.

This **non-refundable** general scholarship will be distributed as **one award per semester** and can be reapplied for the following semester if funds remain. *You cannot apply twice for an award in the same semester.* Scholarship dollars can be used for **both** credit and non-credit courses (workforce certification courses) and books. Awards will be on a case-by-case basis for students that are full time or part time. If approved, the scholarship dollars will be credited directly to your student account.

You will have an option to select \$500 **or** \$1,000 general scholarship. You may **either** directly apply the funds towards your tuition **or** have the amount desired separated into tuition and book money. *If you opt into separating your chosen amount this decision cannot be reversed.* In all instances the applicant must have, the following completed: Must be an active and registered Tri-C student (current student photo ID and student ID number) and ready to register for classes for the semester of scholarship use. Students that receive FASFA-Pell and/or Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) must have exhausted those benefits before being considered for this scholarship. Check www.tri-c.edu/veterans to download a copy of the application, or stop by your respective campus Veterans Service Office. All applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- **2018 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!

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
- ACCESS (disability Enrollment 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

Meet Your Campus Veteran Representatives – Mick Munoz (BUC, CCW & Westshore):



Mick Munoz joined the US Marines after graduating high school. He served from 1988-1992, including Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort. He attended Desert Training in the Mojave, Jungle Training in the Philippines, and trained with the British Royal Marines in the Indian Ocean. He then used the GI Bill to attend Cuyahoga Community College and earn his Associate of Arts degree. He later went on to Baldwin Wallace University to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree (both with honor).

Mick has spent years serving at-risk populations. Starting with the Berea Children's Home in Ohio, onto foster care programs and charter schools in Washington DC, and recently spent ten years helping people returning from prison reenter their communities in New York City.

Mick has recently moved back to the Northeast Ohio area (Fairview Park) and quickly started serving again, by becoming a member of the Northshore Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and starting his job at Cuyahoga Community College serving veterans at Brunswick, Corporate College West and Westshore. Mick serves as a mentor to students who experienced foster care here at Tri-c, is a member of the Spanish Council, and a member of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. He enjoys adventures with his family, reading, and yoga.

Veterans Education Access Program – At the Ready: The Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) at Tri-C provides FREE comprehensive support services to eligible veterans who need additional help in Math, English and Science to complete their first degree. If you are enrolled or have been placed in a remedial Math or English course and are in need of additional help in these areas, please call the VEAP main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes begin soon, so do not delay! Check out the [VEAP website](http://www.tri-c.edu/veap).

Curious if your credits transfer as a one for one or equivalent class to other institutions? Check out Transferology.com

Volunteerism

Here are some great opportunities to put your military experiences to work benefiting others in need.

National Park Service Volunteer Opportunities: Make a vital contribution to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and our community! You can help the park fulfill its mission to provide visitor enjoyment and preserve resources. The mission of CVNP's Volunteers-in-Parks Program is to engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. The volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Depending on the volunteer position, volunteers will work with staff from National Park Service, the Conservancy for CVNP, Countryside Conservancy, and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. [Link to volunteer & Get involved](#)

The American Red Cross' unwavering commitment to members of the U.S. military, its veterans and their families continues to grow and develop more than a century after Clara Barton first recruited nurses to support the U.S. Army. Today, the Red Cross is meeting the needs of changing military and expanding services to veterans. Red Cross support of military members and their families enhances morale and contributes to increased operational capability in several ways. New volunteers: visit <https://redcross.org/neo> Click on "volunteer" tab.

Cleveland Municipal Court's Veterans Treatment Docket needs volunteers – preferably military veterans to help Veterans transition to a successful life. If you are interested in volunteering to help our veterans successfully re-enter civilian life, please contact Derek Moore at (216) 664-4712 or via email at moored@cmcoh.org for additional information.

Needed: 'A few good mentors': The Cuyahoga Common Pleas Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) is a judge-monitored treatment program for military veterans. A key component of the program is volunteer Veteran Mentors who volunteer their time to help veterans re-adapt to civilian life. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Employment Opportunities / Links

[Department of Veterans Affairs Link with the VA on Facebook](#)

[City of Cleveland](#)

Veteran Job Search Assistance: If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit www.gunnyret.com to schedule a "First Call".

[Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Support:](#)

[VA JOBS Home](#)

[Ohio.gov](#)

[USAJobs](#)

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](#)

[Ohio Federal Government Jobs](#)

Unsure of a career path? Check out Career Coach

Create an Account, discover your interests, potential career stats, and career scopes in your local area that are adjacent degree paths with Tri-C programs. Make sure to check out the MOS option to see what your military skills transfer to in our programs.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Get an answer within 30 days of VA receiving your claim.

[Learn More](#)



Considering submitting a claim for an increase in your disability compensation? VA's new Decision Ready Claims (DRC) program delivers decisions within 30 days.

Eric, a Marine Corps Veteran, was urged to apply for VA disability compensation because of an injury to his upper back that occurred during boot camp.

"The only thing that helps are massages, so I use the money for that. It goes towards normal living expenses too, because it is more than I expected," he says. "It has made my life a lot easier to have that extra income."

In addition to claims for increases, DRC covers certain claims related to direct service, presumptive service and secondary service connections. Surviving spouses can file certain claims under DRC, and transitioning service members can use DRC to file pre-discharge claims less than 90 days from leaving the military.

To file a DRC, Veterans must work on the submission with an accredited Veteran Service Organization (VSO). This preparation allows claims processors to make a decision within 30 days. The VSO representative will work with you to ensure you have the required supporting evidence, such as

military service records and medical exams.

"Whatever small thing you have right now that you did get from the military can snowball into something greater down the line," Eric says. "The compensation can provide security."

Visit Explore.VA.gov to learn more about all VA benefits and apply, or click the button below to get started on your DRC.

[Apply Now](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington,
DC 20420

Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at www.vets.gov/education/apply/.

The VONAPP system (old 22-1990 site) still contains other important forms such as compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation, employment, burial benefits, change in place/training and dependent application for VA benefits.

Do not use forms 22-1990N or 22-1990E to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill, CH30 or CH1606. The 22-1990N is for National Call to Service only. The 22-1990E is for family members to use transferred benefits.

CONTACTS:

VA Regional Office
(St. Louis, MO)
1-888-GIBILL-1
(1-888-442-4551)

Direct Deposit Center
1-877-838-2778

Enrollment Certification
1-877-823-2378

Military Transcripts

Be sure to have your transcripts evaluated to determine if you can receive academic credit for your military training. The process can take up to four weeks, so keep an eye on your Tri-C email for notification that your transcripts have been evaluated. A counselor and program manager will advise you on how credits can be applied to your specific degree. The primary contact for military transcripts is Chris Dorsten at 216-987-3664 or chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu.

Joint Services Transcript (JST):
Order your free official transcripts and review unofficial transcripts and summaries of equivalent credits. Register at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

Air Force veteran?

Check out Air University at www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/ to review various options for ordering your transcripts.



Which Veterans Education Benefit Should I Use?

DEPENDENT

- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 35: Dependents Educational Assistance

VETERAN

- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- Chapter 31: Voc Rehab (Service-Connected Rehabilitation)
- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for veterans education benefits.

STILL SERVING?

ACTIVE DUTY

- Tuition Assistance



RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD

Deployment

- ONGSP: NG only (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- Chapter 1607: REAP*
 - Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
 - Tuition Assistance

No Deployment

- ONGSP: NG only (Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves)
 - Chapter 1606
 - Tuition Assistance

*REAP has been terminated for all applicants, with complete termination expected in November 2019.

Disclaimer: This is a visual aid and not an exhaustive explanation of benefits; nor does it include every possible scenario of benefits eligibility.

Education Benefits Deadlines & Reminders

Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Application Deadlines:

November 1st for Spring Semester

April 1st for Summer Semester

July 1st for Fall Semester

CAC ONLY Access

Scholarship letter changes to another school? NOBE issue? [see link](#) for NG contacts

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Launched in 2011, Make The Connection.net connects Veterans, their family members and friends, and other advocates with mental health information, local resources, and inspiring stories of recovery.

GI Bill Semester Certification Form Submission

Dates: Need to be submitted in advance to the academic start date of intent (typically 30 prior window).

[GI Bill Semester Certification Form](#)

Transferring benefits to another school?

[VA Form 22-1995](#)

But I am a dependent ?

[VA Form 22-5495](#)

Make sure you turn these in to your certifier to report changes in class schedule, major, transferring from one school to another so you are certified correctly.



Flu Season is still here with a vengeance! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination **at no cost**. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: **VAFLU**

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record. VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp> .
- To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Special Events

Navy Week 2018

From Springfield, Massachusetts to Sacramento, California, to Bossier City, Louisiana, America's Navy will sail into 14 cities across the country in 2018 as part of the Navy Week outreach program.

Navy Weeks, coordinated by the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO), are designed to give Americans the opportunity to learn about the Navy, its people and its importance to national security and prosperity. Since 2005, the Navy Week program has served as the Navy's flagship outreach effort into areas of the country without a significant Navy presence, with 210 Navy Weeks held in 74 different U.S. markets.

Navy Weeks are scheduled for the following cities in 2018:

- Tampa, Florida, May 7-13
- Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 11-17
- Reno/Carson City, Nevada, June 17-23
- Sacramento, California, July 16-22
- Fargo, North Dakota, July 23-29
- Milwaukee, Aug. 6-12
- Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 20-26
- Cleveland, Aug. 27-Sep. 2
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sep. 10-16
- Springfield, Massachusetts, Sep. 17-23
- Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana, Oct. 29-Nov. 4

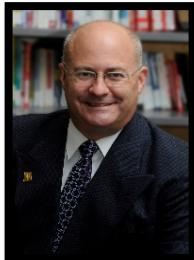


The Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute (CFCLI) Veterans Group will be hosting a walking challenge for Greater Cleveland area Veterans.

This FREE EVENT will be taking place every Saturday in May

May 5th VA Medical Center ER Entrance 10701 East Blvd • Cleveland	May 12th Acacia Reservation 26899 Cedar Rd • Lyndhurst	Sign-in at 9:30am Walk begins at 10:00am Each Saturday
May 19th North Chagrin Reservation 401 Buttermilk Falls Pkwy • Willoughby Hills	May 26th Edgewater Park 6500 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway	FREE DRAWING Will be held at the end of each walk.

Please dress comfortably for weather and for walking
Please follow signage to meeting spot



Signing off.... Sincerely,

*CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – 2017 Inductee
Executive Director
Veterans Initiative
Cuyahoga Community College*

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103

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[Subscribe to the VA](#)

[Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

**[Cleveland Veterans Administration:
Calendar of Events](#)**