

Front Lines

August 2017 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the August 2017 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Initiative Program. Here's a very full look at what's happening...

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back: On behalf of all associated with the Tri-C Veterans Initiative, I'd like to say "WELCOME BACK" to those student veterans returning this Fall. More importantly, I would like to say "WELCOME ABOARD" to those new student veterans at Tri-C.

Reminders moving into fall 2017

- **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 which was AUG 29.
- **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.

Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2017 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: We would like to remind all of the agreement between Tri-C and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to provide FREE unlimited RTA ridership to Tri-C credit students. Frequently Asked Questions about the program, please visit www.tri-c.edu/RTA.

This month's feature spotlight is on your Veteran Services Team!



Marjorie Morrison, Director – Veterans Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) – A Great Resource: Veterans Upward Bound has just begun its 44th year of helping veterans navigate the early challenges of college attendance. Since 1973, we have been helping students through tutoring services, refresher courses, and assistance with financial aid forms, to name just a few of our services! Veterans Upward Bound is funded through the Department of Education and provides services to veterans at no cost. Give us a call at 216-987-4938 to see if you (or a friend) can benefit from our program.

Metro Campus Veterans Center: Metro Veteran Services & Programs Office MSS 5th floor

- Learn how to maximize your veteran benefits to your unique situation
- Create a plan of action with our steps to success to save time and money
- Learn how to navigate veteran/academic scholarships while tackling financial aid
- Access employment, education, and community resources in your own backyard
- Explore Veteran Upward Bound Refresher courses in math and English with qualifying service

SGT G's hours of operation:
Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 9am-1pm
Phone: 216-987-6137



Meet your Metro Veteran Representative: Mrs. Ashley Gorbulja

Ashley is continuing to serve in the Ohio Army National Guard as an NCO and has been serving Metro Campus veteran student population for going on four years. She is a recent 2016 graduate of the University of Akron of two degrees and currently pursuing her Masters at Northeast Ohio Medical University. She is able to provide personal and relevant experiences to include an array of resources and benefit knowledge on the various processes of returning to school and continuing your education. Stop in to see her today!

West Campus NEW Crile Veterans Center: West Student Services (WSS) room G112



Meet your West Veteran Representative: Mr. Matthew Miller

Matt is an Army veteran with a vast array of experience with Veterans Affairs and has been with Cuyahoga Community College for nearly 10 years. He encourages ALL veterans to visit the new western campus veteran footprint as the new veterans lounge offers tutoring opportunities, transfer assistance, education benefit enrollment, Veterans Administration access and above all a private study area for veterans only!

Phone: 216-987-5204

Additionally check out:

The Alfred Learner Veterans Center at Eastern Campus Representative Mrs. Alaina Foster

Location: ESS LER CTR second floor **Phone:** 216-987-2013

Brunswick University Center / Westshore / Corporate College West Representative Mr. Mick Munoz

Locations: BUC 122 WSHCS 101 CCW 108 **Phone:** 216-987-3536

Cleveland Louis Stokes VA Medical Center Wade Park: Veteran Education Connection Center Representative Angela Hobbs

Location: 2nd Floor Atrium-146B **Phone:** 216-791-3800 ext. 6830

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 Reability)
- **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 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
- **Chapter 1607:** REAP*
- **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.



Events & Programs

Vietnam War Commemoration Event:

The Geauga County Veterans Service Commission is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with a ceremony to honor Vietnam veterans and their families on September 1, 2017 at 12:00 noon during the Great Geauga County Fair in Burton, OH at the Main Grandstand.

The event is free for veterans and seniors and open to the public. Anyone interested in attending, especially those who served in uniform from November 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975 and their families should contact Geauga County Veterans Services at 440.279.1860. Veterans will need to validate their service with a discharge form DD214.

Support Our Troops Luncheon:

A luncheon, sponsored by the RPCC Women's Outreach Network (NOW) is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at Windows on the River, 2000 Sycamore St., Cleveland 44113

The featured keynote speaker is John Gallina, Co-Founder of Purple Heart homes - a veteran service organization.

A silent auction will be held at 11:15 AM with lunch being served at 12:15 PM. Cost \$35

For more information or to be a sponsor, contact Sally Florkiewicz 440-247-6945 or Lucy Stickan at 440 759 2551



USO Northern Ohio Golf Outing and Clambake - scheduled for Friday, September 8, 2017 at the Sweetbriar Golf Club, located at 750 Jaycox Road, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012

Registration: <https://usonogolf2017.eventbrite.com>

5th Annual VFW Community Day Picnic: A VFW community day picnic will be held 1 PM to 5 PM Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 17900 Strongsville Blvd., Strongsville, OH
The free event is open to the public and a great opportunity to meet your friends, fellow veterans and neighbors. Free entertainment, snacks, soft drinks and games and activities. For more information contact 440-234-0250

Vietnam Combat Veterans Memorial 'The Moving Wall': September 21-24, 2017 at Perry High School, 1 Success Blvd., Perry OH 44081. The opening ceremony will begin at 7 PM Thursday, September 21 and a closing ceremony held at 6 PM Sunday, September 24, 2017.

Fisher House Fundraiser: A special fundraiser to benefit the Greater Cleveland Fisher House is planned for 8 PM – midnight September 30, 2017 at the Holy Spirit Party Center at 5500 W 54 Street, Parma, OH. The event is open to the public and includes raffles, food and dancing. Proceeds will benefit families of patients receiving medical care at military and VA medical centers. For details, call Barb Haselow at 440.886.6157 or Marge Smith at 216.224.4178.

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

GI Bill Semester Certification Form

Submission Dates: to ensure proper enrollment and funds hit account for the start of the semester.

November 30th for Spring Semester

April 30th for Summer Semester

June 30th for Fall Semester

[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.

!!!ATTENTION EAST CAMPUS is looking for a VA work Study!!!

Please contact Alaina Foster for more details on hours and job details. P: 216-987-2013

PT/FT Flexible hours based on VA authorized contracted hours while using Education benefits, tax free at \$8.15 an hour, and a great, work experience while earning your degree.



Signing off.... Sincerely,

*CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret) Executive Director
Veteran Services & Programs
Cuyahoga Community College*