



Front Lines – February 2017 Edition

Greetings and welcome to the February 2017 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College's Veteran Services & Programs.

First and foremost... welcome to the newest members of our veteran campus community here at Tri-C. This Spring we have 600 veterans enrolled.

Here's a look at what's happening...

Veteran Campus Support Teams Ready To Go: All Veteran students -- especially those of you new to Tri-C this semester -- are reminded that the Veterans Campus Support Teams at each respective Tri-C campus (EAST, METRO, WEST, WEST SHORE, The Veterans Education Connection Center at Louis Stokes VAMC – Wade Park), and the Veterans Service Office at Brunswick University Center) are "open for business." The Support Teams will be able to assist you with day-to-day access to resources and opportunities both here at the College and in the Greater Cleveland Community. These folks are your "first starting point" in helping you with veteran issues both on and off campus. Your Veteran Campus Support Teams are comprised of specialists from key departments which data tracking has shown are those departments in which veterans require services. A complete listing can be found in the Veterans 2015-2016 Guidance packet downloadable off the College Veterans website at: www.tri-c.edu/veterans

Note: In all cases, it is recommended to call first to schedule an appointment with the Support Team members at your campus.

GI Bill Certifying Officials: All Veteran students using any form of the GI Bill are also reminded that whenever you register for classes, add classes, or drop classes... YOU MUST SEE YOUR CAMPUS GI BILL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS. The Certifiers are the direct link with the Regional VA Educational Benefits Office in Buffalo. Your GI Bill Certifiers are as follows:

At WEST and Brunswick it is Mr. Damian Thorkelson (216-987-5203) and Kristie Ignacio (216) 987-5406. At EAST it is Ms. Vanessa Traylor (216-987-2009), and Maria Oriti (216) 987-2118. At METRO it is Ms. Della Hilbert (216-987-4164). At Corporate College West & Westshore it is Michelle Knoll (216) 987-5884.

Veterans Upward Bound – At the Ready: Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) 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 VUB main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes begin soon, so don't delay! Check out the VUB website at www.tri-c.edu/apply/specialinterest/veterans/Pages/VeteransUpwardBound.aspx.

Online GI Bill® Comparison Tool Available -Will Help Users of Post-9/11 GI Bill Become More Informed

Consumers: The Department of Veterans Affairs has an online [GI Bill® Comparison Tool](http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison) to make it easier for Veterans, Service members and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country. The GI Bill Comparison Tool is one item in a series of resources VA is launching in response to President Obama's Executive Order 13607, which directs agencies to implement and promote "Principles of Excellence" for education institutions that interact with Veterans, Service members and their families; and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about VA education benefits and approved programs. The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at: <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>

College Credit for Military Training:



College credit for military training?

Learn how your military transcript could fast-track your college experience.

You also can receive information about:

MTAGS

TST Overview

ACE Guidelines

How to Get Your Military Transcript

Administrative processes and how to use/maximize your benefits

Scholarships and veterans community resources

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is hosting the following information sessions:

Monday, March 6 | 5-7 p.m.
Metropolitan Campus
Unified Technologies Center, room 229
2415 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115

Wednesday, March 8 | 5-7 p.m.
Western Campus
Liberal Arts Building, room 202
11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH 44130

Tuesday, March 7 | 5-7 p.m.
Eastern Campus
Lerner Veterans Center, 2nd Floor, Student Services Building
4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills, OH 44122

These events are FREE. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

For more information, visit www.tri-c.edu/veterans or call Rick DeChant at 216-987-3193.



Help is available....



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Explore VA

With help from loved ones and VA,
Brandon was able to turn his life
around after war and tragedy.

[Explore Your Benefits](#)



**“All I needed was that one person to tell me yes,
get help.”**

— Brandon, U.S. Marine Corp Veteran



If you are a Veterans or Servicemember who has had thoughts of suicide, or a family member or friend of a Veteran who is struggling, VA can help. We have the most comprehensive and extensive suicide prevention program in the nation. With the support of VA resources you can:

- **Get immediate help if you or a Veteran you care about is in crisis** by calling the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1.
- **Connect to [#BeThere for Veterans](#)** to find support and other resources available to Veterans and Servicemembers. If you're a family member or friend, watch this [video](#) and learn the importance of how small actions can make a huge difference to those in crisis.
- **Talk to a Suicide Prevention Coordinator** located at any VA Medical Center. Find your facility's coordinator and other suicide prevention resources near you by using the [Resource Locator Tool](#).
- **Access a [VA Vet Center](#)** or mobile clinic for readjustment counseling and referral services.

Access to resources listed above do not require enrollment in VA health care. To learn more about VA benefits useful to Veterans in need, [visit Explore VA today](#).

[Explore VA Benefits Today!](#)

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

A Spring Break Invitation From Your Fellow CSU Veterans: Attention Tri-C Student Veterans... This is an invitation from the SVA chapter at CSU, the Viking Vets, to all of you. The CSU Viking Vets are planning to take a spring break at Big Bend National Park (BBNP) in Texas (big bend of the Rio Grande) beginning the weekend of March 11 to return on March 18/19. The attached flyer provides more information including the POC, Chad Welker (Marine, CSU grad student) and his contact info.

The listed cost is for gas, camping, entrance fees at BBNP and food. Tents will be provided but if your vets have their own they are welcomed to bring them. We'll also provide cooking gear. Transportation will be POV as a group. Located in the Chihuahuana Desert along the Rio Grande, the temperatures for March range from a high of 75 - 80 degrees with lows to 45 degrees and an average of 60-64 degrees. Precipitation in March averages 0.4". That should be nice for camping & hiking.

Please pass the word as it would be great to have vets from more than CSU participate in this. Any questions give Bob Shields a call at Cleveland State:

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Cleveland, OH 44115
Office: (216) 875-9997
Fax: (216) 875-9984
r.f.shields@csuohio.edu

Special Events

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Events Calendar

<http://www.cleveland.va.gov/calendar.asp>

Vietnam Veterans Day: A commemoration ceremony will be held March 29, 2016 at the City of Garfield Heights Civic Center.

Website Allows Veterans to Check Health Records: It is called "My HealthVet" and the website www.myhealth.va.gov is designed to allow veterans enrolled in VA health care to check their health records, make and cancel appointments, or refill prescriptions from a [computer](#) or tablet.

That's it for now... More as I get it...

CDR Rick DeChant, USCG (ret)
Executive Director
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Cuyahoga Community College