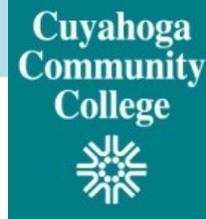


Front Lines

February 2018 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the February 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...

FAFSA - Get ahead of the game and submit your 2018-19

FAFSA! Call us at [216-987-4938](tel:216-987-4938) to schedule an appointment or to have your financial aid questions answered. Filing near or after the deadline may affect your access to Financial Aid. Note also that the new Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) requires that you have filed for FAFSA to be eligible for this grant.



See Your Certifier: As noted during previous semesters, those of you planning on using GI Bill benefits need to see the GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Enrollment Center Office (West, Westshore & Corporate College West – Kristen Ibanez, Metro – Della Hilbert, East – Vanessa Taylor and Maria Oriti). Remember that anytime you are registering for a semester, adding a class, or dropping a class, you need to be seeing your respective GI Bill Certifier. You should also be stopping by your respective Counseling Office to insure you are tracking with your academic plan. Let's stay ahead of the game!

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

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](#).

Stress Resources Available: Starting a new semester of school can be stressful enough. Add to that the transition to the home front issues and things can get a little overwhelming. For those who bear the burden of transition and/or post-traumatic stress—whether Veteran or family member—VA has a wide range of [resources available to help](#). Additionally, the Veteran Combat Call Center is available 24/7 at 1-877-927-8387.

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

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!



ATTENTION: WOMEN VETERANS

Join us for the Inaugural
**Women Veterans Resource
Expo and Interactive Workshop**
with Rear Admiral June Ryan, USCG Ret.

Receive information about the services, employment opportunities
and benefits available to women veterans.

Friday, March 2, 2018 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

****Interactive Workshop: 11 a.m. – noon**

Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center Lobby
4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills, Ohio 44122

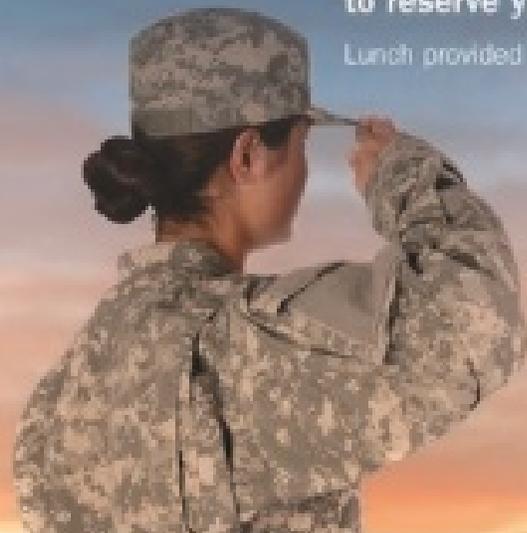
All women who have served in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard,
Marines, Navy, National Guard or Reserves are invited.

Bring your DD-214 (if available).

Visit www.tri-c.edu/womenveteransexpo
to reserve your spot.

Lunch provided to registered attendees.

For more information
or to register by phone,
contact Alaina Foster at
216-987-2013.



This event is part of the
Dominion Energy Ohio and Tri-C
Military Community Outreach Series.



HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE VECC?

If you have, you have probably met Ms. Angela Hobbs. The Veteran Education Connection Center (VECC) is a Support Services Center for our Military Affiliates at The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center at Wade Park.. The VECC provides a link to Tri-C's Veteran Initiative Support Services Program Coordinators who are located on our Metro, East, West, Westshore, and Brunswick campuses.

At the VECC, Military Affiliates can receive the following assistance and information:

- FAFSA Online Application/Scholarship Information
- College & Class Registration
- Classwork Assignments
- Basic computer training (for veterans)
- GI Bill Questions (via phone or email (local and overseas))
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment)
 - Online Assessment Test
 - Research College Programs and Career Objectives
- Chapter 35 (Dependents' Educational Assistance Program)
- High School Diplomas for Veterans who served during conflict era
- Work-study programs for various federal agencies
- Information about available resources for family members of Military Affiliates
- Contact information for various military organizations
- Updated military news regarding education changes
- Veterans Service Commission resources and documentation requirements
- Housing research for HUD-VASH

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm
Angela Hobbs can be reached at 216-791-3800 ext. 6830



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.

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 Rehability)
- **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.



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: 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.

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.



Flu Season is 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

Invitation: JVCOCC 93rd Anniversary Luncheon

You are invited the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County's Officers Installation and Veteran of the Year Award, scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Embassy Suites Cleveland-Independence Hotel at 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, OH. The event will begin at 12 noon, preceded by a social hour at 11 AM. For ticket information, [check Eventbrite](#)

Women Veterans!

Join us for the Inaugural Women Veterans Resource Expo Friday, March 2, 2018 at Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus. [Link.](#)

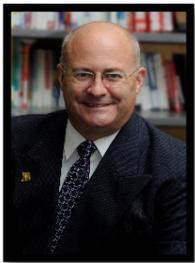
Subscribe to the VA

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

Cleveland Veterans Administration:

[Calendar of Events](#)

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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