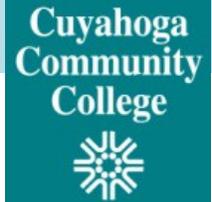


# Front Lines

## January 2019 Edition



Happy New Year! Greetings and welcome to this the January 2019 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...

**Congratulations December 2018 Graduates:** A hearty BRAVO ZULU to the 47 of your fellow student veterans who are graduated last month. Congratulations on a job well done and the best all in your future endeavors.



**Government Shutdown: Post 9-11 GI Bill – Delays Still Continue:** We have been updated by the Veterans

Administration that the current government shutdown should not impact the disbursement of GI Bill dollars. The Regional VA Benefits office has informed us that the GI Bill is funded, as is the staff that processes the benefits. The Regional Office did say however there still may be some delays with the actual disbursement as computer software issues that caused delays with Fall Semester 2018 benefits have not yet been completely resolved. The delay is the result of upgrades being made to the VA-ONCE software system. Please note that this is an issue outside of our control. The College has been communicating with Federal legislators from Northeast Ohio (Senate and Congressional) about this issue and pushing them for assistance in resolution. That being said, you should begin setting aside dollars for books now to ensure you have the necessary books you need as the Spring 2019 semester starts. Prepare accordingly. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

**Spring 2019 Registration:** 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.

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

### Metro Veterans Center: Meet your NEW Veteran Representative: Joan Sweeny Dent

We are pleased to announce the addition of Joan Sweeny Dent as the NEW Metro Campus Veterans Program Administrator. Joan is a recently retired Army officer and former police officer. She has also been a Tri-C student veteran having taken a number of classes here at the College. Joan has a vast array of experience with Veterans Affairs. She encourages ALL veterans to visit the Metro Campus Veterans Center (5<sup>th</sup> Floor – Student Services Building) which offers tutoring opportunities, transfer assistance, education benefit enrollment, Veterans Administration access and above all a private study area for veterans only! Joan will be on board December 10 with the following office hours: MON, 9 am – 4 pm; TUE, 9 am – 3:30 pm; and THU, 9 am – 3:30 pm. **Phone:** 216-987-6137



### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019 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!



**Lerner Veterans Center/East Campus – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor ESS:** Welcome to the Fall Semester! My name is Alaina Foster and I am your Program and Services Administrator here at East, located inside the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Services building. We have many programs planned for the fall semester starting with a visit from the East Side Vet Center every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday during the Fall Semester. We will also be visited by veteran representatives from local 4-year colleges including Baldwin Wallace University, Cleveland State University and Kent State University to name a few.

**West Campus 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 11 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:**

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

**Locations:**

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



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

**Location:**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium-146B
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**Phone:** 216-791-3800 ext. 6830

**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](http://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 are already underway, so do not delay!

Here's the tentative schedule for 2019 VEAP classes.

Spring I	Wkday Jan 22-Mar 7	Sat Jan 26 – Mar 9
Spring II	Wkday Mar 19-May 9	Sat Mar 23-May 11
Summer I	Wkday May 28-July 18	Sat Jun 1-July 20

**VEAP Tutoring Information:** All should also note that VEAP provides tutoring services.

**Monday:** Metro Open Tutoring 10-2

**Tuesday:** East Tutoring by appointment 10-3 (Call 216-987-4938 for appointment time)

**Wednesday:** Metro Open Tutoring 11-3 *except* days of Education Workshops (workshops are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Weds of each month), West Tutoring 2:00-6:30

Metro Computer Lab hours 9-4 M-Th. Fridays by apt.

**Support Resource – Veterans' Success Tool Kit:** The Tri-C Veterans Initiative has partnered with HealthJourneys, to bring to you free of charge a series of self-guided streaming meditations known as the *Veterans' Success Tool Kit*. Listening to guided imagery and meditation yields a wide variety of benefits. Research shows it helps with stress, sleep, pain, confidence, focus, emotional resilience and inner peace. That's why we've brought together some of the best streaming meditations we could find, by some of the foremost masters in the mind-body. These are available free, 24/7, for website: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans). The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.

**Smartphone feature provides immediate access to Veterans Crisis Line:** The VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple's iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone's contact list. **Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.**

## **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](http://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.

**Additional Resources:** More links to resources of which you can take advantage...

[Scholarships for Military Spouses & Children](#)

[Student Loan Forgiveness: Joining the Military](#)

[VA Home Loan Calculator](#)

[The Ultimate Military Moving Guide for Your Next PCS](#)

[How to Help Your Child Cope When Your Spouse Has a Military Deployment](#)

[Jobs for Veterans: How to Find a Civilian Career](#)

[Resources for Military Families: A Path to Advocacy for Your Child](#)

[The Funeral Planning Guide for Veterans](#)

[Women Veteran Resources](#)

## Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at [www.vets.gov/education/apply/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester

April 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer Semester

July 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS & NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE:

- Joint Veterans Annual Luncheon – Saturday, Feb 23, 2019.  
Read more [here](#).
- National Veterans Memorial & Museum in Columbus, Ohio  
For more go to: <https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/nvmm-dedication-and-grand-opening.pdf>
- Subscribe to the VA Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:  
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VArtaage/subscribe/>
- Cleveland Veterans Administration: calendar of events <https://www.cleveland.va.gov/calendar.asp>.

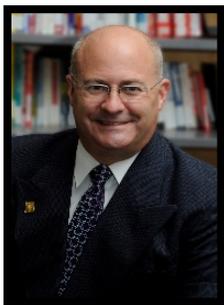
### NEWS:

**World War I at 100: Buckeye Brigade returns to honor heritage:** Members of the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team traveled to Europe to participate in the centennial commemorations of World War I and pay tribute to the men who served before them. Read about their visit and the reception in the new Buckeye Guard digital magazine at <https://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html> or <http://publucidpress.com/>

**National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton ranks among the 20 best aviation museums in the world:** It's easy to forget that barely more than a century has passed since Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first successful airplane in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The intervening 115 years has produced enough artifacts and knowledge to fill dedicated museums around the world.

The greatest aviation museums capture the achievements and products of the pilots, designers and engineers who completed those rickety first flights then set their sights on space while we were just trying to ignore the guy clipping his toenails in seat 17B. Thankfully, there's no need to fasten your seat belt, shut off phones or worry about turbulence and legroom to enjoy the world's best aviation museums. <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/world/national-museum-of-the-us-air-force-in-dayton-ranks-among-the-20-best-aviation-museums-in-the-world>

That's all for now... Good luck with your academic endeavors this semester!



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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