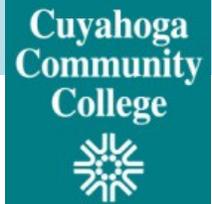


Front Lines

July 2018 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the July 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...

Post 9-11 GI Bill – Book Stipend Delay

We have just been informed by the Veterans Administration within the last few days that there more than likely will be delays in the issuance of the book stipend for all of those using the Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) for Fall 2018 semester. 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.



That being said, you should begin setting aside dollars for books now to ensure you have the necessary books you need when the Fall semester starts. We have not been given a time window as to when the book stipend dollars will be released. Prepare accordingly. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

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](tel: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.* Applicants must have the following completed: Must be an active and registered Tri-C

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!

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 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 are already underway, so do not delay!

New 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 you and your family, courtesy of Health Journeys and Sounds True. All can be accessed via the College's Veterans website: www.tri-c.edu/veterans. The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.

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](http://ohio.gov)

[USAJobs](#)

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](http://VeteransMilitaryJobs.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.

2nd Annual Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) Coming to Tri-C Western Campus August 9 - 11:

Federal, State, and County Organizations, in collaboration with the local community and Veteran partners are here to meet the individual needs of Veterans.

What: The Northeast Ohio Veterans Community Task Force Advisory Committee will host its second annual Veterans Experience Action Center. Specialists from the VA, Vet Center, and Veterans Service Organizations will be available to assist with the following:

- Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals
- Filing new claims and claim development
- Providing information and assistance regarding available VA benefits and counseling
- VA Women's Health Services and G.I.V.E. (Gender Identity Veteran Experience) Clinics will be onsite
- Onsite VA healthcare enrollment and exams
- Answering healthcare and benefit-related questions
- Veteran ID cards and Homestead Exemption

When: Thursday, August 9, 2018: 12 noon —3PM
Friday, August 10, 2018: 9AM—3PM
Saturday, August 11, 2017: 9AM—3 PM

Where: Cuyahoga Community College, Tri-C, Western Campus
11000 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, OH 44130

Questions: **For questions and more information about the event:**
In Northeast Ohio call: 2-1-1
Other locations call: (216) 436-2000
Web Chat: 211oh.org



Cuyahoga Community College
Western Campus Recreation Center
11000 W. Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, Ohio 44130

Hours:
Thursday, Aug. 9: noon – 3 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 10: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 11: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information:
Call 2-1-1
or 216-436-2000
Web chat available at 211oh.org

2nd Annual Veterans Experience Action Center
The most comprehensive Veteran resource event in the region

SAVE THE DATE
Aug. 9, 10, and 11, 2018



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

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.

Special Events

Invitation to USS Cod Submarine Memorial: Veterans Family Fair, on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an event for veterans and their families to enjoy the Cod (free tours and entertainment) and provide an opportunity for them to explore other North Coast Harbor attractions. A brief program is planned at 12:30 p.m. to salute veterans and their families, complete with a deck gun salute.

The event planners are looking for service organizations that provide services to Veterans and families to set up information displays at this event on August 4th. This is a call to any organization that provides services to Veterans and their families. Please contact Paul Farace at 216-408-6991 or by email: pfarace@att.net, if you have any questions or are interested in participating.

The following are other 2018 rides and events supporting firefighters and law enforcement such as the Cops Ride on June 24th and Never Forget 9/11 Ride and Ceremony on September 19th. Find more information here: www.firefightersmemorialride.com or www.copsride.com.

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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