



Front Lines – March 2017 Edition

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

Early Registration – Fall 2017: As the result of the recent passage of Ohio House Bill 488, veterans at ALL State of Ohio institutions of higher learning are now eligible for early/priority registration. Early registration for Fall 2017 Semester at Tri-C starts April 10, 2017 and runs through April 16. Veteran students will be notified via their Tri-C e-mail account on MyTri-C Space. Note there is no early/priority registration for Summer 2017 Semester.

Counseling Appointments: All veteran students, whether attending Summer or Fall 2017 Semester classes, should be calling to make appointments with Counseling **now** to discuss/review schedules. Do not wait until the last minute.

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 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 student veterans 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: the next Cuyahoga Community College Academic Enrichment course(s) begins March 25, 2017. Weekend, day, and evening sessions are available. The Academic Enrichment (AE) course assists eligible US Military veterans prepare for English, math, and computer studies. All AE courses, including books and supplies, are **no cost to eligible veterans**. Call 216-987-4938 for more information.

Since 1973, VUB has provided comprehensive educational support services to eligible U.S. military veterans interested in pursuing a college degree or certificate. Services include academic enrichment classes, math and English tutors, assistance with applying for federal student aid, and transition into a college or university of their choice.

Classes begin soon, so don't delay! Check out the VUB website at:

www.tric.edu/apply/specialinterest/veterans/Pages/VeteransUpwardBound.aspx.

Special Events

Vietnam Veterans Day: Once again, Vietnam Veterans Day will be commemorated at the City of Garfield Heights Civic Center. A social hour will begin at 6 PM with the ceremony at 7 PM. More information will be forthcoming.

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Events Calendar

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

Cleveland Tank Plant Homecoming Military Show and Swap Meet: The International Exposition (I-X) Center and the Military Vehicle Preservation Association announced the 42nd annual MVPA International Convention will be held in conjunction with the Cleveland Tank Plant Homecoming Military Show and Swap Meet June 22-24, 2017 at the I-X Center. www.IXClevelandTankShow.com

Benefits Support: The Veterans Service Commission will have a representative in the following Cuyahoga County Public Library branches on selected dates 9 AM – 3 PM to assist Veterans will filing for VA benefits, temporary financial assistance and transportation (bus tickets) for VA appointments.

- North Olmsted Branch
- North Royalton Branch
- Solon Branch
- South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch

See the following link for further information: [M:\BSD_Veterans Service Commission Poster \(3\) \(3\).pdf](#)

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.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society: Phi Theta Kappa, founded in 1918, is recognized as the official honor society for community colleges by the American Association of Community Colleges.

Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunities through Honors in Action to develop critical skills like problem solving, project planning, team building, effective communication, and conflict resolution. However, members are not required to participate in chapter activities or programs.

Membership is based on academic achievement and is conferred by invitation of the local chapter. All of the following criteria must be met:

- Students must be currently enrolled
- Have completed at least 12 credits that may be applied to an associate degree
- Have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society has four local chapters at Cuyahoga Community College

- Alpha Epsilon Eta at the Eastern Campus
- Alpha Zeta Delta at the Metropolitan Campus
- Chi Omega at the Western Campus
- Beta Upsilon Beta at the Westshore Campus

Membership is an excellent investment... Information about the \$45 reimbursement scholarship and link to the application can be found at: <http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/honors/phi-theta-kappa-honor-society.html>

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

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