

# Front Lines

## May 2020 Edition



Greetings and welcome to the May 2020 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...



### May Letter to Students

It's incredibly hard to believe that we wrapped up spring semester and have started again for the summer. The world is a very different place at the start of this semester than it was at the beginning of the last one. We have overcome incredible challenges individually, as a college, as a state and globally. We still have miles to go, and we know some of those miles will still be tough.

But we also know that you have collectively shown a desire to be tougher. You have worked through technological challenges, adjusted to instructors' new normal, and you completed classes in impressive numbers. While there have been (and continue to be) struggles, there have also been victories as well.

As you continue to have questions or if you are struggling in anyway, please reach out to us. We have tutoring services available, and we are working hard to maintain up-to-date resource information to assist with basic needs. Please reach out to your campus representative, or the tutors, all listed below, if you need additional assistance, or if you just want to talk! You can call us at (216) 307-6385 and leave a voicemail. We will return your call within one business day.

For more information please see the link below to Tri-C's COVID-19 Student Information page.

<https://www.tri-c.edu/administrative-departments/business-continuity/covid-19/student-resources.html>

If you have further questions, you can also contact your Veterans Center representative using the information below:

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### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019/20 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!

## Important Financial Information

Summer CARES Act has opened! <https://www.tri-c.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid-and-scholarships/cares-act.html>

The CARES Act resulted in over \$1,050,000 being disbursed to nearly 900 Tri-C students who qualified for the COVID-19 Aid. The first step in applying for this aid was to fill out the FAFSA. Students who qualified for Pell assistance were able to access this additional funding through the CARES Act. These funds were only available for students who were enrolled for Spring semester. At this point, there is no information for any COVID-19 summer aid. We do encourage students who have a current FAFSA application on file.

Be sure to check out scholarship opportunities as well at [Student Financial Aid and Scholarships](#). Also, (on the same webpage) check out the Full Tuition Assistance program offers amazing opportunity for individuals who are interested in a certificate or degree – might be a great option for someone you know! Check with your campus rep if you are using military education benefits, as they could be impacted if you choose to use other financial aid.

## Summer and Fall Classes.

There's a lot to be said for momentum. As we all adjust to new ways of doing things, we want to encourage you to continue with the mission! If you are currently enrolled in classes, remember that we have tutors designated to assist veterans. If you are challenged by your coursework or the online format, please let us know so that we can work together to find success. Note that while summer classes are online, Tri-C continues to explore ways to have on-ground options this fall, with safety precautions in place.

Registration is now open for fall. You can register online, and access certification forms via <https://www.tri-c.edu/veterans/>. Remember that the VA will only pay for classes that are part of your program sequence, (but you CAN investigate to see if you qualify for the Full Tuition Assistance for programs that are NOT accessible under military benefits). If you have questions, you can reach out to your Veteran Center Campus rep or you can call 216-307-6385 and leave a voice message.

## Housing Allowances

When residential courses are moved to online offerings by the college, your housing allowances are unaffected. However, some courses may have been originally offered online. As you registered for summer classes, you could only see online offerings. Please check with your campus rep if you are concerned about inadvertently choosing no "residential" classes.

## Student Editor Contributions

We are excited to have a student editor contribute to our Frontline newsletter, providing a spotlight on pieces important to you as veterans and as students. Victor Lewis is our current student editor. Here are some news headlines that he found interesting, along with a few of his personal perspectives.

[Veterans' groups, government brace for surge in mental health needs](#)

[The Marines Wanted a University to Study Co-ed Boot Camp. No One Applied...Wow! How would that even work?](#)

[Schumer calls on VA to explain use of unproven drug on vets...Scandal?](#)

[As Trump pulls back from virus, Congress races to fill void...This is far from over!](#)

[US approves new coronavirus antigen test with fast results...Let's pray it actually works!](#)

[Trump says 'no rush' on more aid as jobless crisis grows...Whaaat?](#)

[US unemployment surges to a Depression-era level of 14.7%...No comment](#)

Esper: Pentagon ready for any new wave of coronavirus....Yeah! Right!

Disabled American Veterans offering \$250 grants to veterans left unemployed by coronavirus pandemic

## **Deployment**

National Guard members who were deployed for the pandemic are concerned that their deployment period may be cut short resulting in lack of benefits. Click to read more. [https://www.stripes.com/pentagon-leaves-open-possibility-that-some-guardsmen-could-fall-short-of-accruing-benefits-in-virus-response-1.631126?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm\\_campaign=Daily+Headlines](https://www.stripes.com/pentagon-leaves-open-possibility-that-some-guardsmen-could-fall-short-of-accruing-benefits-in-virus-response-1.631126?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines)

Remember, if you receive orders to deploy, please contact your campus center representative for further direction.

## **Tri-C Operations under COVID 19 Restrictions**

Tri-C continues to operate under COVID 19 Restrictions. However, the college is beginning to reopen limited areas of the college to better support students. Limited campus operations will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you need to visit the campus, please plan to take precautions such as wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. Check the Tri-C webpage for additional updates.

## **More Headlines of Interest**

If you own a vehicle – Lock it! As cars are being driven less, thieves are taking advantage of the inattention. 7 of 11 Navy aircraft carriers are now back in full swing after overcoming challenges brought on by COVID-19.

## **Federal Student Loan Payment Info, Interest on Student Loans Waived During National Emergency**

Continue to watch for updates on the following story:

Secretary DeVos announced that the office of Federal Student Aid is working to provide student loan relief to tens of millions of borrowers during the COVID-19 national emergency.

All borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility during the national emergency. This will allow borrowers to temporarily stop their payments without worrying about accruing interest. Please note that you must request suspension of payments. It is not an automatic suspension.

## **Time running out for transfer of benefits**

“Long-serving troops and reservists have a little less than two months remaining to transfer their Post 9-/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse or children before a new restriction kicks in on July 12.

While soldiers still must serve for six years before being allowed to request a GI Bill transfer, they will no longer have the opportunity to do so after they have served longer than 16 years.

This new rule will affect senior active-duty personnel and those who for whatever reason are unable to transfer any portion of their benefits to one or more dependents before that July 12 deadline.”

From [https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/transition/2019/05/23/new-gi-bill-transfer-rule-will-impact-older-service-members/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Rebootcamp%2003.20.20&utm\\_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Rebootcamp](https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/transition/2019/05/23/new-gi-bill-transfer-rule-will-impact-older-service-members/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Rebootcamp%2003.20.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Rebootcamp).

## Debt Management help from the VA

During the COVID-19 emergency, the VA Debt Management Center (DMC) is offering temporary financial relief if you are unable to pay your GI Bill benefit debt during this crisis.

### WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

If you are financially unable to pay your existing VA debt due to the COVID-19 crisis, you can request a temporary collection suspension, hardship refund of offsets or an extended repayment plan. Call 1-800-827-0648 to receive information on these relief options and to let us know which option you prefer.

If you have already made payment arrangements for your debt, and you would like those arrangements to remain in place, you do not need to contact our office- your payment arrangement will continue.

If you have a new VA debt, we will temporarily stop debt collections. You don't have to act.

DMC will not refer delinquent debts to credit reporting agencies during the crisis.

DMC suspended all collection action on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Treasury during the crisis.

If you have a question about your VA Benefits or the status of a claim, please call 1-888-442-4551.

We will continue to update our website: [www.va.gov/debtman](http://www.va.gov/debtman) with information regarding DMC's debt collection activities during the COVID-19 crisis.

## More from the VA

### Attention Veterans and Family members who have a VBA overpayment.

If you are affected by the COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS), have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact DMC at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

## Other resource info

### Commissary Hours

Be aware that commissary hours may be impacted by the current health crisis. Consider calling ahead to determine hours of operation and possible restrictions.

## Lunches for CMSD Students

[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001nZYmNHWajyt0baZqhIPwuHFWQ0kQQMUonYQ7VFdYUxUP05U3pOxexT6q-\\_KEsjZ22rWnAmM3BP9wjDO7o\\_qXbKhhcEnbaFvJ72jEXqQMDPUE\\_8sCbeax-zL61vUSIB3Y7rkP-Ue2soqngMTMc\\_E-CdKqo2wJapOU6n02o1tzcAgOG1P8izbHugD4XpfifrKHCKESZFd7wATzwDTY4YA0zTHGOPxiZg-5vCtZuicpW5vmlm77R6dZaucQXf7GkYSVuWS25hisi2KgHoGPFZvJnQ==&c=kRcwe3iujgrTVipd8CsZzVFdaYJ2E\\_oKq-930ooGsCyM0XzaYVfC7w==&ch=s6g2H9EXDBxxu2SRbG8Mh\\_fm5JLWRiSZse9gYtG8V4JDxUTPquo7QQ==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001nZYmNHWajyt0baZqhIPwuHFWQ0kQQMUonYQ7VFdYUxUP05U3pOxexT6q-_KEsjZ22rWnAmM3BP9wjDO7o_qXbKhhcEnbaFvJ72jEXqQMDPUE_8sCbeax-zL61vUSIB3Y7rkP-Ue2soqngMTMc_E-CdKqo2wJapOU6n02o1tzcAgOG1P8izbHugD4XpfifrKHCKESZFd7wATzwDTY4YA0zTHGOPxiZg-5vCtZuicpW5vmlm77R6dZaucQXf7GkYSVuWS25hisi2KgHoGPFZvJnQ==&c=kRcwe3iujgrTVipd8CsZzVFdaYJ2E_oKq-930ooGsCyM0XzaYVfC7w==&ch=s6g2H9EXDBxxu2SRbG8Mh_fm5JLWRiSZse9gYtG8V4JDxUTPquo7QQ==)

## Call Before Going to the VA

Veterans: Call before visiting your VA facility. Got a fever, cold, cough or flu-like symptoms? Are you worried that you have a viral illness? The last thing you want to do is get out of the house to see the doctor, exposing yourself (and others) to more potential bugs and viruses. VA can make it easier and safer to get back to health with virtual care through My HealthVet and the VA Video Connect app on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

## Online Resources

### ***ONLINE ENROLLMENT SERVICES***

#### **Academic Counseling:**

- [Counseling Center Hours and Information](#)
- [e-Advising](#)
- [Schedule an Appointment](#)

**Application for Admission:** [Apply](#)

**Assessment/Testing:** [Testing Center Hours and Information](#)

#### **College Credit Plus (CCP):**

- [College Credit Plus Information](#)
- [CCP Student and Parent Checklist](#)

**Financial Aid:** [Student Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

**International Student Services:** [International Student Information](#)

#### **New Student Orientation:**

- [Information and FAQ](#)
- [Online Orientation](#)

**Registration:** [Register for Classes](#)

**Student Accessibility Services:** [Information and Resources](#)

**Tuition Payments:** [Pay Tuition](#)

### ***ONLINE STUDENT SERVICES***

#### **Bookstore:**

- [Barnes & Noble Bookstore](#)
- [Find Textbooks](#)
- [Textbook Rentals](#)

#### **Career Services:**

- [Career Services Information](#)
- [Student Career Services](#)
- [Schedule an Online Appointment](#)

#### **Library:**

- [Library Information](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Access Your 'My Library' Account](#)
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#### **Psychological Counseling:**

- [Personal Counseling](#)
- [Help Is Here](#)

**Technology Learning Centers:** [Hours and Locations](#)

**Transfer Centers:**

- [Transfer Center Information](#)
- [Schedule an Appointment](#)

**Tutoring Services:**

- [Tutoring Information](#)
- [Smarthinking Online Tutoring](#)

**Veteran Services:** [Veteran Resources](#)

**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](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans). The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.