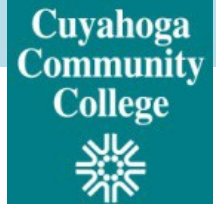


# Front Lines

## November 2017 Edition



### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2017 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!](#)

Greetings and welcome to this the November 2017 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...

**Military Friendly for 9<sup>th</sup> Straight Year:** We've just been notified by Victory Media that Cuyahoga Community College has for the ninth straight year in a row been awarded national status as a Military Friendly School!! This extremely gratifying because as the global accounting firm of Ernst & Young which conducts the survey with Victory Media really tightened up the criteria over the past three years. But the news is even better... This year just over 2,000 two-and-four year schools applied for the award. Of that number, 700 were community colleges. **When the tabulation was done Tri-C was ranked 2nd in the nation among those 700 community colleges in its service to veterans and military families!!**

**Veterans' Day – Tri-C Ceremony:** Note that on Thursday, November 9th the Veterans Initiative will be conducting the College's Veterans Day Ceremony at the flagpole in the Veterans Memorial Garden at the West Campus. Activities will begin at 10:30 am. and will include a presentation by the last surviving Tuskegee Airman, Dr. Harold Brown. This ceremony is being held on Thursday, as the College will be closed Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day observance.

**Veterans Day – Cleveland City Hall:** The area's largest Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on traditional Veterans Day, Friday, November 10 in the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall located at 601 Lakeside Avenue in downtown Cleveland. Ceremonies begin at 11 am. The year's event will again honor one of Tri-C's own student veterans, Laura Oluich (USMC). Refreshments will be served. Following this ceremony will be the City of Cleveland's Veterans Day parade, which will step off in front of City Hall.

**Spring 2018 Registration Underway:** Spring 2018 registration is underway. As noted during previous registration evolutions, those of you planning on using GI Bill benefits for Spring Semester 2018 should plan on stopping by to see the GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Enrollment Center Office as soon as possible (West, Westshore & Corporate College West – Kristen Ibanez, Metro – Della Hilbert, East – Vanessa Traylor and Maria Oriti). You should also be stopping by your respective Counseling Office to insure you are tracking with your academic plan. The reason for the early "jump" is to avoid any delays in processing GI Bill checks in St. Louis. The early start helps to ensure your account is credited with payment prior to the start of the semester. Lack of payment to the account could result in possible disenrollment. 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 Upward Bound

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)



**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.

## Meet Your Veteran Services Team!



**Lerner Veterans Center/East Campus – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor ESS:** Welcome to the Fall Semester! My name is Alaina Foster, 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.

### **Metro Campus Veterans Center: Metro Veteran Services & Programs Office MSS 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

- Learn how to maximize your veteran benefits to your unique situation
- Create a plan of action with our steps to success to save time and money
- Learn how to navigate veteran/academic scholarships while tackling financial aid
- Access employment, education, and community resources in your own backyard
- Explore Veteran Education Access Program courses in math and English with qualifying service

SGT G's hours of operation: Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm  
Wednesday 9am-1pm  
**Phone: 216-987-6137**



### **Meet your Metro Veteran Representative: Mrs. Ashley Gorbulja**

Ashley is continuing to serve in the Ohio Army National Guard as an NCO and has been serving Metro Campus veteran student population for going on four years. She is a recent 2016 graduate of the University of Akron of two degrees and currently pursuing her Masters at Northeast Ohio Medical University. She is able to provide personal and relevant experiences to include an array of resources and benefit knowledge on the various processes of returning to school and continuing your education. Stop in to see her today!

### **West Campus NEW 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 10 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

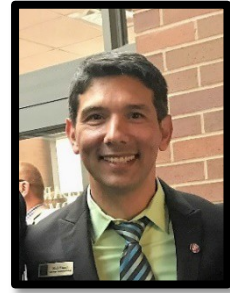
Locations:

BUC 122

WSHCS 101

CCW 108

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

Phone: 216-791-3800 ext. 6830



## 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 Reability)
- **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.



## Events & Programs

### MODERN WARRIOR LIVE

WATCH HERE: [Introducing Modern Warrior](#)

Created by Dominick Farinacci & Jaymes Poling

Join us for the DEBUT performance!

Simon & Rose Mandel Theatre

4250 Richmond Road

Highland Hills, Ohio 44122

[Event Details](#)



**4th Annual City of Cleveland VETERAN'S DAY PARADE**

**Friday, 10 November 2017**  
Parade Begins at Lakeside Ave E. and W. Mall Dr.  
**12:30 p.m.**

For more information call (216) 952-2884

### DOT VETERAN GRANT

Tri-C has received a Department of Transportation grant to train military veterans or their spouses.

[Eligibility requirements link](#)

# 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:** to ensure proper enrollment and funds hit account for the start of the semester.

November 30<sup>th</sup> for Spring Semester

April 30<sup>th</sup> for Summer Semester

June 30<sup>th</sup> for Fall Semester

## [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, MakeThe 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! 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](http://va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp).
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to [com/findastore](http://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](http://publichealth.va.gov/flu) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

## Veteran Alumni Spotlight

### Ticardo Williams



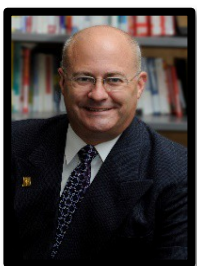
From 1993-1996, Ticardo L. Williams served as an Air Transportation Specialist in the United States Air Force. Ticardo was stationed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and had the opportunity to learn conversational German and earn the National Defense Service Medal before returning home to Cleveland. His journey then hit a roadblock; he was seeking treatment for substance addiction when he met a counselor from Cuyahoga Community College who spoke to him about the outreach opportunities available through the College. Williams said, "I had been praying about what I should do next to improve my life," so he turned to Tri-C for the training and education he would need to pursue a career in social work.

Ticardo worked in Tri-C's Customer Service department while taking classes, and thanks his team for being "so encouraging and accommodating" throughout his entire time at Tri-C. Williams also credits the support from Charmain Gordon, the TRiO department, and the awarded scholarships he received from Tri-C, College Now, and the Cleveland Foundation.

After graduating magna cum laude with an Associate of Arts degree from Tri-C in 2014, Williams immediately transferred to Cleveland State University. Ticardo earned his bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2016 and is on track to achieve a master's degree in December 2017. Having once faced addiction himself, his goal is to help people suffering from chemical dependencies overcome those obstacles, achieve an education, and find employment. Williams is currently working as the Intake Coordinator and Counselor at Stella Maris, Inc., and recently published his first book, *IJP I'm Just Praying*, which is available at [www.tlawayne.com](http://www.tlawayne.com).

Williams offers this advice to Tri-C students:

"Fill out those scholarship applications, try to get into TRiO, utilize the tutors, and never give up. Pray."



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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