

Front Lines

September 2017 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the September 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...

Welcome to Tri-C... and Welcome Back to Returning Vets: All of us associated with the Tri-C Veterans Initiative would like "Welcome" to those veterans just entering the College... as well as "Welcome back" to those returning to continue your education. This fall there are some 650 veterans registered at Tri-C. Approximately 3.5 percent of the students currently enrolled at the College are veterans or affiliated with the military (such as Reservists, National Guard, spouses and dependents).

Veteran Campus Support Teams Ready to go 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

Reminders moving into fall 2017

- **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 which was AUG 29.
- **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.

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:** We would like to remind all of the agreement between Tri-C and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to provide FREE unlimited RTA ridership to Tri-C credit students. Frequently Asked Questions about the program, please visit www.tri-c.edu/RTA.

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



Lerner Veterans Center/East Campus – 2nd 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 2nd 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 1st 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.

I would like to send a heartfelt farewell to my assistant Kimberly Milkovich, who has moved towards bigger and better opportunities within the college and introduce you to our new assistant Allen Bray, who has done a fantastic job of welcoming the new veterans to the campus this semester. Please stop by and introduce yourself, grab a cup of coffee, use the computer lab or relax between classes. We hope to see you soon!

Metro Campus Veterans Center: Metro Veteran Services & Programs Office MSS 5th 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 Upward Bound Refresher 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:

2nd 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/.

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.



Events & Programs

Vietnam Combat Veterans Memorial 'The Moving Wall': September 21-24, 2017 at Perry High School, 1 Success Blvd., Perry OH 44081. The opening ceremony will begin at 7 PM Thursday, September 21 and a closing ceremony held at 6 PM Sunday, September 24, 2017.

Fisher House Fundraiser: A special fundraiser to benefit the Greater Cleveland Fisher House is planned for 8 PM – midnight September 30, 2017 at the Holy Spirit Party Center at 5500 W 54 Street, Parma, OH. The event is open to the public and includes raffles, food and dancing. Proceeds will benefit families of patients receiving medical care at military and VA medical centers. For details, call Barb Haselow at 440.886.6157 or Marge Smith at 216.224.4178.

Ohio Airborne Days: The 55th All Ohio Airborne Days will be celebrated Oct 5, 7 and 7, 2017. For more information, M:\Ohio Airborne Days.jpg

Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade: The City of Cleveland will collaborate and host the annual Veterans Day ceremony and Parade on Friday, November 10, 2017. A limited number of display tables are available to Veteran support groups interesting in displaying or presenting information to the attendees. Please contact Marty Flask at telephone 216.420.7606 or MFlask@city.cleveland.oh.us to reserve a spot. First come, first served. Note: The Red Cross, VA Medical Center, USO, Homeless Veterans Outreach and VA Vet Center have already reserved a table.

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

November 30th for Spring Semester

April 30th for Summer Semester

June 30th 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.



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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