

# Front Lines

## October 2017 Edition



### Veteran Services & Programs Updates

Greetings and welcome to this the October 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...

This Fall, the College rolled out a tuition incentive that puts money back in your pocket for achieving academic milestones: [30 Credit Hour Standard!](#)

It's simple—take 30 credits between the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters and you'll get a 50% reduction on the cost of summer tuition!\* By taking 30 credits within the academic year, you'll not only graduate sooner, but also increase your academic success. Plus, Tri-C now offers a summer [RTA U-Pass](#), making transportation to and from campus easy!

To assist you with planning for graduation, you can use the [Graduation Calculator](#) to ensure your personal and academic goals are aligned and that you are on target to complete 30 credit hours throughout the academic year.

Sign up now on [my Tri-C space](#) — Click on "Paying for College" and locate the form under "Tuition Information"



Don't want to take classes in summer, but still want to earn rewards? Check out our [15+ Perks Program!](#)

- [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.

*\*For credits take up to 12 in summer term. Summer term is mandatory.*

**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
- ACCESS (disability Enrollment Services)
- Counseling
- Key Career Transition Centers
- Financial Aid
- Veterans Education Access Program
- Recruiting

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)

### Reminders moving into Spring 2018 Registration (starts October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.
- **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 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.

## 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 and 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 refresher courses in math and English with qualifying service

**SGT G's Hours of Operation:** Monday & Tuesday 9:30am-5pm  
Wednesday 9:30am-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

**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

# 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:

To ensure proper enrollment and funds are allotted to your account for the start of the semester please complete the GI Bill Semester Certification Form and submit it to your campus certifier.

[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.

## 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.

1. To find your local VA, visit [va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp](http://va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp).
2. To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to [com/findastore](http://com/findastore).
3. To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.
4. 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).

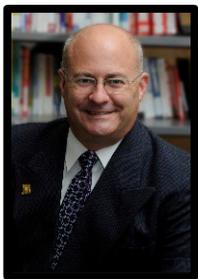
# Veteran Alumni Spotlight

Joseph Hlavin



Joseph Hlavin graduated cum laude from Cuyahoga Community College in 1991 with an Associate of Applied Science degree and certification as a physician assistant. He then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Educational Human Resource Development degree from Texas A&M University. Hlavin began his career in the military, where he served as a hospital corpsman in the United States Navy, and received a Meritorious Unit Accommodation. As he was preparing to discharge from the Navy, Hlavin had a strong desire to further his medical education. He found the Tri-C Physician Assistant program matched his needs exactly, due to the surgical focus, affordability, and proximity to family support. "The PA program at Tri-C was excellent," Hlavin said. "My learning exceptionally focused and prepared me quite well for a career in a very challenging surgical sub-specialty – neurosurgery."

Hlavin shares his passion and expertise while serving as a clinical preceptor at Weill-Cornel Medical College and University of North Texas, among others. He is currently program director of the Texas Brain & Spine Institute Postgraduate PA Residency in Neurosurgery, and founding program director of the Texas A&M University Physician Assistant program. Hlavin is regularly invited to speak at national conferences, and continues to pursue his lifelong love of learning as a Ph.D. Student at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.



Signing off.... Sincerely,

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

