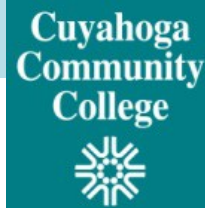


Front Lines

November 2018 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the November 2018 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...

Post 9-11 GI Bill – Book Stipend Delays Continue

We have been updated by the Veterans Administration that delays in the issuance of the book stipend for all of those using the Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) for Fall 2018 semester still continue. The delay is the result of upgrades being made to the VA-ONCE software system. Please note that this is an issue outside of our control. The College has been communicating with Federal legislators from Northeast Ohio (Senate and Congressional) about this issue and pushing them for assistance in resolution.



That being said, you should begin setting aside dollars for books now to ensure you have the necessary books you need when the Spring 2019 semester starts. We have not been given a time window as to when the book stipend dollars will be released. Prepare accordingly. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Spring 2019 Registration Open

The following are important steps for all to follow:

- **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](tel: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.

Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2018 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!

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



West Campus Crile Veterans Center: 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:

The Metro Veterans Service Center Representative - Mr. Rick DeChant

Location: MSS 500 5th floor Phone: (216) 987-3193

The Alfred Learner Veterans Center at Eastern Campus - Representative Mrs. Alaina Foster

Location: ESS LER CTR second floor Phone: 216-987-2013

Brunswick University Center / Westshore / Corporate College West - Representative Mr. Mick Munoz

Locations: BUC 122 WSHCS 101 CCW 108 Phone: 216-987-3536

Crile Veterans Center /West Campus - Representative Matt Miller

Location: WSS G1112 Phone: (216) 987-5204

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

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 Education Access Program

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

Veterans Education Access Program – At the Ready: The Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) at Tri-C provides FREE comprehensive support services to eligible veterans who need additional help in Math, English and Science to complete their first degree. If you are enrolled or have been placed in a remedial Math or English course and are in need of additional help in these areas, please call the VEAP main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes are already underway, so do not delay!

Here's the tentative schedule for 2019 VEAP classes.

Spring I	Wkday Jan 22-Mar 7	Sat Jan 26 – Mar 9
Spring II	Wkday Mar 19-May 9	Sat Mar 23-May 11
Summer I	Wkday May 28-July 18	Sat Jun 1-July 20

VEAP Tutoring Information: All should also note that VEAP provides tutoring services.

Monday: Metro Open Tutoring 10-2

Tuesday: East Tutoring by appointment 10-3 (Call 216-987-4938 for appointment time)

Wednesday: Metro Open Tutoring 11-3 *except* days of Education Workshops (workshops are usually the 1st Weds of each month), West Tutoring 2:00-6:30

Metro Computer Lab hours 9-4 M-Th. Fridays by apt.

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

Smartphone feature provides immediate access to Veterans Crisis Line: The VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. **Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.**

Employment Opportunities / Links

[Department of Veterans Affairs Link with the VA on Facebook](#)

[City of Cleveland](#)

Veteran Job Search Assistance: If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit www.gunnyret.com to schedule a “First Call”.

[Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Support:](#)

[VA JOBS Home](#)

Ohio.gov

[USAJobs](#)

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](#)

[Ohio Federal Government Jobs](#)

Unsure of a career path? [Check out Career Coach](#)

Create an Account, discover your interests, potential career stats, and career scopes in your local area that are adjacent degree paths with Tri-C programs. Make sure to check out the MOS option to see what your military skills transfer to in our programs.

Ohio Means Veterans Jobs: Ohio employers understand the business case for hiring military and Veterans. The unemployment rate in Ohio for Veterans is lower than it is for civilians. Use Ohio Means Veterans Jobs to:

- * Review Veteran resumes
- * Post jobs
- * Register as Veteran-friendly
- * Use the military skills translator - <https://bit.ly/2Rdo5mH>

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.



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: Need to be submitted in advance to the academic start date of intent (typically 30 prior window).

[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.

VETERANS' DAY SPECIAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE:

- **2018 Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade:** The annual City of Cleveland Veterans Day Ceremony will be held in the Rotunda of City Hall at 11 a.m. Friday, November 9, 2018 followed by the annual Veterans Day Parade which will step off at 12:30 PM, immediately following the ceremony.
- **Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument/Veterans Day Observance – Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018 at 11am.** In preparation for the Monument's Veterans Day Observance, a Poppy Station has been created in the Monument.
 - We invite the public to make a Remembrance Poppy to be displayed at the Ohio History Center during the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. A red colored template and other art supplies are available for the public to make their own poppies out of paper. They are then offered the opportunity to write the name of a World War I veteran from their family or our community on the head of the poppy.
 - The completed poppies will be collected by staff and will be delivered to the Ohio History Center for inclusion in their commemoration of the end of WWI on Nov. 11, 1918.
 - The Poppy Station will remain at the Monument until Nov. 11th. Those poppies made after Nov 1st will be used for the Monument's Veteran's Day ceremony on Nov 11, 2018.

TRI-C Campus Events for Veterans Day

- Corporate College West Veterans Day Awareness display, 10 am – 12 noon, Wednesday, November 7
- West Campus Galleria ceremony and program, 11:00 am, Friday, November 9th
- Metro Campus Veterans Reception, November 13

Wreaths Across America: If anyone is interested in sponsoring a wreath for a family member, friend or our US Military in general:

https://donate.wreathscrossamerica.org/?pageId=19520&relatedIds=0&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=February&utm_term=Donate&utm_content=Button



Allen Eugene Bray, Jr.
Cuyahoga Community College
2018 Student Veteran of the Year

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALLEN BRAY, the 2018 Tri-C Student Veteran of the Year. One of the first things you learn about Allen Eugene Bray, Jr. when you meet him is that he is proud to be a native Clevelander. Born and raised on Cleveland's east side, he pushed himself scholastically to graduate from St. Peter Chanel High School. Following graduation he embarked on service to our nation in the United States Army where he served honorably from 2012 – 2015, including a combat tour in Afghanistan in 2014 for Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his Army service Allen was the recipient of the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/ Campaign Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

Following his Army service Allen took on the challenge of college and enrolled in Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) where he again has pushed himself in his studies and will be graduating Cum Laude with an Associates of Arts degree in December 2018. During his time at Tri-C he has also engaged as an active member of the campus community and well as the broader community in issues and events where he continues to give back to his fellow veterans and their families. Those events and activities include: volunteered in Human Resources Department at Ahuja Medical Center (2015-16), VA Work Study for the Alfred Lerner Veterans Center at Tri-C's Eastern Campus (2016-17), volunteered for Tri-C's Veterans Day events, participated in the Veterans History Project with the Library of Congress (2018), summer intern for U. S. Congressman James Renacci (2018), and he volunteered for the Vietnam Veteran Wall exhibit at Tri-C's Western Campus (2018). He is currently serving an internship at The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center.

Career plans after graduation include beginning a full-time position in Human Resources Management at The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center where he continues to impact the service received by his fellow veterans. Allen also plans to continue his education by earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management through a partnership with Hiram College and Cuyahoga Community College beginning in January 2019.

Allen was recognized for his award by former U. S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at the Tri-C Presidential Scholars Lunch on November 1, and by City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson at Veterans Day ceremonies at Cleveland City Hall on November 9.

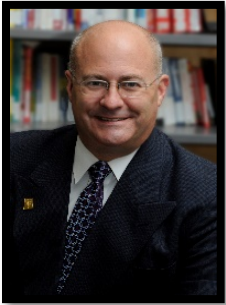
Finally... Veterans' Day Reflections: I think we all would agree we have a lot to be thankful for this Veterans Day. First and foremost if you're reading this you're probably home and not deployed. For all who have "been there and done that" we know there are no "bad days" here at home. That being said as we head into Veterans' Day and the upcoming Holidays let's not forgot that some of our fellow veterans who although they are home are still struggling with multiple issues. Keep an eye out for them and let's do what we can "to cover their six."

Let's also take a moment to remember all of our service men and women around the world who will spend Veterans Day manning a post, patrolling a perimeter, or standing a watch. May they all be safe.

And finally... remember too all who have served in ALL conflicts and never returned home to enjoy another holiday season with their families. May they and their families be at peace.

Take the time to show your Veteran Pride on Friday, November 9th by wearing red, white and blue or something reflective of the branch of service in which you served (such Army, Navy, USMC, Air Force or USCG sweatshirt, etc.).

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – 2017 Inductee
Executive Director
Veterans Initiative
Cuyahoga Community College