

NAIMES

National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services

educating our people in uniform

NAIMES is an organization comprised of institutional members dedicated to the delivery of quality postsecondary education programs to the military community.

Through collaborative partnerships with DoD voluntary education leadership, sister organizations and agencies, NAIMES continuously seeks to promote quality degree programs, student support services, and principles of good practice. At its core, NAIMES is committed to the academic success of students within the military community.

**NAIMES –
We're on the Web!
www.naimes.org**



From the President

Kelly Wilmeth
NAIMES President
President@NAIMES.org

2017 has begun with a new administration and major changes to the political landscape. Coping with and embracing change, especially rapid change, can feel overwhelming. Keeping up with the sheer volume of information that affects our lives and careers can be exhausting, which is why organizations such as NAIMES are so important. Providing a forum for us to exchange information; to stay abreast of important policies and guidance from DoD, the VA, and the DoE; to spotlight as well as provide professional development opportunities that enhance each of us in our leadership roles; to implement additional and better ways to assist our service members, veterans and their families in their educational and career pursuits; and, to network with our colleagues and peers are just a few examples of what the NAIMES organization provides to help us cope with change.

As a member-driven organization which advocates for the military student and partners with the military education community for the betterment of off-duty Voluntary Education programs, it is more important than ever that we keep up with and embrace change. As such, within the pages of this newsletter I hope you will find relevant and informative articles that showcase opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our students, to engage in important dialogue and calls to action, to share best practices, and to prepare for more change on the horizon from the federal agencies with whom we work so closely.

At the annual CCME Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia in March, five students will be recognized as recipients of the annual NAIMES and MBS Student Spotlight Awards. The recipients are service members, a veteran and a military spouse. I was energized by their stories and the impact that education, and this scholarship, have had and will continue to have on their lives. We hope to meet these exceptional scholarship recipients during the Awards Luncheon portion of the annual CCME symposium. And speaking of CCME, please pay close attention to the article on the NAIMES roundtable sessions that we will host during that week of the symposium. We encourage your active engagement in each session. Also included in this Newsletter is a summary of the NAIMES Annual meeting held last October and a truly interesting initiative that Coastline Community College has spearheaded with multiple industry leaders in California to develop safety-focused training initiatives and apprenticeship programs that lead to high paying jobs and career advancement within safety career fields. This particular program is something that could truly expand to other like-minded community colleges and industry leaders.

In prep for change on the horizon with DoD, Dawn Bilodeau, Chief, DoD Voluntary Education, provided a memo she wrote to prepare us for the new DoD Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program that she will describe in detail at the CCME Conference. This compliance program will affect all institutions participating in the DoD Voluntary Education Program so let's be prepared to actively engage with Dawn and her staff to ensure all of our questions are answered.

NAIMES Mission Statement

NAIMES is a member-driven organization which advocates for the military student and partners with the military education community for the betterment of off-duty Voluntary Education programs. As a force for academic quality and continued improvement, and as a military student advocate (to include veterans, family members and DoD Civilians), NAIMES members promote best practices, provide a perspective of a diverse higher learning community, and will take positions that reflect the collective will of the membership.

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From the President, cont.

On page eight, I am so pleased to highlight the VA ACME and its President, Mike Camden. Please join me in congratulating the VA ACME and its Board as they are this year's recipient of CCME's ACME award for its significant contributions to the cause of military and veteran education. The VA ACME, like all of the state ACMEs, is another excellent venue for engagement to help us stay abreast of information and best manage within a rapidly changing environment.

In closing, I would like to give a special shout out to Gary Harrah, the NAIMES immediate past president. We all thrived under Gary's leadership during his two-year tenure leading the NAIMES organization. In his new role, he will provide valued assistance as I strive to encourage engagement at all levels of military and veteran student education and to embrace change as an opportunity to grow and improve.

NAIMES and MBS Direct Announce 2016 Student Spotlight Awards Recipients

Joseph H. Houghton
Director of Military Programs - Global Campus, Troy University
NAIMES Treasurer

The NAIMES / MBS Direct Student Spotlight Awards were introduced to highlight the role that higher education plays in the lives of our military students, our veterans and our military spouses. Through the submission of applications, resumes and a written response to a specific prompt, our pool of applicants vies for one of 5 annual awards valued at \$1,200 each; two awards for undergraduate students – one for a student who has earned less than 60 semester hours of credit, and one having earned more than 60 semester hours; one student enrolled at the graduate level; one veteran; and, one military spouse.

Military applicants for the 2016 awards were asked to address the question of how the pursuit of higher education will benefit their personal and professional growth either within or outside the military. Our applicants who are military spouses were asked to introduce us to who has been their most important influence in deciding to further their education and why?

Following review of the applications by the NAIMES Scholarship Committee, we are pleased to announce our 2016 Recipients:

- **Ryan Farr**, a first year Psychology major at Columbia College, is 6 years into his Naval career and is currently serving at NAS Whidbey Island. In addition to his duties with the Navy, Ryan is also an active volunteer with the Island County Juvenile Mentoring Program and Big Brothers and Sisters of America and very committed to keeping fit. For his last birthday, Ryan climbed to the peak of 8400 ft. Mt. St. Helens. Ryan is confident that higher education and complementary skills will benefit him both personally and professionally.
- A native of South Carolina, **Lyndsay Pires** is serving in Hawaii in the United States Marine Corps as an Aviation Operations Specialist. Currently in her junior year at Park University, Lyndsay is a Criminal Justice major who strongly believes that both in and out of the military, education is the key to success. When not involved with her military duties, Lyndsay runs marathons, hikes, enjoys all activities associated with the water and regularly volunteers in community focused projects.

**2017 CCME
Professional
Development
Symposium**

March 6-9, 2017

Atlanta Marriot
Marquis - Atlanta,
Georgia
265 Peachtree Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Conference Theme:
"Collaboration:
Strengthen
Ourselves For Those
We Serve"**

Registration for the
2017 Council of College
and Military Educators
(CCME) Professional
Development Symposium
is OPEN.

For registration and
other symposium
information, please visit
the CCME website at
<http://www.ccmeonline.org/annualsymposium>.

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- **Jared T. Williams** is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma while serving in the United States Air Force. Currently based in the Florida Panhandle, Jared believes that "higher education clearly has a place in an organization seeking to remain relevant and ahead of its competition. The military has recognized this and has accordingly formulated programs whereby the men and women in uniform have the opportunity to pursue higher education and thereby improve themselves and the organizations for whom they work."
- "I never planned on joining the military. I never planned to go to college." Thus began the application essay for **Ashley Jenkins**, this year's recipient from our pool of Veterans. Today, she finds herself having completed a contract for service in the United States Army, as the proud holder of an undergraduate degree and enrolled as a graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma. Following graduation, Ashley plans to enter the field of grant writing and design programs to support and counsel current and former members of the military.
- The 2016 Military Spouse recipient is **Felissa Hawkins**. A native of El Salvador who didn't begin to learn English until the age of 13, Felissa is currently a junior at University of Maryland University College (Europe) where she is pursuing a degree in Psychology. The person who has most significantly influenced Felissa is her soldier husband. Because of his encouragement and support, Felissa has morphed from one who was never a fan of school to a self-described academic. In addition to her role as a military spouse and student, Felissa has a passion for the outdoors. She never underestimates the therapeutic powers of being outside because "there's nothing a good bike ride or hike can't fix."

NAIMES and MBS Direct salute these outstanding individuals for their service to our nation, for their accomplishments and successes to date, and, as importantly, for their achievements to come that will be, at least partially, attributed to the benefits of continued higher education and lifelong learning.



NAIMES 2016 Annual Meeting Summary

*Alisha Miller
Associate Director, Military and Veteran Education,
Thomas Edison State University
and NAIMES Secretary*

NAIMES members met for our Annual Meeting on October 24th and 25th, 2016 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Georgia. The meeting was quite productive and we left with a clear purpose and path ahead for the organization. Our Policy and Issues Committee lead several valuable discussions about issues and topics that our member institutions are experiencing, such as Tuition Assistance processing delays and the new counseling procedures provided by the Navy Virtual Education Center after the closing of Navy College Offices across the country; the desire to increase the Tuition Assistance cap for STEM programs; and concerns with the GoArmyEd VIA tool and where and how institution data is being used in the algorithms to suggest institutions to Soldiers.

NAIMES Members

American Military University
Brandman University
Campbell University
Capella University
Central Michigan University
Central Texas College
Coastline Community College
Columbia College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide
Grantham University
Park University
Pike's Peak Community College
Saint Leo University
Southwestern College
Thomas Edison State University
Troy University
University of Alaska System
University of Maryland, University College
University of Oklahoma
University of Phoenix
Wayland Baptist University
Webster University

2016 Annual Meeting Summary, cont.

In addition, we discussed concerns with policy that has or may be released by the Department of Defense, Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs. These policy concerns included the limitation of housing allowance provided to Veterans using their GI Bill for distance learning and online education programs; the recent House Bill HR3016 proposing to reduce GI Bill benefits to family members; military installation/ base access concerns for student counseling; and thoughts on institution success measurement tools that are being used by these departments and presented to the public.

On day two, we were honored to have the opportunity for a conference call with Dr. Jonathan Woods, representing the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education (Vol Ed) Programs. Dr. Woods provided an update on current Vol Ed projects and the progress of their Strategic Plan. Dr. Woods stressed the importance of all DoD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signatory institutions reading the Strategic Plan to understand DoD's goals for the Vol Ed program. He asked that we encourage all institutions to, at the very least, review Page 25 – Appendix B: Strategic Framework, which outlines the mission, strategic focus areas, guiding principles and performance indicators of the DoD Vol Ed Strategic Plan. Understanding these goals of DoD can help the institution understand “why” certain policies are being implemented. The full copy of the DoD Vol Ed Strategic Plan can be accessed on the DoD MOU website at www.dodmou.com under the Resources box in the bottom right hand corner of the homepage.

The call with Dr. Woods also allowed the members a chance to inquire on some burning questions regarding base access, student data collection at education fairs and outcomes of the Navy College Office closures. We were also privileged to have Mr. Keith Glindemann from Columbia College and President of the National Association of Veteran's Program Administrators (NAVPA) join us as a special guest. Mr. Glindemann was a wealth of knowledge on the current happenings in the legislative world of Veterans' benefits.

We had several exciting outcomes to our meeting, including planning our second roundtable discussion event for the annual Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) symposium in March, 2017; the development of an ad hoc committee that was tasked with creating a strategic vision plan and goals for NAIMES for our future progression; the continuation of our quarterly newsletter; and the beginnings of an Annual NAIMES Report. Our meeting concluded with the election of our new Board members: Vice-President and President-Elect – Mr. John Aldrich, Treasurer – Mr. Joseph Houghton and Secretary – Ms. Alisha Miller. In addition, Ms. Kelly Wilmeth took the helm as President. We give our sincere gratitude to Mr. Gary Harrah for his past two years of leadership and direction for our organization and are happy to have him continue on with the Board as our Immediate Past President. We continue to meet regularly through our Coffee Chat teleconferences and will be holding our next meeting at the conclusion of CCME in Atlanta on March 10th, 2017.

**NAIMES
Governance**

President:

Kelly Wilmeth

*Vice President, Stateside
Military Operations*

*University of Maryland
University College*

President-Elect:

John Aldrich

*Vice President,
Military, Veterans &
Educational Partnerships*

*American Military
University*

Immediate Past

President:

Gary D. Harrah

*National Director,
Military and Veteran
Partnerships*

University of Phoenix

Treasurer:

Joseph H. Houghton

*Associate Director &
Director of Military
Programs - Global
Campus*

Troy University

Secretary:

Alisha Miller

*Associate Director,
Office of Military &
Veteran Education*

*Thomas Edison
State University*

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NAIMES Roundtable Sessions at CCME Atlanta 2017

Kelly Wilmeth, NAIMES President & Vice President, Stateside Military Operations, UMUC

After hosting a very successful first-ever NAIMES roundtable session at CCME in San Antonio in 2016, we look forward to continued collaboration and information sharing at this year's CCME Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. In March we will offer three roundtable sessions to continue our goal of having an open and honest dialog about the state of military voluntary education. Called "Opportunities and Challenges", the purpose of the annual NAIMES roundtable sessions is to highlight feedback from prior roundtables, share NAIMES accomplishments, updates, and information, and help identify goals, objectives, and actions for ongoing strategic planning. At this year's roundtable sessions, the NAIMES Membership will share its inaugural draft Strategic Plan to elicit feedback from roundtable participants to be incorporated into the final version. The NAIMES Strategic Plan will guide our organizational mission, values statement and goals for the next five years, with annual objectives and reporting requirements to keep us focused.

There are a wide variety of issues that continue to be brought to the attention of the NAIMES and CCME board and membership institutions, and raised during ACME forums including but not limited to base access; the collection of student information during base-sponsored Education Fairs; and DoD, VA, and DoE student success measurement tools. Our sessions this year will continue to provide a forum for thoughtful discussion to establish future direction for the NAIMES organization. We would also appreciate the sharing of any and all Best Practices in how we service our clientele and support the local community. Please come prepared with not just anecdotal information related to any of the above or other concerns you may have, but also specific supporting data to help us establish any emerging trends and identify recommended solutions.

By attending these roundtable sessions, you will have an opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas with colleagues from other institutions who serve military and veteran student populations.

We hope you can join us!

Spotlight on Best Practices:

Safety Apprenticeship Program at Coastline



*Joycelyn Groot
Executive Dean, Coastline Community College
and CCME Membership Chair*

*Jason Vogel
CEO
Career Expansion Inc.*

Coastline Community College, in partnership with multiple industry leaders and experts, has developed several training programs focusing on Safety as identified as a high demand field by California's construction, petro-chemical and utility industries. Safety professionals have rewarding jobs and a genuine opportunity to make a difference in the lives of their co-workers, all while earning an excellent salary and enjoying career advancement and leadership opportunities.

In addition to the training programs launched in the Fall of 2016, Coastline has expanded its career pathways to include a Pre-Apprenticeship Safety Attendant Program and a Safety Technician Apprenticeship Program, leading to industry and college certificates as well as associate degrees through Coastline. Through the alignment of industry recommended competencies and college curriculum, program participants are provided access to stackable programs offered through a combination of site-based and online delivery.

NAIMES Standing Committees

Nominations and Elections Committee

Chair: Ramona McAfee
University of Alaska

Nirmala Sharma
Brandman University

Denise Sherman
Southwestern College

Membership Committee

Chair: Louis Martini
Thomas Edison State University

Elane Seebo
Wayland Baptist University

Gary D. Harrah
University of Phoenix

Jim Cronin
University of Maryland
University College

John Cain
Saint Leo University

Jeff Cropsey
Grantham University

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Jim Yeonopolus
Central Texas College

Alisha Miller
Thomas Edison State University

Joseph H. Houghton
Troy University

Nirmala Sharma
Brandman University

Randall Doerneman
University of Oklahoma

Policy and Issues Committee

Chair: Gary D. Harrah
University of Phoenix

Jim Cronin
University of Maryland
University College

John Aldrich
American Military University

John Cain
Saint Leo University

Joycelyn Groot
Coastline Community College

Louis Martini
Thomas Edison State University

Mike Bibbee
University of Phoenix

Safety Apprenticeship Program, cont.

The Pre-Apprenticeship Program is being launched in the spring through Coastline College in partnership with the Laborers Local 1309. Program participants are eligible for federal, state, and local grants made available primarily through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. These funds assist transitioning military, veterans, and dislocated and incumbent workers with access to job driven training programs that lead to employment. This program includes a number of Department of Labor (DOL) authorized OSHA courses that are nationally recognized and delivered through the OSHA Training Institute Educational Center at Chabot - Las Positas Community College District.

Coastline, a recipient of a California Apprenticeship Initiative Apprenticeship Accelerator grant, has developed the Safety Technician Apprenticeship Program also in partnership with the Laborers Local 1309. Coastline serves as the local Education Agency (LEA) for this program, the first of its kind, allowing participants to gain the classroom and on-the-job training that promotes advancement from apprenticeship to journey person. Participants will earn numerous OSHA certifications, as well as the Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) accreditation through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. These certifications not only lead to lucrative careers in Safety, but much of the classroom content for the Safety Technician Apprenticeship Program may apply towards college credit for certificate and degree programs at Coastline.

To date, Coastline's programs have placed over 100 participants, including 39 Veterans in jobs in companies such as Skanska, Turner Construction, Brinderson, and Sully Miller and boasts a job placement rate of over 95%.



Student Profile: Patrick Tamby

U.S. Marine Veteran Patrick Tamby has always had a passion for working with his hands. Upon completing his military service in 2013, Patrick worked as a security guard until he was laid off late in 2015. For Patrick this was a job that paid the bills, but not a long-term career. During Patrick's job search he discovered the Core Competencies Construction program offered through Coastline Community College.

Patrick enrolled in the program, and was surprised at how much he learned about the construction industry as well as safety. Through the Core Competencies Construction program Patrick earned Department of Labor Authorized OSHA certifications as well as trade skills. These credentials, along with the transferable skills that he learned in the military enabled Patrick to be accepted into the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 12.

Patrick is currently working for Sully Miller Contracting as an Asphalt Plant Operator, and earning \$27/hour. Mr. Tamby credits the program to opening his eyes to the career opportunities in the construction field. Patrick states, "I used to think of construction in terms of hammers and nails, but after attending the program I saw the opportunities that there are in the construction industry. I'm now earning more money than I was at my previous job, and there is a lot more potential for earning and upward mobility."

A Brief History of the NAIMES Organization

NAIMES was founded on March 26, 1975, in Los Angeles, California. Its first By-Laws were adopted on that date and have continued in force with only minor modifications since then.

Over the years, NAIMES developed a pattern of annual and semiannual meetings among its institutional representatives to discuss the relationship of the Institutions with the Department of Defense and with the individual military services. Of immediate and continuing concern was the desire of the member institutions to meet and exceed quality standards established by the military services. From its beginnings, NAIMES sought to provide a collective voice for the institutions to assist the DOD's established regulations for the department's Voluntary Education Programs. Over the years, NAIMES has grown from an original membership of seven educational institutions to its current membership of 22.

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New DoD Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program

Dawn Bilodeau
Chief, DoD Voluntary Education
OASD Readiness (Force Education & Training)

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is pleased to announce the kickoff of the Department's new Voluntary Education Institutional Compliance Program (ICP).

In September of 2014, the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Program received specific recommendations from the Government Accountability Office in its Report No. 14-855, "DOD EDUCATION BENEFITS: Action is Needed to Ensure Evaluations of Postsecondary Schools Are Useful." In response, DoD took action to develop and execute a more efficient, focused, and all-encompassing review process of the educational programs and services provided to the military community.

The new DoD Voluntary Education ICP was developed based upon the Department's requirements and using best practices from across industry and government to ensure a rigorous, transparent evaluation of educational institutions, focusing on compliance with the tenets of the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). By signing the MOU, each of you has agreed to abide by a set of behaviors, processes, and policies – all focused on improving services delivered to military-connected students. These will be the focus of the DoD Voluntary Education ICP.

Following a request for proposals, the Department selected Price Waterhouse Coopers to serve as the DoD's third-party assessment team. With government oversight, it will meet current compliance needs, build a solid foundation for compliance in the future, and activate a compliance culture across the DoD Voluntary Education community.

The DoD anticipates that Voluntary Education's new ICP will usher in an era of cooperation and shared values in support of the professional and personal development and the eventual successful transition of Service members to the civilian workforce. In the coming months, DoD will communicate with all stakeholders, especially our valued educational institutions, to facilitate a clear understanding of the compliance factors that are most important to the DoD and the standardized, consistent review and assessment methodologies that will be employed.

Because so many educational institutions participate in the annual symposium for the Council of College and Military Educators, DoD plans to preview the Department's new Voluntary Education ICP during a general session of the symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Session participants will learn how the ICP was developed and receive an overview of ICP requirements that will apply to all educational institutions participating in the DoD Voluntary Education Program. The session will also provide an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.

Be sure to check www.dodmou.com periodically for DoD Voluntary Education Program updates on items of interest, including the resources section. This section hosts notices, bulletins, and presentations that could be useful to participating institutions.

NAIMES –
We're on the Web!
www.naimes.org

NAIMES is
on Facebook



Announcing the renewed effort to energize the NAIMES Facebook page! Let's do all we can to increase the membership of the page so we can then ensure we have more quality posts full of vital information to pass on. Just type NAIMES into the search box and you'll see the page. Dan Roby, from AMU, will ensure you are approved within a day. If you have any inputs or ideas on making the page more beneficial for all, please feel free to contact Dan at droby@apus.edu.

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After a Decade of Support in Virginia, The State of Play of Military Education Continues to Evolve

Mike Camden, MBA
President VA-ACME & Enrollment Coordinator
Troy University – Hampton Roads Student Support & Testing Center

2016 marked the Diamond Anniversary of the Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education (VA-ACME). The VA-ACME community celebrated in grand fashion last March at the annual symposium at the Westin Virginia Beach Town Center. The board and planning committee hosted a symposium that was informational, educational, entertaining, and memorable. The feedback was overwhelmingly two thumbs up. So, how do we top such a performance?



We start by returning to the Westin in 2017 with the theme: "The State of Play: Military Education in Virginia". State of Play is a British phrase meaning present situation. Please join us as we explore the ever-changing present situation of military education in Virginia.

The three day event kicks off with our 5th annual VA-ACME Military Job Fair & Education Expo on the morning of Tuesday, March 28. Over the years, we have heard our members' disappointment with a lack of military uniformed personnel to visit with and discuss the quality programs offered and the benefits available to the military community from our member schools. That, plus a growing focus on transitioning personnel, made way for the job fair and education expo. More details may be found at this link: <http://www.vaacme.org/News.html>

We have touched many lives in the Virginia military community in our 10 year history through our scholarship program. Our VA-ACME scholarship committee is comprised of a group of dedicated professionals. They are truly worker bees! Scholarship details may be found at this link: <http://www.vaacme.org/Scholarships-Awards.html>

Of course, we cannot offer \$10,000 in scholarships annually to the military community and host an awesome symposium without the support of our tremendous sponsors. The updated sponsor registration form may be found at <http://www.vaacme.org/sponsors.html>. Prices for sponsorships remain at last year's rates. This year our "Diamond" level sponsor will be known as "Titanium." This powerful and exclusive opportunity is still open for an organization that seeks high visibility in the military community of Virginia.

Great organizations require the time and talent of even greater people. We have enjoyed the support of many fantastic people over the years. It is rewarding to welcome past leaders back to the symposium. It is even more gratifying when those leaders acknowledge the diligence put forth by the current team each year. It is a joy to be recognized for following our mission of support to the education of the military community through awarding scholarships, executing a strong training symposium program, and sharing best practices with our colleagues. We have built and continue to nurture a strong bond with the military education community in Virginia.

As VA-ACME continues to connect with the Virginia military community, get connected with VA-ACME! Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VAACME/> and join the conversation on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4667930>.

On behalf of the VA-ACME Board, thank you for your continued support of the mission of VA-ACME and the military community which we serve, support, and educate! Looking forward to seeing you in March in Virginia Beach!