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NAIMES

National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services

educating our people in uniform

From the President

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.



Kelly Wilmeth
NAIMES' President
President@NAIMES.org

Colleagues and Friends,

It is exciting to be able to send this quarter's NAIMES' Newsletter after the recent signing into law of the Forever GI Bill. We all know how expensive higher education can be so this new bill will vastly improve affordability of and access to educational opportunities for our nation's veterans. In the pages of this newsletter, readers will find many examples of educational institutions and military and veteran support organizations that make it their mission to provide quality and affordable education to our nation's military and veteran students.

The National Association of Veterans Program Administrators (NAVPA) contributed an article describing several recent legislative successes, such as the Forever GI Bill, that will have positive and long-lasting impact on our nation's heroes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith Glindemann, NAVPA President, and his colleagues for their tireless efforts on behalf of veteran students.

Maintaining affordable tuition rates for our students is just one aspect of affordable education. Providing scholarship opportunities is another. Reducing or eliminating the costs of textbooks is yet another way we can help. In this issue, several organizations speak of ways to do just this. The NAIMES' organization has for years partnered with MBS to provide educational scholarships to service members, veterans and military spouses. This year's application cycle for these scholarships is about to close so please read the enclosed article and help spread the word about these awards to your student population. We thank MBS and their generosity that helps to fund the NAIMES' Spotlight scholarships.

In the ACME Corner section, readers will be delighted to read about the many accomplishments this year of the Mid South ACME, which recently held its annual conference on Ft. Knox in Kentucky. We should commend all of the dedicated individuals who give their valuable time to support ACMEs across the country. The Mid South ACME leadership certainly deserves our congratulations for raising funds to provide educational scholarships to Ft. Knox military students.

Readers will also enjoy the articles about Coastline Community College's new Military Promise Program that eliminates the costs of textbooks in five of its certificate programs, and Webster University's innovative use of technology to identify students at risk of failing in the online learning environment, and developing intervention measures to increase their success.

I'm honored that NAIMES provides a forum to highlight and advocate for the best practices, dedication, and downright hard work that the many individuals, organizations, agencies, and educational institutions bring to the table to increase high quality, low cost, and accessible education to our military, veterans and family members. Please help NAIMES to raise awareness of these efforts by circulating this newsletter throughout your professional networks.

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

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 11 educational institutions to its current membership of 22.

NAIMES' Student Spotlight Awards- Application Deadline September 15

By Joseph Houghton
NAIMES' Treasurer

Greetings,

As many of our colleagues in higher education already know, NAIMES and MBS Direct award five Student Spotlight Awards annually to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of our nation's military-affiliated students. The award categories include active-duty undergraduate students who have earned less than 60 semester hours; active-duty undergraduate students who have earned more than 60 hours; active-duty graduate students, military spouses and veterans.

The application for the awards opened on 15 June and will close on 15 September, 2017. Via this message, NAIMES is encouraging colleagues working in the Military Education Community to share information about the Spotlight Awards with their military-affiliated students and to remind them of the rapidly approaching deadline for application submission.

In addition to the completion of an application form, all applicants are asked to respond, in essay form, to a prompt that requires comment on a topic that synthesizes the worlds of higher education and military service.

At NAIMES, we believe these to be important awards that help to offset the ever increasing costs associated with higher education in our nation today. For those of you who are not aware of the Student Spotlight Awards, please visit <http://naim.es.org/ssa/> for details.

We appreciate your support of this award program and of our nation's military-affiliated students!



ACME CORNER

**2018 CCME
Professional
Development
Symposium**

March 26-29, 2018

Marriott Marquis -
Marina

San Diego, CA

**Conference Theme:
"Navigating Change:
Transforming
Challenges into
Opportunities in
Military & Veteran
Education"**

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

A Note from Mid South Advisory Council on Military Education



By Patti Civile

Mid South ACME Immediate Past President

Mid South ACME was established in the fall of 2012 and has grown from 20 members to approximately 75 today. This small growth took place with many growing pains and challenges. As we know, growing pain and challenges are good, even though a little painful at times! As the saying goes; 'We don't grow when things are easy. We grow when we face challenges. With that being said; I will contribute our growth to over-coming challenges.

I think this struggle is real with most ACMEs. As I speak to other Presidents we all face the same challenges. How do we grow? How do we overcome organizational challenges? How do we deal with Board Member changes? I think one solution is continuing to work together as a team and 'Build our Bench'. What is Building our Bench? It is making sure we have a diverse group of individuals that have different strengths and talents; but have the same common goal and vision in mind! Again, another challenge with ACMEs. With the support of NAIMES, this will become easier.

Mid South ACME just held our 2017 Symposium at Ft. Knox. The new venue offered us many new opportunities and experiences as an organization. The Education Service Officer, Counselors, and On-Post colleges welcomed us with open arms and offers of assistance. We held our first education fair in conjunction with the symposium; which was a success. We were also able to give away two \$500 scholarships to an undergraduate and graduate student at Ft. Knox. I was President of Mid South ACME from inception until this year's symposium. The new President is Dr. Lewis Bridges from Trevecca Nazarene University. I am confident he will do a great job, and I welcome him as the new President.

Mid South ACME will continue to promote, support, and assist colleges in delivering the highest quality of education within all branches of the Armed Services. We will encourage educational institutions to be innovative and flexible in meeting their military students' needs, while keeping the highest ethical standards in mind. Also, thank you to NAIMES for supporting the ACMEs!



NAIMES' Members

American Public
University System

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

Spotlight on Best Practices



Michael Cottam
Dean and Associate Vice President of Military Campuses and
Online Learning
Webster University

Supporting Online Learning through Technology and Coaching

Online learning, a disruptive force in higher education, has become increasingly mainstream over the past several years, and is the preferred learning modality for many students, especially those with unpredictable schedules, location, and time constraints, such as those experienced by military servicemembers and their families. Yet, busy students who enroll in online classes often face challenges in life and in school that make completion difficult. Successful students rely upon a personal network of family and friends, as well as university resources, services and support to make it through their classes and to achieve their goals.

Universities, therefore should provide appropriate technologies and services to identify student needs and support them before a small academic problem becomes a big one. This article discusses one solution that has made a difference in student success at Webster University, and identifies practices that other institutions may follow.

In 2015, Webster's Online Learning Center, Office of Military Affairs, and other student support systems began a two-year project to improve online student success. The team noticed that students who took online classes did not successfully complete at the same rate as campus cohorts. Furthermore, students who took all of their classes online performed significantly better than students who only took some of their classes online, indicating that students who were less familiar with online learning more often struggled to succeed.

Several interventions were developed to help these students. Staff members at all of the university's campus locations went through training to learn how to prepare students for the online experience. New resources, such as advising templates, student orientations, and live support were developed specifically for the students who mix campus and online classes in their academic programs. All of these actions helped students to be more prepared and more confident in their studies.

However, all of the preparation and training the university provided could not help faculty, advisors, and other staff to detect when a student was struggling in an online class. The students' actions are simply not as visible to faculty in the online class as they are in the classroom, where they can see a confused expression or an empty chair.

Spotlight on Best Practices - Continued

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:

Louis Martini

Associate Vice President,
Military and Veteran
Education

Thomas Edison State
University

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

To address this challenge, in late 2015, the university adopted Dropout Detective, a software program from AspirEdu that integrates with the Instructure Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). Dropout Detective collects and analyzes data from the LMS and assigns a "risk score" to individual students based upon a variety of indicators, such as login frequency, class participation, grades on assignments, etc.

The system provides a dashboard view inside of Canvas that faculty, advisors and success coaches can consult on a daily basis to identify which students might need extra support. Students who are doing well have a low risk score and are coded in green. Students who begin to struggle are coded with a higher risk score and the color yellow. Students with the highest risk scores are coded red. Thus, faculty and staff can immediately see which students may require interventions.

Students in online classes appear in the dashboards of their faculty member, their advisor, and a success coach. Staff can click on the student name and investigate why the student might have a high risk score and then collaborate with the support team to find the best solution for the student. In some cases, the faculty member connects with the student and resolves concerns. In other cases, the advisor or coach are more able to contact the student. The platform provides a space for the students' history and tracks notes of any interactions the faculty, advisor, or coach may record, facilitating cooperation among faculty and staff.

By designing, implementing, and improving student support systems, and through implementing Dropout Detective software, the university improved student retention in online classes, improved passing grades, and decreased negative grades and withdrawals.

Webster University is a private, not-for-profit university established in 1915, and currently offers campus-based and online classes through its home campus in St Louis, Missouri, and a network of 57 domestic campuses, located on military bases or in metro areas, as well as international locations in seven countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

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

Jim Yeonopolus
Central Texas College

John Cain
Saint Leo University

Jeff Cropsey
Grantham University

Tery Donelson
Columbia College

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

David Harvey
Central Michigan University

Policy and Issues Committee

Chair: Louis Martini
Thomas Edison State University

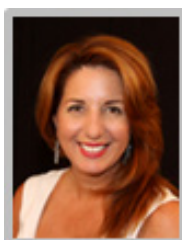
John Aldrich
American Military University

John Cain
Saint Leo University

Joycelyn Groot
Coastline Community College

Angela Albritton
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University-Worldwide

Patrick Sutliff
University of Phoenix



Joycelyn Groot,
Executive Dean
Extended Learning Division
Coastline Community College

Coastline Community College has been proudly serving the military with their educational needs for 35 years. Coastline delivers distance learning college-credit courses, and occupation-related certificate and degree programs to Servicemembers worldwide. Coastline awards up to 40(SH) Semester Hours of credit for military training and experience and combines technology with academically-proven distance learning methods to deliver courses beyond the traditional classroom. Students can complete their education anytime...anywhere.

On July 10, 2017, a new scholarship program, Coastline's Military Promise Program (MPP), was launched. The MPP offers Active-Duty Servicemembers the opportunity to receive a scholarship to cover 100% of the textbook costs associated with five specific Certificate programs which are incorporated into their associate's degree plan. "We are extremely pleased to receive the financial backing from our Coastline College Foundation Board in support of our military students' academic and career goals", said Joycelyn Groot, Executive Dean of Coastline's Extended Learning Programs for Military, Veterans, Business and Industry.

Rather than using the maximum military credit toward electives, military students may choose to incorporate a Certificate into their declared Degree / Academic plan. These Certificate options are intended to complement or supplement a student's military occupational experience and enhance their employment and earning potential.

Military Promise Program Certificate Options

- Certificate of Specialization
 - o Entrepreneurship
 - o Entrepreneurship for Computer Networking and Security Consulting
- Certificate of Accomplishment
 - o Computer Networking: CompTIA (**Intro Cyber Security**)
 - o Process Technology: Process Technician Fundamentals
 - o Project Management

Please visit Coastline's Military Promise Program website, <http://MilitaryPromise.Coastline.edu>, for complete details, including program eligibility, requirements, and the MPP Application.

Coastline Community College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Post-secondary Accreditation and the U. S. Department of Education.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

2020 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W • Suite 1975 • Washington, D.C. 20006-1846

August 18, 2017

To say a lot has happened on the legislative front since our last update in May, would be an understatement. NAVPA's Executive Board and Legislative Committee have been extremely active the last few months, continuing to push this year's agenda and advocating on behalf of our membership. The Committee has spent countless hours drafting letters, making phone calls, sending emails, and conducting office visits. The hard work has paid off in the form of new partnerships, a larger voice with Legislators around the country, and significant changes in policy.

There has been a lot of movement on a wide range of veterans' issues over the summer. The first thing you will want to let student veterans returning to campus know is that the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act has been signed into law. The Act authorizes a memorial to be built on the National Mall in Washington D.C. to honor fallen warriors, service members, veterans, and their families who supported, and continue to support, our country's longest war.

NAVPA was fortunate enough to have two representatives at the George W. Bush Institute's "Veterans Stand To" held in Washington D.C. earlier this summer. The event brought together more than "300 individuals from major corporations, non-profits, higher-education institutions, philanthropic entities, think tanks, federal agencies, congressional leaders, and community organizations to synchronize efforts and improve veteran transition outcomes with a focus on health and wellbeing, education, and employment."

NAVPA President, Keith Glindemann, served on the Education Taskforce for the President George W. Bush Institute for Military Initiatives. The efforts of the Education Taskforce, along with those focused on employment and health and welfare, were highlighted at the Stand To Convening. In addition to receiving updates from Taskforce panels, attendees heard about collaborative efforts being made at senior levels from President Bush, Former First Lady, Laura Bush, Congressmen, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

One of the Key Goals set by the Education Taskforce was to continue working with the government to modernize the GI Bill and ensure its long-term viability. NAVPA joined nearly 40 other veterans service organizations to form a Coalition with the primary purpose of drafting legislation that would improve the GI Bill. 18 pieces of different legislation, many that NAVPA advocated for, were combined to form the "Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017," also known as the "Forever GI Bill." Members of the Coalition, including NAVPA's Legislative Committee and several members of the Board, worked feverishly during the weeks that followed to get Legislators to support the Bill. The combined efforts resulted in the Bill passing the House 405-0, followed by a unanimous vote in the Senate. The President signed the "Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017" on August 16, making the most comprehensive changes to the GI Bill since the passage of the Post-9/11 version.

The NAIMES' Facebook page is under construction!



Currently, the NAIMES' Facebook page is a private group requiring special permissions to access and view our posts. We are in the process of converting the private group to a public page in which anyone will have access to NAIMES' posts and information. Keep an eye out for the new page soon and a link on our NAIMES' website (www.naimes.org) to like and follow NAIMES on Facebook!

NAVPA Legislative Updates - Continued

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.

NAVPA has drafted this list of bullet points to highlight key portions of new law. The full text can be found at www.congress.gov and our partners at Student Veterans of America have posted a detailed summary of the law at www.forevergibill.org.

"Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017"

- Eliminates the time limitation to use the GI Bill for new members of the Armed Forces and those discharged after January 1, 2013.
- Eliminates the 40-percent benefit under the Post 9/11 GI Bill program. Individuals with at least 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service will qualify for the 50-percent benefit level, effective on August 1, 2020.
- Provides 100 percent GI Bill eligibility to Purple Heart recipients since September 11, 2001, effective August 1, 2018.
- Allows Reservists to transfer into the Post-9/11 GI Bill who lost educational assistance benefits when Congress repealed the Reserve Educational Assistant Program (REAP) in 2016.
- Provides the lesser of nine additional months of Post-9/11 GI Bill or a lump sum of \$30,000 to help student veterans complete a STEM degree, effective August 1, 2019.
- Increases the monthly payment for educational assistance provided under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.
- Changes Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program from 45 to 36 months of eligibility to beneficiaries, effective August 1, 2018
- Allows any remaining entitlement to be transferred to another dependent, if the dependent who originally received the transferred benefits dies.
- Extends the Yellow Ribbon Program to students receiving payments through the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart Recipients after September 11, 2001.
- Restores GI Bill benefits to students affected by school closures and allows assistance payments to continue for up to 120 days if the school closes during the middle of a semester. Restored benefits will be available 90 days after enactment and applies to schools that closed on or after January 1, 2015.
- Increases the VA reporting fee paid to institutions to \$16 for each individual that it certifies as using GI Bill benefits.
- Requires institutions with 100 or more GI Bill beneficiaries must have a separate budget, accounting for the use of reporting fees, effective August 1, 2018.
- Requires training for school certifying officials at educational institutions approved for GI Bill benefits, effective August 1, 2018.
- Adjusts housing allowances to be calculated based on the location the student attends the majority of his or her classes. This applies to beneficiaries enrolling for the first time after August 1, 2018.

**NAIMES' Membership
by Sector**

2-Year Public

Central Texas College
Coastline Community College
Pikes Peak Community College
Southwestern College

4-Year Public

Central Michigan University
Thomas Edison State University
Troy University
University of Alaska System
University of Maryland
University College
University of Oklahoma

Private Non-Profit

Brandman University
Campbell University
Columbia College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
Park University
Saint Leo University
Wayland Baptist University
Webster University

Private For-Profit

American Military University
Capella University
Grantham University
University of Phoenix

- Housing stipends provided to Reservists called up for active duty during the middle of a month will be prorated, effective August 1, 2018.
- Provides \$30 million to improve IT systems at the VA.
- Extends the VA work-study allowance to December 2022.
- Requires the GI Bill Comparison Tool to indicate whether the school offers priority enrollment.
- Extends the authority for VA's Advisory Committee on Education to December 2022.
- Requires the VA to give educational institutions the ability to view the amount of remaining benefits for students attending that institution, effective August 1, 2018. Beneficiaries may opt out.
- Eliminates the loss of a full month of benefits for licensing and certification tests by prorating the amount to meet the cost of the test, effective August 1, 2018.

The new GI Bill will be paid for by realigning housing payments for Post 9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries to the same rates paid to active duty service members at the E-5 with dependents rate. The annual percentage increase to active duty BAH payments was reduced by 1% a year for five years, but GI Bill payments were exempt. This measure realigns the payments so a GI Bill recipient receives the same allowance as an active duty E-5 with dependents. These changes only apply to students who start using education benefits on or after January 1, 2018.

The National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) has served as the voice of advocacy for veterans in higher education since its founding in 1975. NAVPA's membership now includes 344 Institutions of Higher Learning across 47 states that represent 431,032 veterans. As a leading service organization focused on the veteran, service member, and military family member experience in higher education, NAVPA is involved in training, research, policy development and proposed legislation.

NAVPA is proud to be a member of the Coalition that made these historical changes to education benefits for servicemen and women, veterans, and their family members. The groundbreaking work done with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, members of Congress, Committee Chairs, and our colleagues, to gain bipartisan, bicameral support for the new GI Bill is a great example of what can be accomplished when groups with similar interests collaborate to accomplish an overarching goal.

The same model for success will be used at NAVPA's Annual Conference in Atlantic City this October. Representatives from member-institutions around the country will come together to share ideas, learn best practices, hear about research findings, and develop the organization's strategic plan to continue to improve veterans programs. The annual conference is where you help decide how NAVPA will use its voice and leverage its position to support new training, research, policy development, and legislative actions. Please bring your ideas, questions from institutional leaders, and resolution proposals so we can continue to change the paradigm for ensuring veteran success in higher education.



Phil Gore

Legislative Director

National Association of Veterans Program Administrators

(240) 855-9403