

NAIMES

National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services

educating our people in uniform

From the President

Our Mission

NAIMES is an organization dedicated to excellence and advocacy for military-affiliated students.

Our Vision

To advocate for and influence decisions that impact policy, legislation, and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students.



Kelly Wilmeth
NAIMES' President
President@NAIMES.org

Colleagues and Friends,

It is extremely hard to believe that the end of 2017 is upon us. Where did the time go? It seems just yesterday that I put pen to paper in February to write my first newsletter introduction as the new NAIMES' President. In thinking about how quickly time continues to pass and the volume of information that we are exposed to on a daily basis, it is easy to lose sight of the numerous accomplishments that we have all experienced along the way. I am therefore very pleased to take this opportunity to announce that NAIMES has adopted its first-ever Strategic Plan in the waning days of December. One of the NAIMES' six standing committees is the Strategic Plan Committee, chaired by Ramona McAfee from the University of Alaska with committee members from Coastline Community College and University of Maryland University College. This committee worked long and hard for over a year to draft our strategic goals and priorities to guide NAIMES' efforts over the next five years and articulate a new mission and vision that more clearly captures what the NAIMES' organization is about and what we represent.

Developing strategic plans that are meaningful, adaptable, and realistic is no easy task. However, Ramona and her team came through with shining colors. I look forward to introducing everyone to the NAIMES' Strategic Plan in January when we return from the holidays. The Strategic Plan Committee will remain engaged with the entire NAIMES' membership to ensure that our strategic efforts reflect our core beliefs and practices and remain true to our mission and vision. I would like to thank everyone who took time out of their schedule to review each draft and provide NAIMES with thoughtful comment that we incorporated into our final plan.

Looking back over the past year, I am reminded of the numerous partnerships that NAIMES continues to cultivate to better serve our students. Organizations such as MBS Direct, that provides funding for the NAIMES' Student Spotlight awards; the many state Advisory Councils on Military Education (ACMEs) that are 100% reliant on volunteers to serve on their boards and who devote many hours of their personal time serving our military-affiliated community; the DoD's Voluntary Military Education program team that safeguards the educational opportunities provided to servicemembers; the many Veteran Services Organizations such as NAVPA that stay abreast of pertinent issues affecting veteran students; and, non-profits such as the Council of College and Military Educators that provides professional development symposiums, are all valued partners. Through continued collaboration and dialogue with all of these organizations, we will together improve the lives of our military-affiliated students.

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.

December 2017
Volume 2, Issue 4

From the President - continued

I hope you will take the time to read news and updates in the pages of this newsletter, which includes information from NAIMES regarding its recent Annual Meeting and articles about the DoD Compliance Program and the Council of Military Educators in Washington State (CMEWS). Also included is news and updates from the Director of DoD's Voluntary Education program and from the Naval Training and Education Command Public Affairs office. All of this information is pertinent to our entire community, which I hope you find useful.

In closing, I wish you and your families a very joyful and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2018, to continued dialogue, and to joining forces to ensure our servicemembers, veterans and their families achieve their educational and career goals.

NAIMES' 2017 Annual Meeting Summary

By Kelly Wilmeth

NAIMES held its annual meeting on September 20-21 in Saint Louis, MO. Representatives from 20 of the 22 NAIMES' member institutions attended and engaged in dynamic dialogue on relevant issues pertaining to educational opportunities and services provided to military-affiliated students. Special guests included Keith Glindemann, President of NAVPA, who talked us through the various components of the new Forever GI Bill and the Colmery Act provisions. Most of these provisions have direct and positive impact on veteran students attending the many educational institutions that have signed the DoD MOU. Keith provided his insight and perspective on the scope and breadth of each of these provisions, information that each of the member institution representatives can bring back to their respective leadership and which NAIMES will distribute via its quarterly newsletter and Annual Report. The other special guest in attendance was Michael Midura, the CCME ACME Liaison. Because the NAIMES' mission and vision are very similar to those of the various state ACME organizations, it is important that they have a voice at the table during our membership meetings. Michael provides that collective voice and distributes relevant information from NAIMES to each of the ACME Presidents.

Over the two-day meeting, the NAIMES' membership discussed the status of important issues such as

- the pending closure of the final Navy College Offices in CONUS, and what impact these final hub closures may have on the ability of sailors to access quality counseling services;
- upcoming changes to the NCPACE program;
- the new USCG TA policy for FY18 and its impact on Coast Guard students;
- the Army University initiative to create continuing education degree program partnerships for each Army MOS, and progress made to date with any NAIMES' member institutions;
- the possibility of reviving discussion initiated by a SOC White Paper titled "Educational Attainment." The SOC Advisory Board spearheaded this discussion in 2011 (in partnership with CCME, NAIMES, Transparency by Design, among others) to discuss how the Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) traditional definition of graduation rates, which tracks first-time, full-time degree seeking freshmen students, is not necessarily applicable to the majority of military and veteran students enrolled in higher education.

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

NAIMES' 2017 Annual Meeting Summary - continued

In addition to the above, the NAIMES' Nominations and Elections Committee conducted nominations and voted for the treasurer and secretary positions. Alisha Miller (Thomas Edison State University) and Joseph Houghton (Troy University) were re-elected to the secretary and treasurer positions, respectively. The Scholarship Committee Chair reported receipt of 66 applications for the NAIMES/MBS Student Spotlight Scholarship Awards, and will announce the recipients in January 2018, who will be recognized at the awards ceremony portion of the CCME 2018 Professional Development Symposium in San Diego.

On day two of the annual meeting, Dr. Jonathan Woods from the DoD's Voluntary Education Program joined the NAIMES' membership via teleconference. We engaged with Dr. Woods on several topics, to include the status of the new DoD Compliance Program. Dr. Woods reported that the first 250 randomly selected schools had completed their self-studies. DoD is finalizing Iteration I reports to each institution and also narrowing down to 25 those institutions selected for an Iteration II review. DoD will select five institutions in 2017 for an onsite Iteration 3 review, if necessary. While Dr. Woods reported they are a bit behind schedule, he is confident that his office will disseminate all reports by year-end. Members also asked Dr. Woods for updates on his efforts to host a forum for institutions to provide feedback to pending updates to the DoDI 1322.25 instruction. NAIMES offered to provide a collective voice to assist in these efforts to review the current DoDI language and make adjustments where necessary. Dr. Woods stated that DoD is interested in hearing from educational institutions working in the field on what's working and what's not. He asked us to consider the following questions: Are the right policies in place? Is the MOU working for institutions? Is oversight working? Is DoD uniform in how it treats institutions? NAIMES wishes to express its appreciation for this candid conversation with Dr. Woods and the chance to provide feedback to help DoD maximize the success of its off-duty Voluntary Education Program.

Finally, the NAIMES' membership spent time finalizing its Strategic Plan that will help guide the organization's activities, goals and objectives over the next five years, as well as its Annual Report that will detail the NAIMES' efforts in 2017 to advocate for and influence decisions that impact policy, legislation and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students. NAIMES will publish and disseminate both documents early next year via the NAIMES' website (www.naimes.org) and at CCME 2018.

NAIMES

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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

Institutional Compliance Program Updates



By John Aldrich
NAIMES' Vice President

In 2012, the Department of Defense (DoD) required all institutions participating in the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DoD. The MOU contains a number of mandatory compliance provisions, including a requirement to undergo a third-party education assessment by a DoD-contracted firm.

Prior assessments (1991-2011) included a Military Installation Voluntary Education Review (MIVER), which typically encompassed all aspects of postsecondary education programs on installations. With the advent of e-learning, MIVER was replaced by the DoD Third-Party Assessment (2012-2014) -- the first time a review was conducted of institutions not directly offering classroom instruction on military installations. On January 16, 2017, DoD announced its new Institutional Compliance Program (ICP), or third-party review.

The DoD provided an overview of the new Voluntary Education ICP on March 8, 2017, at the Council of College and Military Educators Professional Development Symposium in Atlanta. According to DoD, the ICP was designed to remove the heavy burden on institutions that participate in the voluntary education program. Two hundred & fifty schools were selected to participate out of a random sample of over 2,700 schools. Iteration One was completed in May 2017.

The consensus of responding schools was that the review took much longer than expected and that some questions were difficult to answer given the increased usage of online learning by servicemembers. The most frequent question centered on refunds. The cited refund policy is based upon a 1965 Department of Education rule that does not take into account an asynchronous learning environment.

A second area of concern for some universities was recruiting and marketing practices, specifically relating to Directing Servicemembers to Education Services Officer prior to enrollment. Several school officials noted that the MOU does not specify that an institution must direct servicemembers to speak with their ESO or counselor within their military service prior to enrollment. The confusion seems to lay with modern-day enrollment management tools. In many cases, students can enroll with a school without speaking to a school official. Concerns have been forwarded to DoD during the survey process.

NAIMES will continue to keep you abreast of information regarding the ICP. In addition, institutions can find updates from DoD under the "Latest News" section of their website at <https://dodmou.org/>.

ACME CORNER

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*



By **Lana Lee, Ed.D**

President CMEWS

Sr Director of Military and Community College Relations
City University of Seattle

Good Afternoon CMEWS!

What a wonderful 2017 conference, thank you to each one of you who attended! For those of you who missed the conference, you MISSED our DYNAMIC line-up of speakers to include:

- Ms. Shellie Willis, Founder/CEO Redefining Your Future;
- Ms. Kristine Reeves, Director of Economic Development for the Military and Defense Sector for the State of Washington;
- Ms. Alfie Alvarado Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veteran Affairs; and
- Michael Midura, Council of Colleges and Military Educators ACME Director.

Special guests were: Representative Dick Muri, 28th Legislative District and Mr. Gary Woods, former Director of the DoD Educational Opportunities and Chief of DoD's Voluntary Education Programs.

Each one of the speakers spoke about transitioning our Servicemembers, and how we as higher education institutions can help them transition into the workforce or college by:

- Creating more certificates for immediate employment
- Offering more apprenticeships and internships leading to employment
- Build better lines of communication and transitioning services

As we move into 2018, as a CMEWS board: Andrea Vonderscheer, Treasurer and welcome aboard....Lorraine Hill, Vice-President and Vickie Bell, Secretary, we will be working on greater communications and increased membership throughout the State of Washington and create fund-raising efforts to create a scholarship for Servicemembers. Yes, very ambitious but I believe we can do this with YOUR help!! Please follow us on:

Facebook: <http://www.cmews.org/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4098197/profile>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CMEWS_2016

Lastly, a very special THANK YOU to Mercedes Garrido for all her hard work over the past year. You have left me with some very large shoes to fill!

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season!

**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>

News from DoD's Director of Voluntary Education

Dear Participating Institution,

Effective November 1, 2017, the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) application system will become the central repository for Tuition Assistance (TA) eligible programs, associated tuition rates and fees, and policy related information. Key features of this upgrade are the automated tuition rate tool's enhanced reporting process, upload capability for data entry, and automated system notifications to submit annual tuition rates. This effort is critical to ensure uniformity in tuition rates as specified in the DoD MOU.

Consistent with DoD MOU requirements, this system upgrade will require educational institutions to provide tuition rates on an annual basis and ensure their DoD MOU application reflects tuition related information for the current academic calendar year. Additionally, this system upgrade will automate the 90-day notification process for tuition rate changes.

Effective January 1, 2018, educational institutions will be prompted to submit tuition rates annually, providing 90 days advanced notice for any tuition rate changes. Tuition rate changes will automatically be held in a "pending" status for 90 days prior to updating the tuition rate in order to provide DoD and the Military Services with advanced notice of the change. Tuition rate changes submitted that do not meet the 90-day notification period will be referred for a waiver in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the DoD MOU.

At this time, all educational institutions are encouraged to review any tuition rates previously loaded to the DoD MOU application system for accuracy, load tuition rates for the first time, and/or load tuition rate changes for the current academic calendar year that are planned for January 2018 and beyond.

We appreciate your continued DoD MOU partnership in support of our Service members as they pursue their personal and professional educational goals. For technical assistance using these new system features, please review the Institution Guide located on your DoD MOU account dashboard or contact the DoD MOU technical support team at [850.452.1977](tel:850.452.1977) or email: voledconcerns@navy.mil.

Dawn Bilodeau
Director, Voluntary Education
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Education and Training

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.

News from Naval Training & Education Command

Dec 6, 2017, From Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Story at: http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103663

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Sailors will see four updates when they log into My Navy Portal (MNP), starting Dec. 6.

MNP is designed to combine personnel, training and education websites for Sailors into one easy-to-use location at <https://my.navy.mil>. The site provides Sailors with a single self-service portal to manage their careers from the day they join to the day they separate.

The latest updates are:

1. The login page has a new look and gives Sailors the option of a low or high bandwidth site. The "Quick Links" and "About MNP" pages have also been redesigned to be more user-friendly.
2. A new appointment scheduler feature allows Sailors to make and manage appointments with a Navy College education counselor for career and voluntary education (VOLED) guidance and to set up taking academic and foreign language tests. The scheduler is in the "Training, Education, Qualifications" Career and Life Event section. This complements services already offered by the Navy College Program website and mobile application, as well as language testing managed by the Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture.
3. As a result of Sailor feedback, the General Military Training (GMT) page has been redesigned so that course listings are now in a format that is easier to read and understand, making it easier to complete mandatory training. The new GMT page is found by going to "Professional Resources," "General Skills Training" and then "General Military Training (GMT)."
4. MNP now has 10 Career and Life Event (CLE) categories, which organize content based on real tasks that Sailors must perform to manage their careers. The "Collateral Duty" CLE has been removed and the information added into the "Performance" CLE. The other nine CLEs continue to be "New to the Navy," "Advancement & Promotion," "Assignment, Leave, Travel," "Career Continuation," "Deployment," "Pay & Benefits," "Retirement & Separation," "Sailor & Family Support," and "Training, Education, Qualifications." All 10 CLEs are available as buttons on the bottom of the first page Sailors see when they log in or from the top menu under "Career & Life Events."

Sailors are encouraged to continue providing feedback by visiting the feedback section or using the page-specific feedback feature. Sailors who need help desk support can contact 1-855-NAVY-311 (1-855-628-9311), submit a service request through MNP or email MNP_helpdesk@navy.mil.

MNP is managed by the Navy Sea Warrior Program Office (PEO EIS PMW 240).

For additional information on the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), visit the NETC website at www.netc.navy.mil or www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.