

# 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](http://www.naimes.org)**



## **From the President**

*Gary D. Harrah, USAF (Ret)*

*NAIMES President*

*President@NAIMES.org*

A lot has happened since our first newsletter in January! We have witnessed the coming and going of another successful Council of College and Military Educators Professional Development Symposium, which included our first ever NAIMES Roundtable which focused on institutional collaboration to identify opportunities for improvement and best practices in military and veteran voluntary education, and continued collaborative efforts on the proposed Navy College Office closures. We have also rejuvenated the Policy and Issues Committee with new representation and outreach efforts to identify and make recommendations on those issues which directly affect military and veteran students, their spouses and family members, and all of the institutions that provide services to them.

One of the consistent questions that we heard in both the roundtable session and side-bar conversations at the Symposium, is how NAIMES can be the voice or advocate for all military and veteran students, and institutions if our membership, as an organization, is limited. The simplest answer I can give is "COMMUNICATION."

As an organization, NAIMES has identified this role of advocacy as its number one priority. The sheer numbers alone makes it difficult for ALL to have direct impact. 2700 plus institutions are signatories of the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding, and these are just a subset of the thousands of educational institutions within the United States, many of whom support the veteran and spouse populations within the military education communities. With NAIMES acting as an advocate on behalf of the entire community, it provides a focal point for every one's voice to be heard, and based on the consensus and needs of the military education community, communicates issues, concerns, best practices, and recommendations to the Departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs.

To accomplish this goal, the lines of communication must remain open in various forms and fashion to enable those issues and concerns to be identified. This is your chance to be heard – by submitting items of concern to NAIMES, speaking up during roundtable sessions, becoming active in your local ACME's or collaborations if available, and sharing information as a whole.

As far as membership, the membership committee and by-laws committees are currently working to review our membership and governance, to ensure that our membership currently has the right mix of institutions to meet the needs of the community as a whole, and make any recommendations (if necessary) for change. There will be more information to come on this.

## **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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We thank you for taking the time to read our publication. This newsletter is just another means to provide communication to you and we will continue to grow it as necessary to provide as much information affecting the community as we can. I want to personally thank the staff at the University of Maryland University College for their assistance and outstanding design work in helping to put this together!!

*“When you find yourself in the thickness of pursuing a goal or dream, stop only to rest. Momentum builds success.”*

— Suzy Kassem, *Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem*

## **CONUS Navy College Office Closures**

*Gary D. Harrah*

As many of you know, NAIMES has been leading the campaign to have the Department of Defense and Department of the Navy review their decision to shutter the 20 stateside Navy College Offices and move to a totally virtual counseling presence for all sailors assigned within the United States. Since our last newsletter, the movement gathered major momentum, with the group of ACME Presidents and other organizations/institutions targeting their efforts toward individual state’s representatives and senators, as well as the House Armed Services Committee and Senate Armed Services Committee.

As a result of these efforts, we received word (unofficially) that the Department of Defense had requested information and a briefing on the issue from the Department of the Navy, and that a member of the House Armed Services Committee had placed favorable language in their version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA (which was subsequently removed after Navy leadership provided additional information to the committee).

Unfortunately, it seems that the total of these efforts have as yet been unsuccessful, with the Navy announcing that 16 of the 20 Navy College Offices will be closed effective 1 October 2016. However, it looks like many of the questions that were raised by the concerted efforts of NAIMES and others were taken into consideration, as it was also reported that the four remaining regional offices will stay open until 1 October 2017. These four regional offices will aid in the transition by allowing time for updates to the Navy College Website and hiring of more counselors for the Navy Virtual Education Center, which is now basically just a call center. It was also noted that the move will call for Navy Regional Advisors, who will support and advise installation commanders on issues such as base-access, academic testing for sailors, and coordination with on-installation educational institutions.

As a reminder, the final NDAA still needs to be approved by the house and senate and signed by the President to go into effect. There is still time to engage your individual congressmen and senators on this issue to let your sentiments and voice be heard!

**CCME 2017  
Annual Conference**

Atlanta Marriott  
Marquis

Atlanta, Georgia

March 6 – 9, 2017

**Conference Theme:**

*“Collaboration:  
Strengthen Ourselves  
for Those We Serve”*

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Call for Proposals:**

Participants interested  
in presenting during  
concurrent sessions  
should submit a  
proposal at:

*www.ccmeonline.org  
beginning on May 1,  
2016 when the website  
goes live. All proposals  
should provide  
information relevant  
to one of the following  
tracks:*

- *Best Practices in  
Voluntary Education*
- *Newcomers to  
Voluntary Education*
- *Career Pathways  
for Transitioning  
Servicemembers*
- *Military and Veteran  
Student Services*

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**CCME 2016 Annual Conference**

*Dr. Jeff Cropsey*

*Immediate Past President, CCME*

The 2016 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium concluded on 19 February in San Antonio, Texas. The symposium theme this year was, “Opening doors. Advancing lives. A military member’s and veteran’s pathway to education and career success.” The conference attracted about 900 attendees, up almost 30% from 2015, and was one of the most successful CCME Conferences in the last 6 years. A great deal of the credit for the success goes to the members of the CCME Board and the conference support team from Grantham University.



What really made the 2016 CCME Symposium a success, however, was the keynote addresses, the concurrent sessions and the special events throughout the week of 15-19 February. During the Symposium many notable speakers from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the higher education community supported our theme of supporting military and veterans through education programs. CCME remains the only national organization devoted to promoting military and veteran education and constantly works to expand those opportunities.



First of all, this year’s venue was perfect for the conference. The Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio was an ideal location. All of the meetings and major events were conveniently situated on one floor. It was hard to get lost! The service and food were impeccable and with the hotel located directly by the famous San Antonio River Walk, hundreds of restaurants and cafes were an easy walk away. The hotel also provided many opportunities for networking with CCME sponsored receptions along with several receptions sponsored by CCME member institutions.

## **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*

## **CCME 2016 Annual Conference, cont.**

Prior to and during the symposium the branches of the Armed Services sponsored workshops for their members along with the Servicemembers Opportunity College and the American Council of Education. All of these meetings were well attended and in several cases extra sessions were required to take care of all of the individuals interested in participating.

CCME was extremely fortunate this year to have topnotch speakers from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. Representing the DVA were the Honorable Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity and Mr. Robert M. Worley II, Director of Education Service. From the Department of Defense we heard from, Brigadier General Robert J. Miller, Director Education and Training, Defense Health Agency and Commandant, Medical Education and Training Campus; Ms. Dawn Bilodeau, Chief, Department of Defense Voluntary Education Programs; Brigadier General John S. Kem, Provost Army University and Deputy Commandant, Command and General Staff College, Mr. J.R. Breeding, Associate Dean of Academic Programs for the Community College of the Air Force; and Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey.

In all cases these outstanding speakers challenged the higher education community to redouble their efforts to serve our military and veterans. Specifically they all called for renewed efforts to evaluate military training for appropriate college level credit and to provide programs that will support military members in their service careers and when they return to civilian life. I do not believe any attendee left the symposium without a renewed interest in serving our military and veteran students.

The NAIMES member institutions also held a meeting on the last day of the conference. NAIMES is doing great advocacy for voluntary education and is a strong supporter of CCME.

So without a doubt the 2016 CCME Symposium in San Antonio, Texas was an unqualified success! The 2017 Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis March 6-9, 2017, led by our CCME President Franc Lopez promises to be even bigger and better. Keep an eye on our website for more information in the coming months ([www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org)). See you there!



**NAIMES  
Governance**

**President:**

**Gary Harrah**

National Director,  
Military and Veteran  
Partnerships

University of Phoenix

**President-Elect:**

**Kelly Wilmeth**

Vice President and  
Director

University of Maryland  
University College  
Europe

**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:**

**Barbara Bockman**

Campus Director,  
Whidbey Island Campus  
Brandman University



**NAIMES Roundtable Session at CCME**

*Kelly Wilmeth*

*NAIMES President-Elect*

*VicePresident@NAIMES.org*

Three member institutions of NAIMES hosted a roundtable discussion at the recent CCME conference in San Antonio, Texas. Angela Albritton from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Elane Seebo from Wayland Baptist University, and Kelly Wilmeth from UMUC hosted this roundtable discussion to raise awareness about the NAIMES organization and to provide a forum for CCME membership to collaborate with colleagues from other institutions who serve military and veteran students. Through this participation, collaboration and information-sharing, NAIMES collected anecdotal data to assist in developing an annual NAIMES' best practices report on providing post-secondary educational opportunities to service members, military spouses and veterans.



Approximately 55 people attended the roundtable discussions. Common themes emerged during the session, including base access challenges for many institutions and the negative impact on students when institutional student services are not being provided; different interpretations of the DoD MOU and DoDI instruction across all service branches; lack of common data among our veteran students to report back to the VA; reduction of F2F counseling services at Education Centers and Navy College Offices and the negative impact on students; strict marketing rules on the installations and inconsistent application of these rules across the services. The final portion of the session was devoted to best practices. Career coaches and guidance, veteran-specific student services and orientations, veterans resource centers, aligning services, certified academic advisors, military skills translation services, establishing partnerships with veteran organizations, green zone training for staff and faculty, allowing the State ACMES to set up Education Fairs to take the pressure off of ESOs, etc. are among the many items of best practices that were exchanged.

The first-ever NAIMES roundtable was truly a success. Participants familiarized themselves with the NAIMES organization and its mission, and left excited to know that NAIMES provides a forum to speak about their experiences, challenges and best practices as we strive to provide the best possible services to our nation's service members, veterans and their families.

**NAIMES Standing  
Committees**

*Nominations and  
Elections Committee*

*Membership  
Committee*

*Scholarship  
Committee*

*Policies and Issues  
Committee*

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**NAIMES Policies & Issues Committee**

*John P. Aldrich*

*Vice President, Military, Veterans & Community College Relations  
American Public University System*

The Policies & Issues Committee (PIC), part of the National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services (NAIMES), focuses on issues surrounding military voluntary education. Its mission is to identify, investigate and evaluate important trends to develop and recommend corresponding policies and positions.

PIC is responsible for identifying new issues not being considered by NAIMES and making recommendations on whether those issues should be followed by NAIMES and/or warrant a substantial study. If so, it is charged with creating a working group best qualified to work on a particular issue, which helps identify issues and creates policy/position papers.

Due to the numerous issues in military voluntary education today, the committee has a constantly evolving agenda. It is always on the lookout for new issues that may affect service members, veterans and family members or issues that may be of interest to schools serving in the military voluntary education community.

If you have a topic or issue that could be considered by PIC, contact Co-Committee Chair, John Aldrich ([jaldrich@apus.edu](mailto:jaldrich@apus.edu)).

**NAIMES in the News**

*Kelly Wilmeth*

As many of you know, the proposed closure of the CONUS Navy College Office (NCO) issue gained a lot of press recently, including the NAIMES' letter sent to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy being quoted in Military Times and Navy Times. At the request of the NAIMES' President, the ACME presidents also sent a combined letter to the chairs of Senate and House Armed Services committee under the letterhead of the California ACME. In addition, the Virginia ACME sent a letter to their Senate and House delegates, with SECOME (North/South Carolina and Georgia ACME) having conducted a survey to provide a Sailor perspective to their respective delegates.

Despite DOD's final decision to close CONUS NCOs, NAIMES definitely led the way in this effort and at least caused DoD and the Navy to take a second look at the issue. In addition to the aforementioned highlight of NAIMES in the Military and Navy Times, the latest editorial calendar of Military Advanced Education (MAE) and Transition Magazine is currently featuring Gary Harrah, President of NAIMES, as the cover Q&A in the October issue. This represents another great opportunity for us to showcase NAIMES and highlight the organization as an advocate for military and veteran students, and their spouses. NAIMES membership will continue its efforts to make NAIMES a more relevant part of Military Voluntary Education and ensure that we are a conduit for all schools and students that need a voice.

## **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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## **NAIMES Spotlight on Best Practices**

*It's Never too Early to Think Transition*

*Dan Maloney, LTC (Ret)  
Manager, U.S. West Operations  
Central Michigan University*

It's easy in any career to get caught up in the moments that drive us to task completion; never more so than in the military. But, it's almost as essential to assess our performance and glean from these experiences the lessons that will ensure success in a post-military career.

Easier said than done.

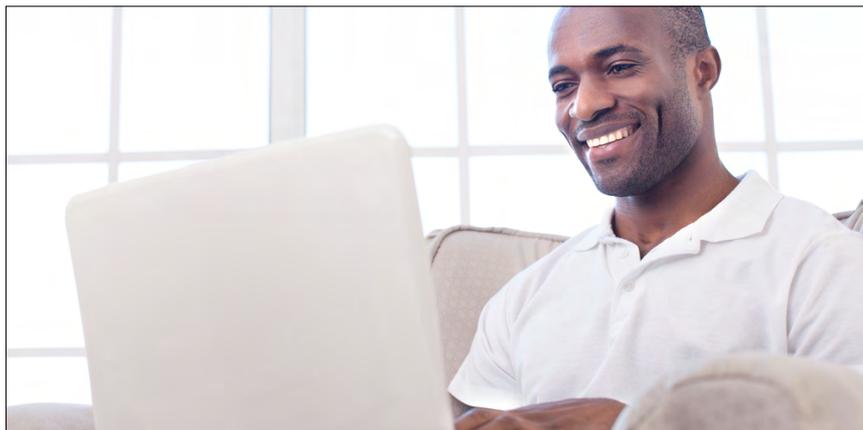
Some simple steps however will assist in applying these experiences to a follow on career or as one transitions to a position of more responsibility.

### **1. What did I learn that I can add to my "kit bag"?**

Every on the job experience, good or bad, can add to the skills and abilities we possess to achieve future success. There are numerous instances among military personnel from patrols in a combat zone, to mayoral duties in a province; interaction with governmental agencies, humanitarian support and the list goes on and on. Applying the lessons learned that help you grow as a professional can build the reservoir of knowledge and experience you can call on later in life both in the work place and in your personal life.

### **2. The value of an education.**

There is never enough time for everything in life whether it's work, personal interests, family life, professional development or education. However, not taking advantage of benefits while on active duty or not is a mistake you do not want to make. As the cliché says, "an ounce of prevention..." So, a class here or there, a certificate, an online course all adds up to ensuring employability upon leaving active duty.



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**NAIMES is  
on Facebook**

*Announcing the renewed effort to energize the NAIMES Facebook page! Currently there are only 17 members of this page and as the voice of the educational institutions on behalf of students, it should be much larger. 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 in NAIMES into the search box and you'll see the page. The new administrator, 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](mailto:droby@apus.edu).*

### **3. Build your resume now.**

For many service members there seems to be an endless list of assessments, evaluations, and reports, all of which can be easily translated into a resume. So, take the time after a formal evaluation to determine where your duty description transfers to a civilian occupation. Even if you plan to do something completely different than your current military occupational specialty or branch, you can still translate leadership, human resources and project management type skills to nearly any occupation.



### **4. Prepare yourself and your family.**

The transition to civilian life can be a challenge for the service member and families. Avail yourself of any and all resources to conduct job searches, prep for interviews and understanding the corporation or agency you are applying to. It never hurts to practice interview questions with a spouse or friend, have an “elevator speech ready (to sell yourself in 2 minutes or less) and understand your priorities, strengths and weaknesses. Just like every mission, you have to do your Pre Combat Inspections. Know what you are getting into and make sure it is the right fit. An important note here is to make sure you take full advantage of all transition services offered by the installation and seek out friends who have completed transition and connect through sites like LinkedIn or alumni networks to find opportunities.

### **5. Enjoy the ride.**

Transition is an exciting and adrenaline inducing event like riding a roller coaster. It will have ups and downs but preparation (or prevention), even just an ounce at a time, will make a huge difference. It's never too early to start and the sooner you start the sooner you reap the benefits.