

March 2018  
Volume 3, Issue 1

# 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,

As we move into the second quarter (already!) of 2018, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and commend everyone for all of their dedication to our nation's military and veteran community. Because the CCME Annual Professional Development Symposium is upon us, I am reminded once again of the numerous man hours that are involved in ensuring military-affiliated students receive the time, attention, and resources they need to succeed in college, during their transition to civilian life, and in the workplace. Working with everyone who volunteers their time supporting the numerous organizations that support these students is truly inspirational. Each of you already has a full-time job that involves many more hours per week than planned for, and on top of this, you make a point of dedicating your expertise, time, and resources to make a difference in the lives of our military and veteran students.

Organizations such as CCME, the ACMEs, NAVPA, etc. do not happen by magic. They rely 100% on volunteers to serve in board positions, design engaging and relevant conferences and symposiums, host and participate in workshops and roundtable discussions, arrange for a myriad of logistics, review and evaluate presentations and proposals, secure scholarship funding, evaluate scholarship applications, host networking events, and stay abreast of pertinent information across hundreds of platforms, organizations and agencies whose missions impact our students. These are just a few of the many activities that come to mind when I think about the multitude of ways we support our students, without which our students would be worse off.

Within the pages of this newsletter are several articles written by our colleagues that focus a spotlight on the amazing accomplishments of students who have been the recipients of scholarship opportunities; innovative programs and partnerships that help transitioning service members secure meaningful employment; and the continuing efforts of the state ACMEs to raise scholarship funding and ensure that military-affiliated students have access to services, information, and resources that impact their lives at the local, state, and federal levels.

I wish to thank each of you for your continued service to our students. Your time, resources, and efforts positively impact student success through access to affordable education and employment opportunities.

NAIMES –  
We're on the Web!  
[www.naimes.org](http://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' Spotlight Awards 2017**



By Joseph Houghton  
Director of Military Programs – Troy University  
NAIMES Treasurer

### NAIMES and MBS Direct Announce 2017-2018 Student Spotlight Awards Recipients

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; 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.

Active-duty applicants for the 2017-18 awards were asked to address the most significant challenges faced by service members in balancing the demands of their military service with the demands of higher education. Our military spouse applicants were asked to respond to a prompt that asked if they feel that the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses in support of our service members are appreciated and understood by the public. And, our veterans were asked to comment on the ways that their military service made them better prepared for higher education.

While our active-duty respondents focused largely on the issues of time management, deployment cycles and family, the manner in which these issues were addressed allowed the Scholarship Committee to identify two worthy undergraduates from the pool of qualified candidates. Allison Stahl, U.S. Navy and a sophomore Aeronautics major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, found that being prepared for the unexpected, staying well ahead of course deadlines and coping with not being able to contact a professor about a lack of internet connectivity because of a lack of internet connectivity helped her to balance the demands of being both student and sailor. Kimberly Desilus, U.S. Air Force, and a Social Psychology major at Park University, was inspired by John Maxwell's 80/20 Principle which suggests that 20% of your activities generate 80% of your results. By focusing on the top 20% of her priorities, Kimberly was able to develop a routine that allowed her to better manage her tasks and work towards her goals.

Our Spotlight Award winner from the graduate level is Alicia Hunt, U.S. Air Force, currently completing her Master's degree at University of Maryland University College in the field of Management. Alicia appreciates Nelson Mandela's respect for education when he states that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world " while at the same time appreciating Abigail Adams' belief expressed in personal communication that "Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence". Alicia faced the same challenges as our undergraduate applicants but having a clear understanding of why one seeks to become educated and how one gets there appears to have made her journey more manageable.

## 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' Spotlight Awards 2017 - continued

A graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, Marina Nelson was selected to represent the Military Spouses in this year's Student Spotlight Awards winner's circle. In her essay, Marina highlights the challenges of finding appropriate employment faced by military spouses owing largely to their status as a military spouse. Because of cycle of Permanent Change of Stations, military spouses are often unable to find meaningful employment. Citing DoD figures, Marina shares that more than half of all military spouses have some college credits, 21% percent of military spouses have four-year bachelor degrees and an additional eight percent have graduate degrees. And so she asks, how can this marginalized group enhance their employment opportunities when they face so many obstacles? For Marina, the answer to the question lies in helping educate employers in the value that military spouses can bring to their organizations. She reminds us that military spouses have unique skill sets and possess the abilities of adaptability and resilience at an unmatched level. Her educational experiences have been critical to her career and she remains hopeful, that as a military spouse, her skills and her education will be fully recognized by society one day.

**James Broome**, our Veteran Spotlight Award winner served for 12 years in the U.S. Air Force and is now completing his BS in Technology Management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Inspired to earn a degree by the Officers he worked with, James cited three critical ways that the military had made him better prepared for higher education; being better able to manage his time, being committed to the concept of constant improvement, and; always appreciating the importance of family as they help to push you towards your goals. Not surprisingly, most educators will agree with James that military students make good students because of their ability to manage their time and their appreciation of continuous improvement.

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' 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 Public University  
System  
Capella University  
Grantham University  
University of Phoenix

## **—The Value of Strong Partnerships to Support Transitioning Service Members—**



By Angela C. Albritton

Director, Military Relations and Strategic Initiatives  
Worldwide Campus  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University was recently invited to present at the American Legion's Aircraft Maintenance Credentialing Roundtable in Washington, DC. The roundtable was well-attended by numerous stakeholders from government, industry and academia, all with the same objective: how can we find better ways to address the global shortage of qualified aircraft mechanics and technicians. The university was accompanied by one of our aerospace industry partners who presented on their current and future workforce hiring needs. All agreed that the valuable skills our military service members offer civilian employers should not be wasted by allowing them to be underemployed once they exit the service.

More than 300,000 service members are expected to leave the military every year for the next few years. The Department of Defense (DoD) SkillBridge Program connects transitioning service members with industry partners and their civilian training programs. Service members who are within 180 days of exiting from the service and veterans are eligible for the program. The program is based on two important principles: the military services will release eligible service members to participate in industry training instead of performing military duties during the last 180 days of their service; and industry training providers will offer training at little to no cost to eligible service members. Training should take place on or near a military installation. Currently there are already more than one hundred approved DoD SkillBridge programs around the country.

Industry partners that want to participate in the DoD SkillBridge Program have a number of responsibilities to ensure program success. First, they must demonstrate that they have a hiring need and are committed to placing transitioning service members within their company. Companies should consider staffing their human resources departments with at least one veteran specialist who understands the military community and can assist during the transition from military service to civilian work. Some civilian employers may not understand how to relate to veterans, or how military training relates to the private sector workforce. Having HR specialists that understand the military community can help bridge the disconnect between civilians and veterans.

Secondly, industry partners need to consider if they have the expertise and capabilities to build and deliver a training program to transitioning service members. Companies may want to consider partnering with a reputable education provider, experienced in delivering quality education programs to the military community. In addition to seeking civilian employment after service members transition from the military, they may want to pursue a degree on an off-duty basis. Accredited education providers can build specialized workforce development programs with a focus on relevant technical skills, as well as offer courses that provide academic credit toward a degree.

*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.*

## The Value of Strong Partnerships to Support Transitioning Service Members continued

A number of companies have already partnered with academia to create innovative training programs for transitioning service members. Industry partners provide guidance to education providers on course content, thereby ensuring that courses and learning objectives are relevant and meet the needs of the hiring companies. One such innovative program is the Microsoft Software & Systems Academy (MSSA) program that is currently being offered at fourteen locations around the country, twelve of which are offered at Embry-Riddle locations.

As one of two academic partners, Embry-Riddle works closely with Microsoft to ensure transitioning service members and veterans have access to the most current information technology course content. Microsoft provides cutting edge curriculum and builds content to support the closure of the skills and courses are taught by highly qualified Embry-Riddle faculty. Microsoft also provides career placement services, professional development courses and mentorship throughout the program. With a 92% completion rate and more than 280 industry partners that have partnered to hire MSSA students, the program is a success.

To learn more about this innovative program, representatives from Embry-Riddle and Microsoft will present at the 2018 CCME Symposium in San Diego. The presentation focuses on the importance of building bridges between industry and academia to prepare transitioning service members for career success. Using the Microsoft Software and Systems Academy as an example, the presentation will showcase how industry training and certifications embedded in for-credit university courses can prepare service members for employment and on-going career success once they transition from the military. A framework will be presented that can serve as a role model for future industry/academic partnerships.

### ACME CORNER



By: Ashley Adamovage, M.P.M.  
SECOME President  
Military Liaison & Military Program Manager  
Office of Military Affairs  
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Dear Colleagues and the NAIMES Community,

The start to 2018 has already been filled with great accomplishments! SECOME is the most recent recipient of the Gary A. Woods Advisory Council on Military Education award provided by the Council of College and Military Educators due to its exceptional leadership and innovation. We are also proud to announce the state of Alabama has officially joined her sister states North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, making the SECOME-member-state-family complete. In addition, SECOME has welcomed new board members and members at large—all eager to work to help the organization meet its mission:

*To promote, support and deliver quality educational and professional opportunities and practices within all branches of the Armed Forces by providing innovative and ethical provisions for higher educational institutions, government and state entities.*

Although our bylaws require constant transition within the board, the focus is to still achieve the organization's goals set under the direction of the 2016-2021 strategic plan. If anything, we are exceeding the expectations set forth in 2016, and have expanded our reach. We have working partnerships and relationships with VA and DoD agencies to ensure that SECOME provides applicable guidance to institutions of higher learning within our member states. SECOME has expanded its membership to include institutional and community membership, allowing the organization to tailor its services to its members.

ACME CORNER 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 that end, SECOME's leadership lives and breathes 'service'. We aim to exceed expectations of a regional state advisory council on military education, and become a fully-functioning, financially-stable 501c3 non-profit organization, by helping military personnel succeed in education and transition. We are dedicated to building and maintaining real relationships and partnerships with agencies and corporations that believe in our mission, and can enhance the quality of life of active-duty service members, veterans and their families within the member states of SECOME.

Military-affiliated students work full-time and have children, but what sets them apart from non-traditional, adult learners is their priority to serve this nation. Aside from the personal challenges that students face by simply being connected to the military, the largest challenges lie within the standards of agencies that implement policy, as well as within many institutions of higher learning. Many institutions have access to receive DoD and VA educational benefits, however, many are falling short as to retain and to ultimately help students succeed through graduation. SECOME connects the lines of communication between policymakers and students, by discussing ways to help the latter succeed. The organization also serves as an information and referral system, professional development platform, and offers an annual scholarship program for students.

SECOME has ensured financial stability, and has expanded the SECOME Student Scholarship fund significantly. Just a few years ago, the organization was awarding three, \$500 scholarships. This year, SECOME will be awarding \$750-\$1500 scholarship awards, totaling over \$20,000 in scholarships! If you haven't become a 2017-2018 member of SECOME, join today because membership closes on April 1st! At the very least, become the reason for your students to qualify to apply to the SECOME scholarship opportunities.