
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

NAIMES

National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services

“educating our people in uniform”

JANUARY 24, 2019

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR MILITARY EDUCATION SERVICES
naimes.org

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Letter from the NAIMES' President **John Aldrich**

The NAIMES organization continues to fulfill its mission of excellence and advocacy for service members, veterans, and military affiliated students. As we reflect on the many issues of this community, as well as the institutions who service this educational community, NAIMES continues to lead the effort and contribute in many of the following ways.

Scholarship Program

The NAIMES organization's long-standing scholarship program continues to assist active duty members, veterans, and military spouses in attaining their educational goals. In 2018, the scholarship committee reviewed and selected five scholarship recipients from a very competitive pool of applicants. The \$1,200, undergraduate and graduate, scholarships were awarded to students attending Park University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Maryland, and the University of Oklahoma. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

Strategic Efforts & Engagement

In an effort to increase NAIMES's advocacy and impact, strategic efforts were made in engaging DOD, VA, Military & Veteran Service Organizations, and other regulatory bodies. The organization raised awareness through quarterly newsletters and by drafting a white paper on Military Housing Allowance for online learners. Through transparency and open dialogue with government officials, NAIMES was also able to address the DOD Institutional Compliance Program, Base Access rules and procedures, and rules of engagement on military installations.

NAIMES was also at the forefront in addressing certification issues of veterans in California. Policy changes, made by the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE), limited educational institutions ability to serve their affected student veterans. Through the organization's efforts and the efforts of other concerned advocacy groups, CSAAVE reversed its decision and reinstated all institutions.

NAIMES also alerted the DOD of impending General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) concerns in the European Union (EU). These regulations center on privacy concerns for EU citizens, however, DOD is unsure of the impact to military personnel, on and off installations, in Europe in 2018. We are monitoring impact and will be able to provide updates in 2019.

2019 Strategic Efforts

There is a great deal of work to be accomplished in 2019 and NAIMES will hit the ground running with our meeting at the annual CCME conference in January where we will discuss the following strategic efforts:

- Advocate for Policy & Policy Change
 - Increasing the Military Tuition Assistance Cap
 - Military Housing Allowance for online learners
 - Base Access Rules and Procedures
 - 85/15 Reporting Restrictions
- Increase Engagement & Outreach with Military Education Community
 - Increase dialogue with veteran service organizations (VSOs) and other “like-minded” entities
 - Increase/Encourage open dialogue with DOD, VA, and other regulatory bodies
 - Increase/Encourage engagement/representation at state ACMEs, installation events, and DOD meetings
- NAIMES Scholarship Program

While NAIMES’s members may be geographically distributed, this separation provides strength, at the grassroots level, that is essential in addressing military student concerns across the globe. Our members’ voices can be heard at the annual Council of College and Military Educator’s (CCME) conference, military installation offices and events, DOD meetings, and through the state ACME representation. Through these fruitful efforts, the collective voice of NAIMES can be felt throughout the military education community.

Sincerely,

John P. Aldrich

John P. Aldrich
President, NAIMES

NAIMES' Contact Information

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NAIMES' Newsletters

The NAIMES' organization publishes a periodic newsletter distributed to the military voluntary education community. Key components of the newsletter include a Message from the President, an update from one or more regional ACME (Advisory Council on Military Education) organizations, Spotlight on Best Practices within the Vol-Ed community, special articles from collaborative partner organizations, and updates on scholarship opportunities and awards. The 2018 newsletters are found on the [NAIMES' website](#) or accessed directly:

[First Edition 2018 NAIMES Newsletter](#)

[Second Edition 2018 NAIMES Newsletter](#)

[Third Edition 2018 NAIMES Newsletter](#)

Mission, Vision, Principles and Practices

Adopted December 8, 2017

Vision Statement

To advocate for and influence decisions that impact policy, legislation, and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students. (Voted upon, SEP 20, 2017)

Mission Statement

NAIMES is an organization dedicated to excellence and advocacy for military-affiliated students. (Voted upon, AUG 17, 2017)

Our Principles

- Sharing and advocating for institutional best practices in education.
- A collective voice of reason is more powerful.
- Making a positive difference requires mutual respect and collaboration

Our Practices

We promote and advocate for best practices by institutions serving military-affiliated students.

We recognize diversity is an asset essential to accomplishing our mission. Membership is comprised of various types of educational institutions.

We collaborate with colleagues through transparency and mutual respect to build and best ensure student success.

NAIMES' Long-Term Strategic Goals

The NAIMES' Strategic Plan, unanimously adopted on December 8, 2017, identifies the following strategic lines of efforts towards the long-term goals for the organization:

1. Advocate for the military student
2. Be productive and relevant
3. Increase transparency
4. Facilitate a collaborative dialogue with higher education organizations
5. Establish and maintain partnerships across the higher education enterprise

NAIMES' Executive Officers

President: John Aldrich, American Military University

Vice President: Alisha Miller, Thomas Edison State University

Treasurer: David Harvey, Central Michigan University

Secretary: Eric Ryan, University of Phoenix

Immediate Past President: Ms. Kelly Wilmeth, University of Maryland University College

NAIMES' Institution Members

2-Year Public Institutions:

Central Texas College

Coastline Community College

Pikes Peak Community College

Southwestern College

4-Year Public Institutions:

Central Michigan University

Thomas Edison State University

Troy University

University of Alaska System

University of Maryland University College

University of Oklahoma

Private Non-Profit Institutions:

Brandman University

Campbell University

Columbia College

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Park University

Saint Leo University

Wayland Baptist University

Webster University

Private For-Profit Institutions:

American Military University

Capella University

Grantham University

University of Phoenix

Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections Committee Report

The three-member Nominating Committee is a standing committee of the organization and is charged with soliciting nominations for officer positions for annual elections.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, the membership changed the By-laws regarding term lengths for the secretary and treasurer positions. These two positions are now two-year terms.

Nominations are open two months prior to the annual meeting. Nominees provide a brief biography and statement of commitment to serve. Two weeks prior to the annual meeting the names of nominees, and their biographies, are distributed to the general membership. Nominations are also accepted up to the time of the election. Elections are held in the afternoon of the first day of the annual meeting.

At the 2018 annual meeting, Sandra Kunz, Webster University, was elected to serve as secretary. In October, Ms. Kunz resigned and Eric Ryan, University of Phoenix, accepted the appointment to fill the position. Mr. David Harvey, Central Michigan University, was elected to fill the treasurer's position. Alisha Miller, Thomas Edison State University, was elected as the Vice-President/President-Elect. John Aldrich, American Military University, advanced from the Vice President/President-Elect position to President.

Newly elected officers began their terms on the second day of the meeting.

Membership Committee Report

NAIMES membership remained at 22 institutions representing two-year community colleges as well as four-year public, private and for-profit institutions. This year the committee focused on defining the parameters of what an invited institution should provide as part of the consideration. These included:

- A summary of the history of the institution and its relationship with the military and veteran community
- The number of military affiliated students currently served
- The percent of military affiliated students compared to the total student population
- The number of veterans using GI Bill benefits and what chapters are being used
- The number of students using military tuition assistance
- Being in good standing with the DoD MOU
- How ACE and military credits recommendations are used in your degree programs. (Are they only used in particular degrees, electives?)

Additionally, the committee defined what an institution must do to remain in good standing as a member of NAIMES:

- Participate in 50% of the NAIMES Coffee Chats
- Attend 1 of the 2 face-to-face annual meetings
- Payment of annual dues
- Remain a signatory on the DOD MOU

The committee also decided to move the timeline for looking at the makeup of the membership to every three years from every five years. Also, the committee began the discussion of adding an affiliate institution to a two-year term to provide fresh and various perspectives to the membership.

Scholarship Committee Report

The Scholarship Committee is a 10-member committee from NAIMES membership institutions responsible for the process and procedures associated with the application, selection and awarding of the annual Student Spotlight Awards. The committee develops the application questions, uses an agreed upon rubric for objective scoring, makes the final selections and announces the winners. The scholarship applications are posted on the NAIMES website in late spring and the application remains open until the end of September. Winners are notified by letter from the Scholarship Committee Chair and the names of the winners are also posted on the NAIMES website. The winners are invited to the spring CCME symposium to receive their award. Applicants can be from any DOD MOU institution; eligibility is not restricted to NAIMES member institutions.

Established in 2005 and first awarded in 2006, the NAIMES and MBS Direct program awards 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.

2018 NAIMES Student Spotlight Awards

Active-duty undergraduate student (less than 60 hours) Award: Allison Stahl

Allison is a first-year Aeronautics major with an Aviation Maintenance Minor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and serving in the U.S. Navy. Allison stated in her essay one of the biggest challenges while in the military and pursuing a higher education is finding the means to balance your time properly.

Active-duty undergraduate student (60 or more hours) Award: Kimberly Desilus

Kimberly is pursuing a Psychology major with a minor in Social Work from Park University. While active duty in the U.S. Air Force, Kimberly is a munitions systems specialist.

Active-duty graduate student Award: Alicia Hunt

Alicia is pursuing his Masters of Science in Management from University Maryland University College while serving in the U.S. Air Force. In her essay Alicia understands the importance of education and the power that having an educated mind strengthens to this day.

Student Veteran Award: James Broome

James, this year's Navy veteran recipient stated obtaining this degree was not just to help get a job, but to make a goal in his life that he could achieve. James is pursuing his Bachelor of Science Degree in Technical Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Military Spouse Student Award: Marina Nelson

Marina, the spouse of a Marine Corp soldier is the recipient of the military spouse scholarship award. While attending the University of Oklahoma, Marina is obtaining her Master of Arts degree also mentoring younger spouses and assisting them in starting their educational journeys.

[Policy and Issues Committee Report](#)

The NAIMES Policy and Issues Committee serves to monitor and share useful insights on issues impacting the relationship between educational institutions and the military and veteran affiliated student. Common issues of interest stem from changes to policy, regulation, or implementation. The following issues were tackled during 2018.

Forever GI Bill – Colmery Act

- Made concerted efforts through NAIMES' quarterly newsletters and dialogue with NAVPA leadership to disseminate information to institutions participating in the Voluntary Education community to increase awareness and understanding of the new legislation and regulations
- July 2018 – developed first draft of white paper to establish NAIMES' position to level MHA payments across onsite and online learning modalities for students using Post 9/11 VA benefits
- June – August 2018 – 10 NAIMES' member institutions collaborated to share information and discuss concerns regarding the California State Approving Agency for

Veterans Education (CSAAVE) actions leading to suspension and disapproval of member institutions to certify veteran benefits for onsite instruction in California

- August 28, 2018 – CSAAVE reversed its decisions and reinstated all 10 institutions subsequent to a memo that General Worley sent to all SAAs
- NOTE – NAIMES' membership was instrumental in prompting this memo through collaborative communication with Gen. Worley's office

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the EU

- February 2018 – Contacted Dawn Bilodeau, Director - Voluntary Education, regarding pending GDPR legislation going into effect in EU in May 2018 and asked for DoD position on the issues and guidance
- After conducting research on the new regulations, DoD presented at CCME on the issues and stated that DoD was not able to intervene, and that each individual institution would need to make its own decision regarding GDPR compliance

Meeting with Mr. Fred Drummond

- September 20, 2018 - Met with Mr. Fred Drummond, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Education and Training, and discussed the following items:*
 - *Status of DOD Voluntary Education Program*
 - *Pending changes to the DoDI 1322.25*
 - *Institutional Compliance Program*
 - *Base Access rules and procedures*
 - *Collecting military member contact details*
 - *The future of civilian educational institutions operating on military installation education centers*

Policy Priorities for 2019

- MHA differential for online students
- Access to military installations (base access)
- 85/15 reporting and restrictions
- Advocate for an increase to Tuition Assistance current per credit hour rate of \$250

Annual Report Committee Report

The purpose of the Annual Report Committee is to collect information on actions and activities accomplished by the NAIMES Organization over the past calendar year. The Report includes a year in review by the President, committee reports, information on NAIMES membership and the quarterly newsletters. The first annual report was accomplished for 2017.

The Committee finalized the initial NAIMES Annual Report in January 2018 and distributed it to the community in February. The report is available on the NAIMES.org website. The task to collect 2018 information was started at the NAIMES Annual Meeting in September and continued through November. Final Executive Board approval is expected by mid-January with distribution and posting immediately thereafter.

Strategic Plan Committee Report

The purpose of the Strategic Plan Committee is to provide an outline of the strategic priorities, goals and objectives to move the organization toward the vision of advocating for and influencing decisions that impact policy, legislation, and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students.

The Committee evaluated the one-year old strategic plan to assess if any changes were needed. Several points were considered, with the following points approved:

- Change “Beliefs” to “Principles” to better describe the philosophy of the organization. (Reference page 2 of the Strategic Plan, 2017-2022.)
- The Strategic Plan shall be reviewed every two years to assess accomplishments for each strategic priority.
- Each NAIMES committee is responsible for realizing the tasks assigned by the President with respect to a related strategic priority.

Overall, the committee found that NAIMES is continuing to move toward accomplishing much in several of the strategic priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. Assigning each NAIMES committee tasks relative to specific strategic priorities and allowing the committee to establish a viable timeline to complete milestones is a positive method for achieving the organization’s priorities.

Promotional Materials Committee Report

The Promotional Materials Committee was appointed as an Ad Hoc Committee at the 2017 NAIMES’ Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. The Committee was tasked to create promotional materials to help bring awareness of the NAIMES organization to other organizations at conferences, meetings and military education- related events. Such events could include the Annual CCME Professional Development Symposium, ACME meetings and conferences, installation education fairs and other conferences or events.

In 2018, The Promotional Materials Committee created a PowerPoint presentation about NAIMES that presents our board members, member composition, mission, vision, history, and scholarship award information. This presentation was created in an effort to provide greater transparency on NAIMES and our mission and vision as guided by our Strategic Plan. The PowerPoint presentation was presented at several ACME meetings and conferences in 2017/2018 by NAIMES President, Kelly Wilmeth. The Committee also created a trifold brochure containing similar information on NAIMES as the PowerPoint presentation. Two thousand copies of that brochure were printed and have been distributed at various ACME meetings, conferences, and the 2018 CCME Professional Development Symposium. The Committee designed and had purchased a magnetic nametag for each member, with the NAIMES logo; members can wear at events to spread awareness of NAIMES. Lastly, the Committee designed and printed business cards for each Board Member for distribution during their attendance at meetings and events.

Strategic Partnerships Committee Report

An ad hoc committee was tasked with focusing on Strategic Initiative 3. The committee recommended dividing Strategic Priority #3 into two distinct priorities and to include “outreach” as part of the committee’s focus.

The two priorities identified:

1. Increase strategic partnerships to strengthen our collective voice as influencers of policy, legislation, and practices that further the educational goals of military and veteran students.

2. To become a known and trusted entity as a resource with other like-minded organizations who share a common goal in delivering excellent educational programs and services to the military education community.

These changes provide a better understanding of the areas of focus for this committee resulting in a recommendation to draft a process for identifying, nurturing, and selecting strategic partners with whom collaboration would support the goals of NAIMES’ and align with current and relevant issues impacting the military education community.

It was determined that this committee:

- a. Be a standing committee for ongoing assessment of current goals and partnership development
- b. Identify potential partners with whom collaboration would support the goals of NAIMES’ and align with current and relevant issues impacting the military education community
- c. Define the roles and expectations of being a partner of NAIMES
 - 1) As consultants; memberships; special guests; Observers
 - 2) Length of commitment
 - 3) Identify a term for the partnership

- 4) Process for ongoing assessment of partnerships
 - d. Identify the types of organizations and agencies with whom to partner
 - e. Outline the benefits of partnership with NAIMES for the potential partners
 - f. Present partnership and outreach recommendations and criteria to NAIMES each year at its spring meeting.

It was agreed that the focus for 2019 partnership development focus on organizations that support attainment of credentials, apprenticeships, and employment such as credentialing agencies, employers and unions.

Conclusion

The NAIMES' Executive Board experienced a complete change in leadership in 2018. The new board members would like to thank the past leadership for the guidance, direction, and dedication provided. The names have changed, but our mission remains the same and we will continue to work to improve the educational experience of all military-affiliated students. NAIMES would also like to thank our many partners that help us provide the services and resources for our military community. MBS Direct's continued financial support to NAIMES' Spotlight Awards assisted in NAIMES' annual award of student scholarships. In addition, NAIMES sends thanks to DoD for their continued support of the Voluntary Education Program and their willingness to listen to and to collaborate with NAIMES and other educational institutions on ways to improve existing processes and procedures that impact military-affiliated students as they pursue their educational goals.