

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.

NAIMES –

We're on the Web!
www.naimes.org



Kelly Wilmeth
NAIMES' Immediate Past President

Colleagues and Friends,

It is hard to believe that the fall season is already upon us and that we've embarked on a new academic year. The fall semester is always a wonderful time to galvanize students to return to the classroom. Keeping them excited about their education and future career opportunities is challenging, and oftentimes rests in the student experience. If they have a wonderful experience from the moment they enter college, then they stand the best chance of success.

Over the past three years, through the pages of its newsletter, NAIMES has provided dozens of examples of best practices that impact student success, and highlighted partner organizations with similar missions. We have tried to raise awareness of the fact that by working together, we can achieve great results. I hope that everyone continues to find value in the NAIMES' Newsletter. We continue to expand its distribution and proactively seek out opportunities to highlight each quarter. This quarter is no different. Within these pages you will find many examples of best practices, professional development opportunities, ACME updates, and good news stories.

During the recent NAIMES' Annual Meeting, elections were held for NAIMES' Executive Board positions. I now move into the role of Immediate Past President and would like to congratulate our new Board members:

President, John Aldrich, American Military University
Vice President/President-elect, Alisha Miller, Thomas Edison State University
Treasurer, David Harvey, Central Michigan University
Secretary, Eric Ryan, University of Phoenix

I look forward to supporting the new Board as we continue to shape the NAIMES' organization to best meet the needs of military-affiliated students and advocate on their behalf. Having turned the gavel over to John Aldrich, this is my final *From the President* article. I would like to say that the past four years have been amazing. Working first as the President-elect for two years followed by President for an additional two, I have learned so much. Participating in productive dialogue that leads to solutions, helping to create the first-ever NAIMES' Newsletter, Strategic Plan and Annual Report, and developing strategic relationships across the military and veteran community have been the highlights of my time on the NAIMES' Board. I am very proud to have served as the NAIMES' President, and I remain as committed as ever to serving the military and veteran community in my new role.

I look forward to continued collaboration with each and every one of you and extend a heartfelt thank you for your assistance and for everything you do on behalf of our students and community.

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.

Annual Meeting Recap



*Kelly Wilmeth
NAIMES' Immediate Past President*

NAIMES 2018 Annual Meeting

The NAIMES' membership held its Annual Meeting in Washington DC on September 20-21. Nineteen of the 22 member institutions attended to engage in sharing of information, best practices, and in-depth discussion of items relevant to the DoD's Voluntary Education Program and the Department of Veteran Affairs. We opened our Annual Meeting reflecting on what NAIMES accomplished since its last Annual Meeting. We first focused on the roles of NAIMES, the CCME Professional Development Symposium, and the State ACMES. Members spoke at length about the unique strengths each organization brings to the table, which when combined, result in proactive collaboration leading to better services provided to military-affiliated students and stronger advocacy on their behalf.

Other discussion items included:

- DoD's Institutional Compliance Program
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements in the European Union that went into effect in May
- Impact of the Forever GI Bill Colmery Act regulations specific to the recent changes on how MHA is calculated based on new zip code rules

Membership identified several action items from these discussions that we will share with the larger community in the months to come.

On the first day of the meeting, NAIMES hosted Mr. Charles "Fred" Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Education and Training, for a round table discussion on various topics of concern and interest to include the status of the DoD Voluntary Education Program and pending changes to the DoDI 1322.25. We also spoke in depth about the continued need for consistency across all military branches related to base access and collecting military member contact information. Mr. Drummond shared with NAIMES that an emphasis on programs that lead to career opportunities for service members as they transition is a DoD priority moving forward. His office is seeking strategic partnerships with organizations that can address credentialing and certification opportunities to supplement academic degree programs funded by Tuition Assistance. NAIMES extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Drummond for taking the time out of his very busy schedule to engage in transparent and collegial dialogue that will guide our organization's current and future advocacy efforts.

Day one ended with the announcement of new Officers for the organization. Mr. John Aldrich (AMU) moved into the role of President, after having served two years as President-elect. Ms. Kelly Wilmeth (UMUC) moved into the role of Immediate Past President, after having served four years as President-elect and President. The organization gave a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Joseph "J" Houghton (Troy University) for serving as the NAIMES' Treasurer for 10 years. Mr. David Harvey (CMU) will assume the role of Treasurer for the upcoming year. NAIMES also bid fond farewell to Alisha Miller (TESU) for her dedication serving as the NAIMES' Secretary for three years, while simultaneously welcoming her as the new NAIMES' President-elect. Assuming the role of Secretary will be Mr. Eric Ryan (UoP).

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
Pikes 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

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Annual Meeting Recap - continued

Day two of our Annual Meeting was devoted to small working groups to review progress against the first year of the NAIMES' Strategic Plan and to draft the NAIMES' 2018 Annual Report for publication and distribution in January 2019.

This year's Annual Meeting highlighted for all NAIMES' member institutions the continued need for engagement among all stakeholders and constituents working to improve the lives of service members and veterans as they pursue their educational and career goals. Of paramount importance is garnering the spirit of volunteerism to support NAIMES and other organizations as they seek to fulfill their missions. All participating members demonstrated that by working together and participating in proactive and collaborative dialogue, we can produce tangible results that positively influence student success.

Best Practices

By Marsha Thompson
Veterans Outreach Manager
Columbia College

Green Zone Training

Green Zone training was pioneered at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010 and is now offered at more than 100 universities and organizations across the nation. Named for the secure international zone in Baghdad, Iraq, a green zone is a location recognized by veterans as a safe place. The goal of the Green Zone program is to provide a safe space for student veterans, whether on-campus or on-line.

Columbia College offers a training program for staff and faculty to become green zone advocates. Columbia College has created and given the Green Zone training a distinctive sense of what it is to be a student veteran on campus, while also identifying the strengths and uniqueness the student veteran brings to the classroom.

Green zone advocates are staff and faculty who:

- Are aware of the issues and concerns faced by student veterans and their families
- Are available to listen and assist student veterans and their families
- Are a sympathetic ear
- Can refer to appropriate services as needed

Green Zone advocates are NOT expected to be experts or be able to solve all problems. Instead, they are a resource to student veterans.

Green Zone training is offered at the minimum, monthly at Columbia College for all new staff and faculty members. The training is interactive with questions and testimonials, as some of our incoming staff or faculty may be a veteran. The training was developed with various departments that would interact with a student and identifies how their processes specifically apply to the veteran.

Highlights of Green Zone training include:

- How to identify student veterans and understand their demographics
- Understanding military experience and the cycle of deployments
- Understanding the strengths of veterans in the classroom

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.

Best Practices - continued

- Understanding the challenges veterans face in the classroom
- Identifying resources available to student veterans such as disability, health, tutoring services, and more
- What questions should and should not be asked of veterans
- Discussion of typical scenarios student veterans face and how to appropriately navigate them

Those who attend the training receive a Green Zone training sticker or decal and a booklet of information and resources to use as a guide when needed. Graduates of the Green Zone training program will proudly display the Green Zone logo in their office or in their syllabus; this identification may foster a greater sense of willingness to visit an office or with that faculty member.

We take pride in giving this resource to our staff and faculty to ensure our service members and veterans feel welcome at each campus location. Each of our 35 campus locations has a Military Transition Team member (MTT) that assists in reaching out to our potential and current student veterans with the intent of eliminating barriers and obstacles that some student veterans face. The MTT member is also another resource in assisting with homelessness, poverty, educational benefit issues, and employment ... among other non-classroom issues. Within the Green Zone training many resources are available for each location and within the surrounding communities.

We have been successful in training over 500 staff and faculty members nationwide. Green Zone gives our members insight on what to look for, resources for referral or to just be that listening ear to our student veterans. We have been able to assist our advisors and other staff members with unique situations during times of deployment, crisis and/or challenges with educational benefits. Green Zone has created many conversations between staff and student veterans that may not have taken place otherwise, fostering a mentoring type of environment.

Columbia College remains in support of our student veterans by continuing to educate our staff and faculty on common concerns that student veterans face by creating and offering six enhancement modules to the Green Zone training:

- Understanding Benefits
- Mental Health
- Student Accessibility Resources
- Advising Veterans
- Employment
- Career Opportunities and Community Service Involvement for Veterans

The primary objective is to make the transition from combat to classroom as smooth as possible and to remove any barriers to successfully completing their education journey.

For more information contact Ousley Family Veterans Service Center at 573-875-7504.

Advice From The Foxhole

**2019 CCME
Professional
Development
Symposium**

January 21 -24

JW Marriott Austin
Austin, TX

Conference Theme:

*“Expanding Pathways:
Influencing Relevant
Outcomes”*

For registration and
other symposium
information, please visit
the CCME website at

<http://www.ccmeonline.org/annualsymposium>.



Why should you attend CCME?

Even in this digital age, when information is readily available at our fingertips, there are still many benefits to attending a live, face-to-face professional development conference.

Professional development symposiums, like CCME, are a great place to network with others within this field. Some would argue that this is the most important benefit of attending the symposium. CCME 2019 is expected to have anywhere between 800-1000 attendees again this year. This diverse network of DoD, higher education representatives, and corporate attendees creates a wonderful opportunity to make positive, professional connections.

CCME provides a platform to connect, collaborate, and share information. With more than 95 break-out sessions, attendees are offered the opportunity to learn from the experiences of their peers, gain insight and knowledge on current trends, and problem solve solutions to current issues many are experiencing.

The conference also includes an Exhibit Hall where vendors showcase their latest products and services, perhaps providing a solution to a problem your organization may be facing.

Yes, the web provides easy access to a great deal of information, but something happens when you attend a professional development conference. Many return with a renewed sense of purpose and feel armed with a new set of skills and knowledge. They have expanded their “go-to” list of contacts and built the foundation for some long standing, working relationships. The benefits are not only professional but personal.

For more information on this year’s conference, please go to www.ccmeonline.org.

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-Worldwide
Park University
Saint Leo University
Wayland Baptist University
Webster University

Private For-Profit

American Military University
Capella University
Grantham University
University of Phoenix

ACME Corner

By Wendy Sickora, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
Secretary
Sent on behalf of the President
California Advisory Council on Military Education

Annual Symposium
October 12, 2018



The California Advisory Council on Military Education (CA-ACME) Symposium will take place on Friday, October 12 at the National University Campus in San Diego, CA. This year's keynote speaker is Maurice Wilson, President/Executive Director for the National Veterans Transition Service Inc. (NVTSI).

In 2010, the NVTSI created REBOOT Workshops™. REBOOT Workshops™ are designed to meet an acute need for robust military to civilian transition programs, and close the gap. By addressing transition issues at their root cause, NVTSI and its network of partners helps transitioning service members, veterans and spouses successfully transition from the military-to-civilian world through a three phased, 15-day intensive workshop that empowers them with resiliency and self-sufficiency.

Additional speakers for the symposium include: Jose Velazquez, U.S. Department of Labor; Beth Juachon, Department of Veteran Affairs, San Diego office; Ashley Adamovage, CCME ACME Liaison; Stephanie Brown, The Rosie Network (Entrepreneurship); Phil Spitz, National Student Clearinghouse (College Credit Transfer Program). We will finish the symposium with an ESO Panel & Branch Updates. The panel members are Karen Stanbery, Navy Regional Advisor San Diego and Demetra Anderson, Education Services Officer, MCAS Miramar.

We will kick-off the symposium on October 11 with our golf fundraiser that runs from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Admiral Baker Field Golf Course in San Diego, CA. All proceeds go to the CA-ACME scholarship fund.

To learn more about CA-ACME, please visit <https://caacme.org>.



2018 SECOME Symposium
22-25 October | USS Yorktown | Charleston, SC.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! You're invited to "Walk in the Steps of Heroes." SECOME is honored to announce the 2018 Symposium will be held aboard the World War II USS Yorktown historical aircraft carrier in Charleston, South Carolina. Annual symposiums allow members and guests to collaborate and share best practices to support the military-affiliated student.

The 2018 SECOME Symposium, The Institutional Responsibility: Ensuring Military Student Success, is geared towards current trends within military education, as well as state and federal policy. Speakers are internationally acclaimed and educate attendees on best practices and topics affecting military affiliated personnel today. Education Services Officers from each Armed Services Branch are also well represented. Other agenda topics will include DoD and VA compliancy standards, employment engagement strategies, strategic partnership and community development, careerservices for student veterans and military spouses, transitional services, and much more!

REGISTER at <https://www.secome.org/2018-secome-symposium>.

NAIMES' Governance

President:

John Aldrich

Vice President,
Military, Veterans &
Educational Partnerships

American Military
University

President-elect:

Alisha Miller

Associate Director,
Office of Military &
Veteran Education

Thomas Edison
State University

Immediate Past

President:

Kelly Wilmeth

Vice President, Stateside
Military Operations

University of Maryland
University College

Treasurer:

David Harvey

Manager, East Coast
Operations, Global Campus

Central Michigan
University

Secretary:

Eric Ryan

Director, Student
Operations &
Administrative Services,
Office of Military Affairs

University of Phoenix

Good News Story

Service members walk 91.1 miles from N.J. base to N.Y. for 9/11 memorial

[Full Article](#)

By Alexis Johnson
NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
Updated Sep 11; Posted Sep 10

Service members from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey are walking 91.1 miles to the World Trade Center in remembrance of the victims killed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Joint Base posted to Facebook a photo of active duty members and veterans trekking in the rain in plain clothes for the 9/11 Memorial 100 Mile March.

The march, which is in its 6th year, is expected to take the 24 service members and volunteers about 30 hours to complete. All funds raised by the march will be donated to the 9/11 memorial fund along with a flag that is carried along with them in the march.

Organizer and New Jersey native Jon Leech, a member of the Air Force based in Columbus, said the walk is a way for them to try and preserve the memories of the attacks.

"This day is pretty much when my view of the world changed," Leech said.

The group is escorted by white vans that navigate the route as the volunteers take shifts between walking and riding in the vans that bring them back to New Jersey on Tuesday.

"There are a lot of people that we now work with that don't remember life before 9/11. So, in that regard this is only the smallest thing that we can do to give back to the memorial to make sure that it stays around for years to come and so that people don't forget what happened," Leech said.

