

# 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.



John Aldrich  
NAIMES President  
President@NAIMES.org

Colleagues and Friends,

I am honored to be serving as the NAIMES president for 2019, and look forward to the next two years. I view NAIMES as a main catalyst for the voluntary education community and those who serve. My hope is that we continue to support each other in our many educational endeavors and in advocating for those who serve.

Our two greatest assets are our members and the institutions that generously enable us to contribute our time, energy, and resources to achieving the NAIMES mission of excellence and advocacy for servicemembers, veterans, and military-affiliated students. Together, our members have indeed done, and will continue to do, great things for servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Key priorities for us this year are to work with other like-minded military and veteran service organizations on the military housing allowance for online learners, increased base access for schools, and an increased tuition assistance cap. There is much work to be done, but I am confident that our collaboration will lead to the future success of institutions like ours serving those who serve and for servicemembers, veterans and their families.

There were many highlights from this year's CCME symposium in January, including another year of great professional development workshops and presentations by key OSD and VA officials. This was the second year running that Fred Drummond, OSD Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Education and Training, emphasized the relevance of credentialing. Air Force Voluntary Education Chief Hildegard Buan announced that credentialing expenditures were up by over \$2 million since 2017, indicating a significant push toward credentialing. AF COOL significantly increased over 2017, with already 1,300 airmen pursuing AF COOL credentials in the first month of 2019. Ms. Buan stated that this exceeds total 2015-16 participants for the entire year.

Not to be outdone by the Air Force, in September 2018, Fort Hood announced the launch of a limited, newly developed Credentialing Assistance (CA) pilot program scheduled to launch Army-wide in October 2019. Key takeaways from Director of Voluntary Education Dawn Bilodeau were that the DOD MOU Five Year Update is due in July 2019, and that schools will soon be notified. She also announced that the overseas contracts will soon be open for applications. In addition, she noted that TA usage throughout the services is stabilizing, except for Army, which saw a drop of 1,000. Lastly, this year's Gary A. Woods ACME of the Year Award was the Florida ACME. NAIMES would like to personally thank all of the attending schools and CCME for organizing and providing such a wonderful venue to network and exchange ideas and innovations with colleagues in the voluntary education community.

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.*

## **Letter from the President cont.**

We congratulate this year's scholarship recipients of the NAIMES Student Spotlight Award including USMC Staff Sergeant David L. Fry, USAF Staff Sergeant Katelyn Field, US Army Sergeant First Class Michael A. Williams, US Army Veteran Dianne L. Reed, and US Army Active Duty Spouse Nicole N. Bier.

I want to give a special thank you to Kelly Wilmeth, immediate past president for her tireless devotion and commitment in leading NAIMES for the past two years. Kelly set a high bar for all future NAIMES presidents, a job well done!

## **Service Branch Updates**

TUITION ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES UPDATE -- Marines

Date Signed: 3/11/2019

<https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/MARADMINS/Article/1781291/tuition-assistance-guidelines-update/>

Effective immediately, there is no minimum time in service requirement for the utilization of TA. Additionally, Marines in an awaiting training (MAT) status are eligible to participate in the program.

2. TA is authorized only for Marines who meet the standards and eligibility criteria contained in references (a) and (b). Command approval of TA is contingent upon the command's anticipated mission requirements and individual Marines' eligibility to participate in the program.

3. The contents of this MARADMIN will be incorporated into the upcoming revision of reference (a).

4. Release authorized by LtGen M. A. Rocco, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Please see the link above for full details.

## 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

## Legislative Updates

Post-9/11 GI Bill Housing Payment Rates Update

November 28, 2018, 09:00:00 AM

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5151>

WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced key changes in the processing of GI Bill benefits payments under the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Forever GI Bill).

Because of continued information technology difficulties with implementing sections 107 and 501 of the law, both of which change the way monthly housing allowance payments are calculated, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has directed Under Secretary for Benefits Paul R. Lawrence to take the following actions:

Effective Dec. 1, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will reset its implementation efforts for sections 107 and 501 of the law to give the department the time, contracting support and resources necessary to develop the capability to process Spring 2020 enrollments in accordance with the law by December 1, 2019. This includes soliciting bids from contractors for support in the areas of program integration, systems implementation, and software development.

During this time, VBA will pay monthly housing allowance rates for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the current academic year uncapped Department of Defense (DoD) Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) rates. For many students, this DoD BAH rate will be equal to or higher than their current payment. VBA will also correct retroactively any underpayments resulting from section 107 and 501 implementation problems. If a student was overpaid due to the change in law or because of VBA's challenges in implementing the law, the student will not be held liable for the debt.

Also, for the current academic year (2018-2019), VBA will pay housing allowances based on the location of a school's main campus, rather than the physical location of the student. This interim policy will terminate by December 1, 2019, upon implementation of a fully developed IT solution for sections 107 and 501 of the law.

Finally, VBA will define a training site as a "campus" when the following conditions are true: the physical site of the training is either owned or leased by the school, and the school has ownership or control over the student's classroom instruction or the faculty conducting the instruction. This approach reduces the administrative burden for schools and students from VBA's initial interpretation of the law.

As these changes are implemented, VBA will remain in continuous contact with Veterans, Congress, Veterans Service Organizations and other stakeholders to ensure everyone is informed and knows what to expect.

"Redesigning the way VBA calculates Post 9/11 GI Bill housing rates during a busy academic season was like flying a plane while building it, and that was unfair and frustrating to Veterans and taxpayers. That's why we are resetting our implementation of the law for the next year to ensure we get the technology and formula right to put Veterans first," said Secretary Wilkie. "In the meantime, beneficiaries receiving Post 9/11 GI Bill housing allowances will be paid at the DoD BAH rate, which in many cases will be equal to or higher than their current payment."

While VBA's pending education claims inventory was three times higher than normal in early September, that figure is back to normal levels. For more information on VBA's pending education claims inventory, see here.

VBA strongly encourages schools to begin submitting enrollments immediately for the Spring 2019 term to help VBA process them in a timely fashion. This will ensure that Veteran students receive their housing payments promptly and schools receive tuition and fee payments. VBA expects to maintain timeliness standards of an average 28 days for a new enrollment and 14 days for a re-enrollment.

## 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

## Spotlight Awards



By: David Harvey  
Manager, US East Coast Operations  
Central Michigan University

### NAIMES and MBS Direct Announce 2018-2019 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. 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.

The 2018-19 award winners for each category were:

Active-duty undergraduate student (less than 60 hours) Award: **David L. Fry**

David is a Marine who was accepted into the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) in June 2018 and will graduate with a Computer Science degree in Cyber Security. Upon graduation David will commission as a Second Lieutenant and continue serving in the Marine Corps. David enjoys woodworking, outdoor activities and spending time with his wife and 6-year old son.

Active-duty undergraduate student (60 or more hours) Award: **Katelyn Field**

Katelyn is pursuing a Health Science degree from Bellevue University while in the Air Force as a weather craftsman. Katelyn found her passion after being injured in a field exercise going through various physical therapies. She is interested in exercise physiology and the science behind yoga benefits. Katelyn enjoys participating in speaking/debate groups and outdoor activities such as hiking and kayaking. Additionally, Katelyn volunteers at a non-profit that provides resource and financial aid in the effort to end veteran suicide.

Active-duty graduate student Award: **Michael A. Williams**

SFC Michael Williams is pursuing a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Administration at Columbia College. Michael's goal is to complete the program with a 3.8 GPA and after retirement, use his experience and education to assist young men who are struggling academically. Michael credits the military to be the catalyst that set his educational journey in motion providing the appropriate tools and lit the pathway to follow. Outside interests include traveling, weightlifting and golf.

Student Veteran Award: **Dianne L. Reed**

Dianne is currently attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University earning a degree in Homeland Security. Dianne retired in October 1992 from the Army after serving as an Ordnance Officer. Dianne says "a degree in homeland security is an ideal match for my background and experience, and feels that have been training for this new career her whole life." Dianne's goal is to work in a local emergency management agency and help her community prepare for and manage emergencies as well as lessen the impact by increasing resiliency among individuals,

*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.*

## Spotlight Awards cont.

businesses, first responders, and government agencies. Dianne's interests include spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading, camping and hiking. One of her goals is to visit every national park in the U.S., and so far she has visited 28.

### Military Spouse Student Award: **Nicole N. Bier**

Nicole is working on her PhD in Aviation while studying at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is also a military spouse supporting her husband who is serving in the Air Force. Nicole believes her greatest academic accomplishment is helping other military spouses recognize their academic and professional value outside of supporting their service member and taking care of their children. Nicole says that education is a gateway to opportunities and freedom. In her free time, she loves to cook, hike, meet new people and learn about different cultures.

## ACME CORNER

By: Keith Davis, MSgt (Ret), USAF  
Manager, Military Education  
Florida, Alabama and Mississippi  
American Public University System



The Florida ACME is hosting its annual workshop 29 – 30 April, 2019 in the Fort Walton Beach/Destin, FL area, also known as the "Emerald Coast." This year's theme is "Discovering Educational Treasures on the Emerald Coast," and boasts an agenda filled with wonderful presenters. The Keynote Speaker this year is Mr. Jim Sweizer, former Air Force VoEd Chief and longtime advocate for improving military education opportunities.

In conjunction with the two-day workshop, we have coordinated with three large Air Force installations (Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field and Tyndall AFB) that will host consecutive Education Fairs, 1 – 3 May to maximize attendance and opportunities. The installations have been very supportive along the way and are providing ESOs, Counselors and students to sit on panels, allowing the attendees to interact with those we serve.

As a result of the great support from our sponsors and membership, we will be presenting eight scholarships to our active duty, veteran and spouse students in the amount of \$1,000 each. This year marks the highest number of scholarships awarded.

Final thought, the Florida ACME was the recipient of the 2019 CCME Gary A. Woods Award as "Best ACME." We are looking forward to a great workshop and an even better year!

**Hot Topic**

***CCME 2020 Professional Development Symposium:***

Philadelphia Marriott -  
Downtown  
1201 Market St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

*March 9 - 12, 2020*

By: Janice Neal  
CCME President 2019-2020  
Director, Webster University  
Los Angeles AFB Campus  
Regional Director/Western Military Campuses

Message from the CCME President:



We had a successful completion to our 2019 Professional Development Symposium in Austin, TX. The four-day symposium from January 21st to the 24th included speakers, concurrent sessions on best practices, military/veteran support service panels, and effectual networking.

The event commenced with a few pre-conference workshops, including our Newcomers Orientation, so first-time attendees could discover the meaning of CCME and connect with others. The informative and resourceful ACME 101 and 201 sessions allowed new and seasoned Advisory Council on Military Education (ACME) groups to define best practices and to create new State ACME groups across the Nation.

We are always excited each year to hear from Mr. Charles (Fred) Drummond (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training), Ms. Dawn Bilodeau (Chief of Defense (DOD) Voluntary Education), Mr. Anthony Clarke (DOD Education Program Analyst), and Ms. Margarita Devlin (Executive Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Assistance Service (BAS)). VBA also supplied an informative Veterans Affairs Update. Department of Labor, Mr. Jose Velazquez moderated a panel of experts in Apprenticeship programs that support our military community. All sessions were valuable and appreciated.

We were also graced by Brigadier General Gregory Chaney (Assistant Adjutant General, Austin, Texas), Honorable Patrick J. Murphy (32nd Under Secretary of the Army and Chief Management Officer (CMO)), Ms. Hildegard Buan (Chief Air Force Voluntary Education), Ms. Pamela Raymer (Chief, Army Continuing Education systems), and Mr. Daryl Patrick (Chief, Marine Corps Voluntary Education Service) during a panel discussion of the most critical topics in the education arena. Mr. Louis Soares, Chief Learning & Innovation Officer of the American Council on Education (ACE), expounded upon a data-driven presentation on Competence Ecosystem: Optimizing Human Capital for Force and Life Success.

As we look forward to CCME 2020 in Philadelphia, PA, March 9 - 12, 2020 we are reminded that having various pathways in military education will assist our military and veteran students and their families to be well-equipped for success.

We look forward to receiving your confirmation to attend the CCME Professional Symposium. So, stay tuned via [www.CCMEOnline.org](http://www.CCMEOnline.org) for key registration and hotel information which will be posted in the near future.

For more information:  
[www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org)

**Good News Story**

**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*

**Purple Up! For Military Kids Day**

Excerpts taken from: <https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military-child/>



April is designated as the Month of the Military Child; a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was responsible for establishing April as the Month Of The Military Child in 1986, and the Department of Defense has honored his initiative ever since.

“Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for DoDEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Wearing purple is a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

**Way to Celebrate Purple Up! Day**

- Wear Purple on Purple Up! Day
- Ask local, regional, state, and federal officials to wear purple on Purple Up! day
- Suggest companies and businesses ask their employees to wear purple
- Ask schools, teachers to recognize Purple Up! Day
- Recognize military children
- Involve schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, after school programs, fraternal organizations, social clubs, coworkers, members of your organizations
- Request local businesses, stores and restaurants post a Purple Up! message
- Share your activities and photos #purpleup

**How To Learn More About Month of the Military Child Activities and Events -**

Since many of the April events are sponsored by military communities, it’s best to start your search for events with the base Public Affairs office, Military Family Readiness Centers, Department of Defense Dependent School admin offices, and even on-base Child Development Centers (the military base equivalent of daycare).

You may also find activities listed at Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Centers at military installations overseas and stateside. The official sites for all these organizations often post calendars of upcoming events and programs.