
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

NAIMES

National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services

“educating our people in uniform”

MARCH 11, 2026

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR MILITARY EDUCATION SERVICES

naimes.org

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Letter from the NAIMES President

Colleagues,

NAIMES is pleased to share our 2025 Annual Report. As we reflect on the past year, I am grateful for the dedication and collaboration of our members, partners, and the broader military education community. Together, we continue to “advocate for and influence decisions that impact policy, legislation, and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students.”

This year marked a significant milestone for our organization as we celebrated our 50th anniversary! Since 1975, NAIMES has been the collective voice advocating for military-connected students wherever they serve. We remain committed to strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and the military community in support of our mission.

Throughout the year, NAIMES continued to play an active role in discussions surrounding policies that affect military learners. We authored a position paper supporting a potential increase in the Tuition Assistance (TA) cap and remained engaged in conversations on this matter. This paper is available on our [website](#).

In February 2025, at the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) annual conference, NAIMES participated in a panel alongside several sister military and veteran-serving organizations sharing updates and insights with the broader CCME community. This event highlighted the collaborative efforts to expand educational opportunities and support systems for military-connected students.

NAIMES has continued to strengthen its internal processes while positioning to better serve in the future. This year, we endeavored to formalize our nonprofit structure and as an important milestone in ensuring NAIMES remains a strong and effective voice within the military education community. These steps will allow us to deepen collaboration with partner organizations, expand scholarship opportunities that directly support military-connected students, and strengthen our advocacy efforts on issues impacting access, affordability, and student success.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our Executive Board, member institutions, and other partners. Our shared passion for serving the military community is what makes NAIMES a trusted and respected voice in military education.

Looking ahead, we continue working to ensure that service members, veterans, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to achieve their academic goals and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission of NAIMES.

With Warmest Regards,

*Lisa Binger
NAIMES President*

Mission, Vision, Principles and Practices

Adopted December 8, 2017

Vision Statement

NAIMES is recognized as the trusted premier advocacy group among organizations that share the common goal of delivering quality educational programs and services to the military education community.

Mission Statement

To advocate for and influence decisions that impact policy, legislation, and practices that safeguard the academic success of military-affiliated students.

Our Beliefs

- 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 professional 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 toward 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 2025

President: Lisa Binger, University of Arizona Global Campus

Immediate Past President: Keith Hauk

Vice President: Darin Hand, Columbia College

Treasurer: Rob Hassinger, American Military University

Secretary: Chris Kean, Pikes Peak State College

NAIMES Institution Members

Private For-Profit Institutions:

- American Public University System
- University of Phoenix

Private Non-Profit Institutions:

- Campbell University
- Columbia College
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Indiana Tech
- Keiser University
- National University
- Saint Leo University
- UMass Global
- Wayland Baptist University*

2-Year Public Institutions:

- Coastline College*
- Pikes Peak State College

4-Year Public Institutions:

- Central Michigan University
- Thomas Edison State University
- Troy University
- University of Arizona Global Campus
- University of Marland Global Campus

*Minority Serving Institution

Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections Committee Report

During the past year, the Nominations and Elections Committee focused on developing a proposed framework to guide the NAIMES Executive Board election process in alignment with Article X of the association's by-laws. The proposal outlined recommended roles, eligibility requirements, nomination timelines, voting procedures, and communication steps intended to support a transparent and consistent election process for future annual meetings. As the proposal was not brought forward for a vote at the annual meeting, the committee did not implement any formal election activities during this reporting period. The draft process remains available for future consideration should the membership wish to revisit the proposed framework.

Membership Committee Report

NAIMES membership continues to experience the same level of fluctuations that we have seen over the last 5 years. In 2025, we started the year with 17 active institutions, although in the fall of 2025, Capella University withdrew its membership from the organization due to a refocus of institutional mission. On a positive membership note, the committee reviewed the applications of two new institutions – Indiana Tech and National University and recommended that both institutions be admitted into the organization. NAIMES members voted in favor of admitting these two institutions which was made final in May 2025. In fall of 2025, NAIMES had an additional application from Western Governors University (WGU) which will be evaluated this spring along with other potential members. With the loss of Capella and the admission of Indiana Tech and National, NAIMES ended the year with 18 active members.

The Membership Committee is also responsible for the monitoring of member compliance with the membership criteria established in the bylaws. For 2025, all members met or exceeded the membership criteria, and no institutions are on probation for 2026.

Looking forward, the membership committee will be conducting another assessment of institutions and making recommendations to the executive committee and the membership as to which outside institutions may be a good fit as members in NAIMES.

Scholarship Committee Report

The Committee Chair applied to Veterans United Foundation in June 2025 and in August 2025 NAIMES was awarded \$5,000 for scholarships.

This year, two essay prompts were provided to allow for more options in submissions. An agreed-upon rubric outlined on the website was used for objective scoring. The prompts were:

1. *Describe your educational journey and how it has impacted your community involvement.*
2. *How has educational innovation in technology shaped your pursuit of higher education?*

A total of 99 submissions were received by the scholarship application December 15 deadline - a 260% increase from last year. This is a testament to the excellent work member institutions did to distribute the scholarship information to their students.

The use of the old evaluation rubric that had been used in previous years did not provide clear winners. Therefore, during the second round of ratings, raters were asked to use a more comprehensive rubric (1-5) which narrowed down the selection to two applicants in four of the five categories. The winner of Military Spouse was determined during the second round. For the third and final (tiebreaker) round, the NAIMES President selected the winner in the other four categories. As in subsequent years, the Committee Chair did not rate any of the submissions.

On January 26, 2026, the scholarship winners were notified in writing by the Committee Chair and invited to attend the annual CCME Professional Development Symposium. All winners accepted their scholarships and four winners provided written thank you messages (see thank you notes below). Unfortunately, none of this year's recipients were able to attend the awards presentation at CCME.

On January 27th, 2026, the Treasurer informed the Scholarship Chair in writing that the checks were being mailed within 1 – 2 days.

NAIMES Student Spotlight Award Winners:

- Active-Duty Undergraduate < 60 Credits: Zephrinus Hippolyte (ERAU, USAF E-5)
- Active-Duty Undergraduate > 60 Credits: Nation Cousins (ERAU, USAF E-4)
- Active-Duty Graduate: Janet Rivera (ERAU, USN E-6)
- Veteran: Brandon Sweitzer (Coastline Community College)

- Active-Duty Military Spouse: Jordan Burdette-Navarro (Liberty University)

Thank You Messages from to NAIMES and Veterans United Foundation:

Veterans United Foundation,

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for co-sponsoring my NAIMES scholarship. As a full-time employee, mother, and military spouse pursuing my MSW, your generosity allows me to continue my journey as a social worker to better serve military families and communities. The support this provides eases the financial burden that comes along with graduate school and means more to me and my family than words can express.

With sincere appreciation,

Jordan Burdette-Navarro

I am sincerely grateful to the Veterans United Foundation for their generous support through the NAIMES Student Spotlight Award. This scholarship eases the financial burden of pursuing higher education and allows me to remain focused on academic excellence while continuing my service commitments. It also reinforces the importance of investing in military-affiliated students striving to advance through education. Thank you for your continued commitment to empowering service members and their families.

Very Respectfully,

Janet Rivera

I want to thank you so much for the opportunity to keep continuing my schoolwork with less financial stress and I sincerely appreciate the investment in my future.

Thank you so much.

Nation Cousins

Hello,

I am thrilled and very grateful to NAIMES and the Veterans United Foundation for this award. Being recognized in the NAIMES Student Spotlight Award is incredibly meaningful to me in two ways. First, I am honored to be included with my fellow veterans being celebrated. Second, this is the first such honor I have received since returning to college 2 years ago, so I appreciate the validation of my work both in school and within my community.

Like many other veterans who transition into college, I have learned that setting my academic goals is the easy part. The harder part is making those goals financially workable when they seem to outweigh your available resources. The balancing act of reconciling the work you put into school with the costs can be overwhelming at times. This award will make a tangible difference in easing that pressure so I can keep my momentum going toward achieving my degree in Business Administration.

Support like this is a powerful reminder of what is possible when organizations choose to invest their resources and time in veterans pursuing their dreams. The work that NAIMES and the Veterans United Foundation are doing really helps to bridge the gap between our military service and success as civilians. Your generosity helps with more than just expenses; it reinforces the belief that our goals are attainable and worth pursuing. Thank you for believing in veterans, and I hope you will continue and expand your efforts to uplift military-affiliated students like me across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Switzer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brandon Switzer

Strategic Plan Committee Report

The Strategic Planning Committee remains dedicated to advancing the NAIMES mission. This year the main effort has been to identify a pathway toward becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This transition is a significant step for NAIMES to increase its influence, enhance its advocacy efforts, and develop new partnerships. Gaining nonprofit status will also create more opportunities for funding, collaboration, and program development.

Over the past year, NAIMES members voted to obtain legal support for the 501(c)(3) application process. After this decision, three legal firms were carefully reviewed for consideration. NAIMES is now in the selection stage of this process. The Strategic Planning Committee continues to actively review and refine the organization's strategic plan to ensure it aligns with changing goals.

Communications Committee Report

Previously ad hoc, the Communications Committee was added to the NAIMES bylaws this year. The primary focus of this committee's functions, however, was to effectively manage the NAIMES website. The President and Secretary successfully regained ownership of the *naimes.org* domain and established a new hosting service in effort to streamline efficiency of internal processes including Spotlight Award applications and membership payments. The committee identified a goal to increase marketing via the NAIMES LinkedIn account. Finally, at the time of this report, this committee will need to designate a new chair due to the departure of the previous one.

Scholarly Research Committee

During this reporting year, the Scholarly Research Committee convened multiple times to assess the data collected from the 2024 CCME symposium. Finding the information insufficient, the committee designed and distributed a survey to gather more insights from members, with the results compiled and presented to the membership in October 2025. However, as one of the chairs stepped down towards the end of the year, the committee opted not to make a formal presentation at the 2025 CCME symposium. The committee conducted a survey with NAIMES members and identified four potential focus areas for future research including: student outcomes and support; policy and legislation; recruitment; and retention. At the annual meeting, NAIMES members discussed and voted to focus on retention for the current research direction.

Annual Meeting Recap

NAIMES held its 2025 Annual Meeting on October 2-3, 2025, at the University of Maryland Global Campus in Adelphi, Maryland. We added virtual attendance capability for those institutions unable to make the trip which enabled full participation from all but one of the NAIMES member institutions. A wide range of topics included updates from the Executive Board, a process review for transition to 501(c)(3) status, bylaws review, website administration, and progress reports from all standing NAIMES committees. Dr. Jonathan Woods, Military and Workforce Education Policy Fellow for the Presidents Forum, presented his vision on the different constituencies affecting schools supporting military students.

The Way Ahead

NAIME remains dedicated to our mission. For 2026, our focus areas include continued conversation and advocacy surrounding a Tuition Assistance cap increase, improving internal operations and external communications efforts, and exploring scholarly research regarding retention issues in the military education community.