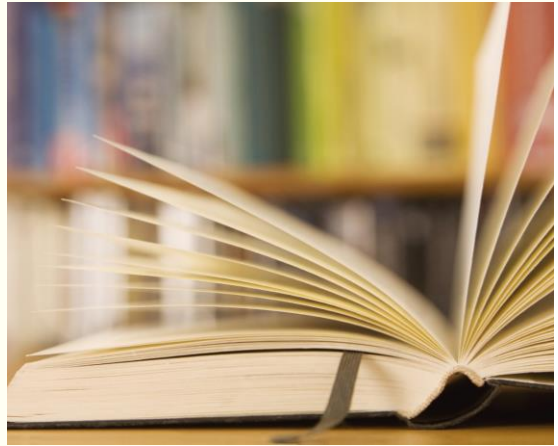


WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

March 14, 2018
Robert Morris University



Meeting Moderators



Edwin Hernandez

Director, Office of Veterans Services
University of Pittsburgh



Lee Wagner

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist
Department of Veteran Affairs White Oak Vet Center

Meeting Agenda

- Host Institution Welcome
- RMU Guest Speaker
- Western PA VAA Updates
- Topic of Discussion
- Open Floor Discussion
- Closing Remarks

Robert Morris University



Heather Jericho

Academic Services Specialist

Veterans Services

Dr. Daniel Rota

Special Assistant to the President for Military and Veterans Affairs

Western PA VAA – Who we are and What We Do



▪ What does the Alliance do?

▪ **Champion our strengths**

We create an impactful message that reflects our strengths. This is reinforced by developing strategic alliances with appropriate military-based organizations, and other university groups throughout the region

▪ **Shape student success**

We maintain connections with all University representatives. We work together to establish a robust engagement strategy, and use this to strengthen the Western Pennsylvania veteran and military dependent student population

▪ **Collaborate**

We facilitate collective activities focusing on areas that showcase our strengths, and support our individual and collective efforts

Academic Institutions Currently Participating in the Alliance

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Butler County Community College | ▪ Point Park University |
| ▪ California University of Pennsylvania | ▪ Robert Morris University |
| ▪ Carlow University | ▪ Saint Francis University |
| ▪ Carnegie Mellon University | ▪ Saint Vincent College |
| ▪ Chatham University | ▪ Seton Hill University |
| ▪ Clarion University | ▪ Slippery Rock University |
| ▪ Community College of Allegheny County | ▪ University of Pittsburgh |
| ▪ Community College of Beaver County | ▪ University of Pittsburgh - Bradford Campus |
| ▪ Duquesne University | ▪ University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg Campus |
| ▪ Edinboro University | ▪ University of Pittsburgh - Titusville Campus |
| ▪ Indiana University of Pittsburgh | ▪ University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown Campus |
| ▪ La Roche College | ▪ West Virginia University |
| ▪ Penn State University | ▪ West Virginia University – Parkersburg Campus |

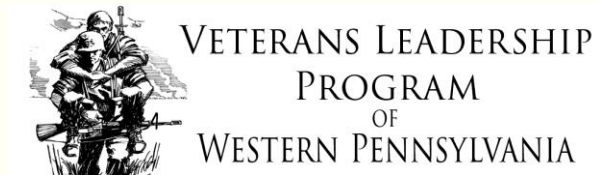
List of Discussion Topics for 2017 - 2018

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Importance of Affinity Groups on Campus (completed)
<i>(building student, alumni, faculty, & staff advocacy groups)</i> | 6. Tracking Data and Retention of Veteran Students (in progress)
<i>(what data is worth tracking, and gathering student retention data)</i> |
| 2. Regional Partnerships (2018)
<i>(collaborative programs with local schools & non-profits)</i> | 7. Building Mentorship Programs
<i>(alumni and faculty/staff based)</i> |
| 3. School Certifying Official Topics (2018)
<i>(best practices and current policies)</i> | 8. Western PA VAA Education Summit & Speaker Series (in progress)
<i>(discussion about collaborating on building an event to showcase all educational institutions)</i> |
| 4. Impact of Institutional Advancement (completed)
<i>(scholarships and fundraising initiatives)</i> | 9. Marketing Ideas (2018)
<i>(ideas for marketing programs, engaging students, and other associated communication)</i> |
| 5. Best Practices that Address Student Issues (completed)
<i>(including disabilities, family life, etc.)</i> | |

Western PA VAA Updates

- **Webpage**
 - Holds VAA Initiative information
 - Connect with your school of interest
 - <http://www.veterans.pitt.edu/western-pennsylvania-veterans-academic-alliance>
- **YouTube Initiative**
 - Western PA - VAA Channel
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD8J32I4nTAN3aLop1FUGCw>
- **2018 Speaker Series Update**
- **2019 Education Summit**

Regional Partnerships (Session 1)



Ben Stahl

Chief Executive Officer

Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania

Regional Partnerships (Session 1)



Jim Yauger

Mid-Atlantic Program Manager & Chapter Captain, Pittsburgh

Team Red, White, and Blue

Open Floor Discussion

- Regional Institutional News, Events, Updates, and Additional Thoughts
- 2018 Meetings:
 - March 2018 – Robert Morris University
 - June 2018 – West Virginia University
 - September 2018 – University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg Campus
 - December 2018 – Point Park University



CLOSING REMARKS

REMEMBER:
NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN JUNE 2018
(DOODLE SCHEDULING POLL WILL BE SENT OUT)

