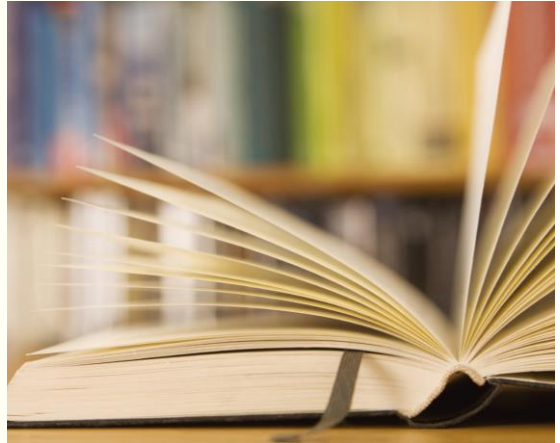


WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

March 16th, 2017
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Meeting Moderators



Edwin Hernandez

Director, Office of Veterans Services
University of Pittsburgh



Lee Wagner

Veterans to BSN Academic Coach, School of Nursing
Duquesne University

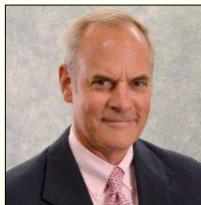
Introductions

Please share your name, title, academic institution, and years in the position.

Also, how many veteran and military dependent students do you service?



First Meeting Host Institution Welcome



Don Accamando

Director, Office for Military and Veteran Students

Duquesne University

Western PA VAA Purpose

The Western Pennsylvania Veterans Academic Alliance is a partnership of academic institutions across the Western Pennsylvania region. We are committed to enriching the military affiliated student experience, as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

We will use our collective experience of providing academic support for the benefit of our military-related students, community, and civic partners. This group will innovate together, learn from each other, and support every member to continue the growth of student success within their institution.



Western PA VAA Strategic Objectives

- **Champion our strengths**
 - Create an impactful message that reflects the strengths of our alliance, and each institution's own uniqueness
- **Shape student success**
 - Work together to establish a robust engagement strategy that will strengthen the veteran and military connected students of Western PA
- **Collaborate**
 - Facilitate and share events that showcase our strengths and focus on our collective and individual efforts

Western PA VAA Topics of Discussion



- Importance of Affinity Groups on Campus
- Regional Partnerships (*schools and non-profits*)
- School Certifying Official Topics
- Impact of Institutional Advancement: Scholarships and Initiatives
- Best Practices that Address Student Issues (*including disabilities, family life, etc.*)
- Any others?

Frequency of our Meetings

- VAA meetings will occur 4 times a year
 - March/June/September/December
- June 2017 meeting will be hosted at University of Pittsburgh
 - Look for more details and meeting invite in May
- Would you like to host our September or December meeting?
 - Moving location of our meetings will allow for greater knowledge of each other's institutions and build a stronger alliance
- Initially all communication will be sent via e-mail

Western PA VAA Participant Feedback



What would you like to see from the Alliance?

News and Updates

National
Conferences

Council of College & Military Educators (CCME)

Professional Development Symposium Summary



Annual Conference
NAVPA's 42nd Annual Training & Conference
Oct 23- Oct 26, 2017
Caesar's Atlantic City, NJ



Regional
News

Region SCO Training

Apr 25, 2017
Mercyhurst University
Main Campus, Erie, PA

Apr 26, 2017
CCAC Boyce Campus
Monroeville, PA

Apr 27, 2017
Pittsburgh Technical College
Oakdale, PA



University
Events

PITT VETS
Stars & Strikes Bowling
Mar 25, 2017, 12pm-3pm
Arsenal Bowl
212 44th St., Pittsburgh, PA



WVU Vet Club
Golf Tournament
Apr 15, 2017
Lakeview Resort, WV



Other
Events

PITTSBURGH VETERANS
JOB FAIR
Mar 23, 2017, 11am-3pm
Heinz Field
100 Art Rooney Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



CLOSING REMARKS

REMEMBER:
NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE 2017
(DOODLE SCHEDULING POLL WILL BE SENT OUT)

