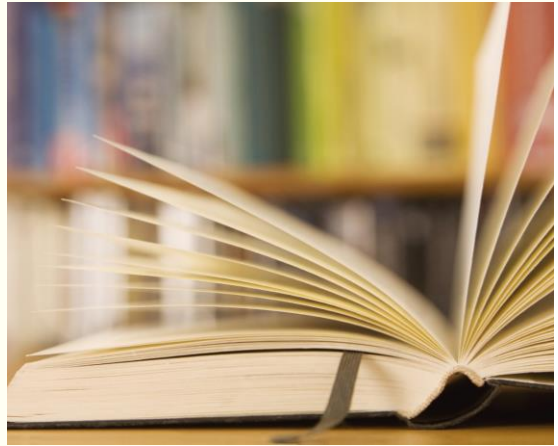


# WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

June 14, 2018  
West Virginia University



## Meeting Moderators

---



**Edwin J. Hernandez**

Director

Office of Veterans Services

University of Pittsburgh



**Lee Wagner**

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

White Oak Vet Center

Department of Veteran Affairs

## Meeting Agenda

---

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



## Host Institution Welcome Remarks

---



**Stephen Riffon**

*Interim Director*

*Office of WVU Veterans Affairs*

*West Virginia University*

## West Virginia University Guest Speaker

---



***Dr. E. Gordon Gee***

*President*

*West Virginia University*

## 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 |

## Update on List of Discussion Topics for 2017 - 2018

---

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

## Western PA VAA Updates

---

- **WPA VAA Leadership Positions**
  - Support growth and depth for WPA VAA
  - Committee Leaders



- **List of Discussion Topics for 2019 – 2020**

- **WPA VAA December Meeting/Social Update**



- **CEU Credits Discussion**
  - Offering professional courses through the Alliance to community partners

## Regional Partnerships (Session 2)

---



***Don Fried***

*Director of Operations*

*CASY (Corporate America Supports You)*

## Data Management of Military-Affiliated Students

---



***Lisa Reffner***

*Data & Registrar Specialist*

*University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg*

## Open Floor Discussion

---

- Regional Institutional News, Events, Updates, and Additional Thoughts
- 2018 Meetings:
  - September 2018 – University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg Campus
  - December 2018 – Point Park University



## Additional News and Updates

### National Conferences

**Annual Conference**  
**NAVPA's 43rd Annual**  
**Training & Conference**  
*Oct 15 - 18, 2018*  
*Disney's Coronado Springs*



**Council of College & Military**  
**Educators Symposium**  
*Jan 21 - 24, 2019*  
*Austin, TX*



### University & Student Events

**Veterans Alumni Career**  
**Networking Reception**  
*Sep 12, 2018, 6pm-8pm*  
 University Club  
 University of Pittsburgh



**Student Veterans of**  
**America National**  
**Conference**  
*Jan 3 - 5, 2019*  
*Disney's Coronado Springs*



### Other Events

**Pittsburgh Veterans Job**  
**Fair**  
*Jul 12, 2018, 11am-3pm*  
*Heinz Field*  
*100 Art Rooney Avenue*  
*Pittsburgh, PA 15212*



**Veterans Breakfast Club's**  
**Annual Gala**  
*Aug 25, 2018, 6pm-11pm*  
*Springwood Manor, 1000 Indiana Rd.,*  
*Verona, PA*



## CLOSING REMARKS

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

