



# **WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE**

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
St. Vincent College



# Meeting Moderators

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**Lee Wagner**

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

White Oak Vet Center



**David Roudabush**

Outreach Coordinator

University of Pittsburgh

# Meeting Agenda

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



# Host Institution Welcome Remarks

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- **Heather Kabala-** Dean of Admissions
- **Jim Bendel-** Planned Giving Officer
- **Cheri Kramer-** Assistant Director, Financial Aid Office

# Western PA VAA – Who we are and What We Do

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- 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

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



# Westmoreland Cty. Veterans of the War on Terror Monument

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- **Sam Wagner-** Col. U.S. Army (Retired)



# **Pittsburgh Veterans Employment Coalition (PVEC)- Update**

- **Don Accamando-** Duquesne University





# History

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- June 2017 – Heinz Endowments & the Institute for Military and Veteran Families (IVMF) receive grant – ***improve local veteran hiring practices***
- September 2017 – PVEC kicks off first get started meeting with December 2017 – Event 2 hosts local HR reps
- February 2018 – PVEC Steering Committee formed
  - Highmark, PNC Bank, Accenture, People's Gas, Pitt Ohio, PHRA
- March 2018 – Event 3 highlights Veteran Employer Resource Groups
- June 2018 – Event 4 Panel discussion highlights barriers to employment

# History

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- August 2018 – PVEC Toolkit launched – two year grant funded
- September 2018 – 5<sup>th</sup> PVEC Activity – IHE piece
- October 2018 – Onward to Opportunity (O2O) launches
- November 2018 – Co-chairs, Highmark and PNC selected
- December 2018 – IVMF transfers authority to PVEC

# Readers Digest Version

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- The PVEC...
  - Comprised by a dedicated group of employers committed to working together to attract military talent to Greater Pittsburgh, support the development of military hiring and development initiatives, and share best practices to recruit and retain veterans in their companies.

# Recruit, Engage, Support and Employ

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- Think about our work with MVS
- Once on campus – we engage and support them
- Ensures a safe and successful transition
- Start talking about the end early
  - Future aspirations
  - Work with Career Services or other groups (CASY, PHV, JFCS, others)
  - Dust up the resume
  - Connect with internships and jobs

# Our role

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- What role will Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) play?
  1. Understand that the PVEC exists
  2. Cultivate some relationships with PVEC employers
  3. Find ways for your MVS to connect with them
    - a) Veteran Open Houses
    - b) Internship and Jobs
  4. Consider serving as a IHE committee member

# Western PA VAA- Strategic Planning

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- **David Roudabush and Lisa Reffner-**
  - Group Discussion Topics:
    - Helping Students receive more credits for JST's
    - Reporting accurate numbers in your office
    - Professional development opportunities framed through the Alliance
    - Innovate program ideas/programming challenges

# Open Floor Discussion/Latest Updates

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- PA Career Link- John Swartz
- CASY- Crystal McFadden
- PA Serves- Aaron Melius
- SBDC- Jonathan Bennet
- Blackburn- Cassie Ellson
- Veterans Breakfast Club- Lauren DelRicci
- 2019 Meetings:
  - Fall 2019-
  - Winter 2019-





## Networking Lunch

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Thank you St. Vincent College for  
providing us with lunch today!!



# CLOSING REMARKS

**REMEMBER:**  
**NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 2019**  
*(DOODLE SCHEDULING POLL WILL BE SENT OUT SOON)*

