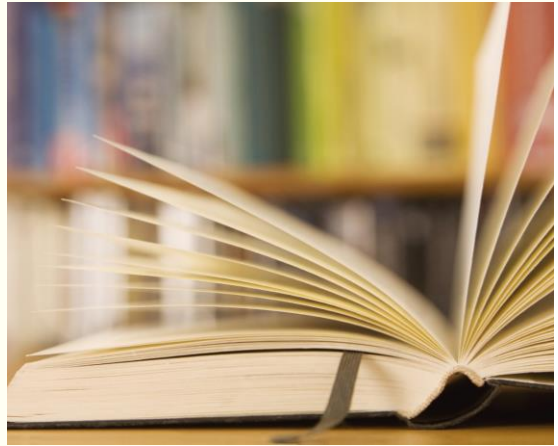


WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

September 14, 2018
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg



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
- University of Pitt Greensburg President
- Western PA VAA Updates
- Topics of Discussion
- Open Floor Discussion
- Closing Remarks



Host Institution Welcome Remarks



Lisa M. Reffner

Data & Registrar Specialist

School Certifying Official- VA Educational Benefits

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

West Virginia University Guest Speaker



Sharon P. Smith, PhD

President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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 (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 (in progress)
<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 (September 2018)
<i>(best practices and current policies)</i> | 8. Western PA VAA Education Summit & Speaker Series (hold)
<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 (December 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> | |

Regional Partnerships (Session 3)



Marie Hamblett

Program Director

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.

Veterans Quality of Life Task at Risk Assist (TARA)



Dr. Urmi Ashar, Janet Hayes and Allen Echko

Research Advisors

HRO Council

Western PA VAA Leadership Roles Topic #2

▪ WPA VAA Leadership Positions

- How can we grow our Alliance without continuously looking forward in a manner that is effective and understanding of everyone's time
 - Leadership Roles
 - Funding opportunities
- Support growth and depth for WPA VAA
 - Two Co-Leaders per role:
 - Marketing and Engagement
 - Special Events
 - Administrative

Open Floor Discussion

- Regional Institutional News, Events, Updates, and Additional Thoughts
- PA Serves
- PA Career Link
- 2018 Meetings:
 - December 2018 – Point Park University



CLOSING REMARKS

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

