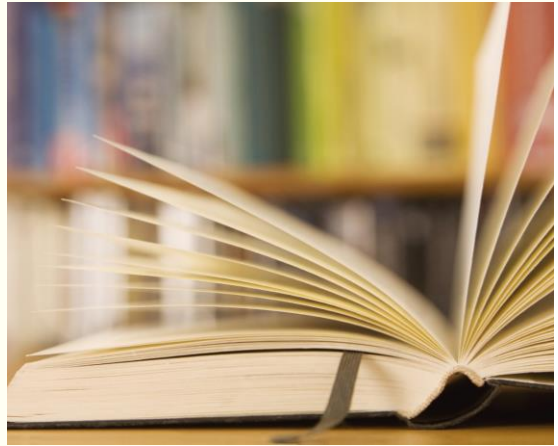


# WESTERN PA VETERANS ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Indiana, 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.



## Host Institution Welcome

---



**Cory Shay**

Director, Military and Veteran Resource Center, Indiana University of PA



**Dr. John Kilmarx**

Associate Vice President for Academic Administration, Indiana University of PA

## Western PA VAA Updates

---

- Webpage
  - <http://www.veterans.pitt.edu/western-pennsylvania-veterans-academic-alliance>
  - Holds initiative information
  - Encouraged to connect to webpage
- LinkedIn Group
  - Purpose:
    - Post events
    - Share ideas
    - Build camaraderie
- Fisher House
  - Newman's Own Awards
    - Pending announcement



## Topic 1: Tracking Data and Retention of Veteran Students

---



- Academic Institutions Reported Numbers
  - Value behind having accurate data
- Identifying military-affiliated students
  - Veterans (using VA educational benefits)
  - Military Dependents
  - Reserves/Guard
  - Active Duty
  - Veterans (self-disclosure)
- What data should be tracked?
  - Persistence vs. Retention
  - Student Engagement
  - Student Financials (Debt)
  - Graduation Rates
- How can we improve data collection?

## Topic 2: Western PA Education Summit

---



## Western PA Veterans Education Summit

---

- Working group convened and began discussions on feasibility and impact of event
  - Don Accamando (Duquesne University)
  - Heather Jericho (Robert Morris University)
  - Ed Dennis (Community College of Allegheny County)
  - George McDowell (Slippery Rock University)
  - Deb Bateman (Point Park University)
  - Lee Wagner (Duquesne University)
- Hosting an annual educational summit could be our signature event each spring
  - Build awareness of academic programs at each regional institution
  - Build recognition of the Alliance
  - Highlight Western PA as Veteran friendly
  - Champion military-affiliated student recruitment
  - Assist with transition points (military – student – career)
- Break up task in to two categories:
  - Logistics and Day Of Event planning
    - Location, agenda, parking, presenters
  - Marketing and Promotion of Event
    - Sponsors (corporate, non-profit), advertising, attracting target audience

## PA Serves: Follow up and Q & A

---

- Jean Coyne, MSED
  - Director of Intervention Services & PAServes, Greater Pittsburgh
- Michaela Diallo M.Ed
  - Team Lead PAServes: Greater Pittsburgh
- Matt Gyskewicz
  - Program Administrator



## CLOSING REMARKS

**REMEMBER:**  
NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN DECEMBER 2017  
(DOODLE SCHEDULING POLL WILL BE SENT OUT)

