Greetings Student Veterans, Reservists and Military Service Members,

As a former member of the Armed Services, I feel very honored to serve you as the University Director of Veteran Affairs.

This Spring 2015 newsletter is all about taking the next steps to pursue excellence academically and professionally. My advice to you is to create a checklist of items you need to accomplish to make progress towards your career goals, especially if you will be graduating soon. If you are ready to take the next steps, here are five key areas to consider:

**Fiscal**

Think in terms of expanding your fiscal portfolio. Avoid loans at all costs! Take the time to research viable scholarship and internship options and consider reserving your GI Bill educational benefits for a Masters or Doctoral program. Remember the GI Bill only provides up to 36 months of tuition benefits and these advanced degrees are more difficult to find scholarships for. In the meantime, you can apply for Financial Aid by filling out the FAFSA via [https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa) or visiting your campus’s Financial Aid Office. Please be aware that Financial Aid is limited in Graduate School as GRADUATE VTA (Veteran Tuition Assistance) is the main available option. If you are interested in Graduate School you should attend Graduate information sessions this Spring (see page 4).

**Credentials**

The Department of Defense has streamlined the military transcript process so that multiple services are using the same transcript system, called the Joint Services Transcript (JST). This has replaced the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service member’s military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations. Speak to your Veteran Coordinator on how you can utilize the JST for college credit. Also note that the credentials that you have on JST can be translated in civilian terms for your resume (more details on page 2).

Continued on page 6
Dear Student,

CUNY has approved the review of military credentials to award transfer credit for military service. If you would like your military experience to be evaluated for academic credit and/or to illustrate your work experience on your resume, follow the steps listed below.

**Step 1:** Create an account for your military transcript via the following websites:
- Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard: [https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do](https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do)

**Step 2:** Submit your transcript to CUNY UAPC (University Application Processing Center) and/or your current CUNY College.

**Step 3:** Print and save a copy of your military transcript to a USB or secure cloud.

**Step 4:** Use American Council of Education (ACE) Military guide to review description of your coursework: [http://www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx](http://www.acenet.edu/newsroom/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx).

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Would you like to have a career that relates to your military occupational specialty (MOS)?

Learn what certifications and degrees match your area of expertise by using the COOL sites…

- Army: [https://www.cool.army.mil/](https://www.cool.army.mil/)
- Navy: [https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/](https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/)

CUNY Central Office of Veterans Affairs

**Mission Getting to Next (MGTN)**

connects high ranking female military officials with successful civilian mentors to help ease their transition civilian workforce. MGTN is hosting an upcoming:

**Workshop/Symposium**

Friday evening, April 17, 6-8pm
Kick-off Meet & Greet Reception

Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19, 9:00-6:00 PM

Dear Veteran,

My name is Jazmin McBride and I am an American Airman. First I want to say congratulations! The decision to pursue a higher education after serving your country is a noble one. Choosing CUNY is the cherry on top! I started my CUNY experience at Queensborough Community College. I am proud to say I will be graduating from John Jay in the Spring 2015 class. Below I’ll share a list of tips that I learned throughout my semesters with the university. I’m sure these tips will help make for an excellent college experience here at CUNY.

First and foremost to be successful in college, you must know who you are as a student. If you’re not a morning person, don’t take early morning classes. Attendance matters. CUNY is designed to accommodate the diverse schedules of its students. Visit the Registrar’s office on your campus and ask about The CUNY ePermit, which allows you to take courses on other CUNY campuses to meet your scheduling and academic needs.

Next, use your campus email address. Beyond communication with your professors, your campus email can connect you with a plethora of CUNY opportunities from daily campus activities to scholarships, internships and even employment. I was able to get a paid internship through the CUNY Research Fund at the New York City Housing Authority Customer Contact Center because I use my campus email. Opportunities are endless, check your campus emails.

Also, make sure to utilize the math center, writing center and library staff on your campus. CUNY wants its students to graduate. Tutoring may not seem cool; however, I went to the math center periodically while I was enrolled in Pre-Calculus and I received an A at the end of the semester. The writing center was also helpful during my CUNY experience. We all have busy schedules and for that reason we generally do not create a specific time to attend tutoring. The good news is that some campus writing centers offer online assistance. You can upload a draft of your paper and the writing center staff will get back to you with their suggestions. Check with your campus writing center to see if this option is available.

Drop by your campus Career Services Office. They have a military-to-civilian transition guide and can help you with your resume. While you are there, ask them about your campus’ Symplicity website, which lists jobs and internships that are available to students.

In between your classes, stop by the veteran’s space on your campus. Here you’ll learn about veteran specific job fairs, housing, and campus activities. You’ll also have the opportunity to connect with other veterans.

Lastly veteran, be proactive. This is your college career and your name will be on the degree.

AIM HIGH

- Jazmin McBride, U.S. Air Force Reserves
The Next Steps
By Samuel Innocent, Veteran, City College Graduate, COVA Member

College can be daunting or even overwhelming for anyone and that includes us as veterans. There are those among us who may not know what should happen next after applying. The following steps are not requirements but more of a guideline as to what can happen and what a student veteran can do to maximize their college experience. These steps may not apply to all. Take what you feel you need in order to make the most of your undergraduate experience.

Find Your Fellow Student Veterans
Most colleges have veterans clubs, where student veterans can connect with each other and receive information about programs for transitioning veterans and veteran-specific scholarships. Moreover, in its simplest form, these clubs can help you meet student veterans that have been in your position and have made it through.

Apply for Financial Aid
The GI Bill is great but it does not last forever. Apply for financial aid and think about only using your GI Bill every other semester. You can use The Veterans Tuition Award to pay your tuition at your CUNY School. You can also use VA-Work-study to have some income since you will not have the BAH/ Housing allowance.

Look Into Scholarships
There are a plethora of scholarships available to student veterans and it does not hurt to apply no matter where you are academically. You can be a sophomore and receive scholarships as long as you meet the requirements.

Know the Process and Who to Contact Should Anything Go Wrong
Know important deadlines are, such as the deadlines to register, to drop classes, to apply for graduation, among many others. There is nothing worse than having to take a semester off or being paid late because you missed the deadline. Knowing who to go to when things go awry is the key to having a successful academic experience. Much like the military, there is a chain of command in academia. When things can’t be solved at one level, take it one step higher, where you’ll more than likely see results.

Internships and Networking
Military experience alone is often not enough to land you the job that you want. You have to have experience in the field you are looking to go into and there is no better way to gain that than to take on internships. Through internships, you gain valuable working knowledge about a particular field, which is what employers cherish. I recommend you take on as much internship experience as possible without sacrificing your grades and academic workload. In the same way, networking is a huge part of success when looking for a job. Knowing or having had met someone at the company you are looking to work at will set you apart from the numerous other applicants that will apply for that very same job.

Interested in pursuing a higher degree?
Attend the CUNY Graduate Studies Information Session

The City University of New York (CUNY) is home to more than 3,000 current and former military. The CUNY Office of Graduate Studies will be hosting our annual information session specifically tailored for veterans on Wednesday, May 20th, 2015 at the CUNY Welcome Center from 5:30-7:00 pm.

At this session, learn how you can fund your graduate education through the GI Bill and Veterans Tuition Awards. Also, learn about the Veterans admissions process (including the veteran’s application fee waiver) and about our many master’s and doctoral degree options. Admissions advisors are available to answer all of your questions.

To register for this session and to view all upcoming sessions, please visit: www.cuny.edu/grad.

Questions? Contact us at: grad@cuny.edu. Follow us at: @ cunygradstudies on Instagram and Twitter.
Welcome to Dress for Success Worldwide, Manhattan Branch! You have been referred to our program to help you take the next step towards finding employment — selecting an outfit to wear to your interview. All of our services are free-of-charge and are specifically for women. We will work one-on-one with you to outfit you in a high-quality suit, including accessories, to wear to your interview. Our goal is to help you look and feel as confident and professional as we know you are!

Please treat your appointment as you would a job interview. The following information will walk you through the Dress for Success experience:

1) **Make an appointment**

Call 646-233-4955 in advance of your appointment if you will not be able to attend at your scheduled time. If you miss two appointments without calling us in advance of your scheduled appointment time, you will not be rescheduled for six months. Exceptions will only be made for unavoidable circumstances.

2.) **Make travel arrangements**

Dress for Success is located at 32 East 31st Street between Park and Madison Avenues. Access from the #6 train at 33rd Street and the M1, M2, M3 and M4 bus. The boutique is located on the 6th floor. Plan for your appointment to last at least 45-60 minutes. Allow 15 minutes to locate the boutique. If the weather is extreme, please call 646-233-4955 in advance of your appointment to see if the boutique’s hours of operation have been changed.

3.) **Be on time**

Again, think of this as a job interview and make sure that you are on time. However, please respect the time of our staff and volunteers and do not come more than 15 minutes early. Clients arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be suited.

4.) **At your appointment**

*Please do not bring any other person with you, including children.* As in a job interview, children, friends or family will not be allowed to be with you in the boutique during your appointment. However, your caseworker or a representative from your referral agency is welcome, but not required, to come.

- An Image or Career Coach will greet you and work with you to prepare for your upcoming job interviews.
- This is your opportunity to practice how you will act at your interview: professional and positive.
- Food, drink, and cell phones are not permitted in the boutique.

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**Need Help Finding Business Attire?**

**Check out these excellent organizations.**

**Dress for Success**

[Find Services or Donate Online: www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)

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**Goodwill’s Operation Good Jobs**

This group is dedicated to helping transitioning veterans and their families develop professionally and find civilian careers. Veterans who are enrolled in Operation Good Jobs may be eligible for a clothing voucher. Non-enrolled veterans may also be able to obtain a voucher for a Goodwill store to purchase business attire. For more information, visit: [http://www.goodwillnynj.org/services/operation-goodjobs](http://www.goodwillnynj.org/services/operation-goodjobs)
Greetings from Lisa Beatha

(Continued from cover page)

Campus Resources

Always utilize your campus Veteran Coordinators as the first point of contact. Then, maximize your opportunities by contacting your campus Career Center to connect with internships, scholarships and fellowships as well as resume clinics, interview preparation and other professional development skills. Through this office, you can also learn about upcoming CUNY job fairs on your campus. The CUNY BIG APPLE JOB FAIR is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2015 (see page 12). *Note: CUNY Central Office of Veteran Affairs has partnered with Dress For Success (for women only). If you have an upcoming interview or job fair, contact your Veteran Coordinator to gain access to FREE business suits, personalized shopping and additional career resources. Please also contact your Veteran Coordinator about any unresolved issues you are having on or off campus that you need assistance with.

CUNY Networks

CUNY has partnered with NYCSevers, a free referral network created by veterans to serve veterans. If you need legal, housing, medical, health and other resources, use this network to find the best organizations in your area (see page 7). Additionally, COVA and the Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) are working to support all veterans in New York City. The new MOVA Commissioner is Loree Sutton, MD, who can be reached at 212-442-4171 or by calling 311. You can also connect with her via Twitter @NYCveterans or www.NYC.gov/Veterans.

Follow-up

Keep concise notes on all academic and professional contacts you make, the date of contact and follow-up comments/notes. If you have unanswered questions or concerns because you do not have a veterans representative on your campus, please contact me at veterans@cuny.edu, lisa.beatha@cuny.edu, or (646) 664-8835.

- Lisa Beatha, University Director of Veterans Affairs

Recent Spring 2015 CUNY Veterans Events

February 2015

Members of the BMCC Student Veteran Organization gather to celebrate Black History Month (pictured above).

March 9, 2015

BMCC student-veterans celebrate Women’s HerStory Month with a documentary screening of “Service: When Women Come Marching Home,” which was followed by a panel of BMCC female student-veterans (pictured above).

March 2015

As a member of the Board of Directors of National Association of Veterans’ Program Administrators (NAVPA), Lisa Beatha represented CUNY at the NAVPA meeting on Capital Hill, where the board spoke with members of Congress on veterans issues—March 2015 (Board of Directors pictured above).

January 2015

Members of the CUNY Central Office of Veterans Affairs participated in the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) in Anaheim California.
A New Partner for Our Student-Veterans!! We are excited to announce our partnership with NYCServes, New York City’s first coordinated network of public, private and non-governmental organizations, working together to serve the veteran community. As a network provider, CUNY will engage with over 50 of the highest performing service providers in NYC to offer efficient and accurate cross referrals, share insights and learnings about serving the veteran community, and work together to improve the overall quality and transparency of services offered to the veteran community.

So, what does this mean for our veteran community?

It is not uncommon that a member of our veteran community requires services beyond CUNY’s mandate. Now we will be able to seamlessly refer veterans and their families to other organizations who provide additional services such as employment, housing, legal assistance, and healthcare.

During the initial pilot demonstration, a number of CUNY schools will partner with NYCServes. They include Baruch College, Brooklyn College, College of Staten Island, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, LaGuardia Community College, Lehman College, and CUNY Central.

The NYCServes network will ensure that veterans are referred only to providers who:

- Can best-address your specific needs and goals
- Have confirmed capacity to serve you
- Provide services for which you are eligible
- Are as conveniently located as possible
- Communicate with one another to ensure solutions work

To read more about NYCServes and to request services, please visit www.nycserves.org.

Stand Beside Them Coaching Services

Stand Beside Them (SBT) is a nonprofit organization, providing free one-on-one, confidential coaching for veterans, spouses and caregivers.

Experienced, certified, highly-trained Stand Beside Them coaches come with credentials and accomplishments from all walks of life. Several are veterans.

Some reported benefits from SBT coaching include:

- Reduction of stress
- Increased self-confidence
- Improved time management
- Restored relationships at home
- Interviews that resulted in job offers
- Resumes that got the HR doors to swing open

Check out testimonials from other veterans and apply for coaching on the SBT website: http://www.standbesidethem.org or call SBT at 212-706-VETS (8387).
SAVE THE DATE...For These Upcoming Campus Events

Hostos Community College’s Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development invites you to:

“Hostos Education & Resource Opportunities 4 Veterans”

Saturday, April 11, 2015 — 11:00-1:00 PM
Savoy Building, Multipurpose Room
120 E. 149th Street; Bronx, NY 10451

This information session will discuss certifications and licensing in exciting career fields, including CASAC, CAN, IT, Locksmith, Personal Training, and Security, among many others.

RSVP by email to HERO4V@hostos.cuny.edu or call (718) 319-7916.

Free Computer Workshops for Veterans Only
Open to veterans without a Bachelor’s Degree

Basic: Into to PC, Keyboarding, Internet Basics
Intermediate: Microsoft Word, Excel Parts 1 & 2

Offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays:
March 31-April 23, 2015 (6-9:30 PM) - Rm. C-337

Limited Seating. RSVP Required:
Email vets@lagcc.cuny.edu or call (718) 482-5386.

Interviewing & Networking Skills
(12-4 PM)
April 1 & 15, May 6
Room: Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS)

Men’s Group
(1:40-2:50 PM)
April 29

Women’s Group
(1:40-2:50 PM)
April 13 & 21, May 4
Room: OMVS 3122N

Career Center Outreach
(1-4:30 PM)
April 1, 15, 29
Room: OMVS 3126 NH
May 5, 13, 19
Room: OMVS 3127 N

WETs 4 VETS
(1:30-3 PM)
April 13 & 27, May 4
Room: John Jay Pool

BMCC Organization of Student Veterans

Upcoming Trips:
- Philadelphia, PA – Monday, 4/6/15
- Boston, MA – Thursday, 4/9/15
- Six Flags, NJ – Saturday, 5/9/15

Panel Discussion:
To celebrate Asian American Heritage Month, some of BMCC’s Asian American Student Veterans will be participating in a panel discussion on Tuesday, 4/14/15, 10AM.

For more information, call BMCC’s Veterans Resource Center at 212 220-8000 Ext5365 or 5367.
The Project for Return and Opportunity in Veteran’s Education (PROVE) was founded in 2007 with the goal of helping student veterans in the CUNY system transition from military service to college life and beyond. PROVE’s resilience-based model, in which a team of student-veteran mentors, graduate social work interns and social work field instructors operate in concert with campus personnel, utilizes the skills and talents student veterans have developed during their training and service to fulfill its mission of improving their retention and graduation rates.

PROVE is designed to meet a variety of postwar needs (e.g., stress management and transition issues); connecting student veterans to community services; enhancing life skills as a means for more effectively coping with traumatic military experiences; and navigating a non-military workplace culture. It is this holistic perspective that helps student veterans create a unified experience of their military and civilian life. PROVE’s scope of service is across seven of CUNY’s 17 campuses.

PROVE is headquartered at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.

For more information, contact Leora Shudofksy at (212) 396-7590 or lshudofs@hunter.cuny.edu
Student Employment Opportunities

THE CUNY COUNSELING ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM (CUNYCAP)

What is CUNYCAP?
Through the CUNYCAP program, CUNY graduate students can work in a CUNY office in exchange for having up to 6 credits of tuition paid by CUNY each semester (spring and fall) for 3 years. These credits are paid at the instate tuition rate as long as the student works a minimum of 225 hours by the end of the semester. Additionally, the program offers up to 600 hours of employment for the academic year (up to 300 hours for the fall and spring semesters) at the rate of $10 per hour.

Who is eligible to apply?
Matriculated CUNY graduate students who are legally eligible to work in the United States and who earned their bachelor’s degree at a CUNY College may apply for CUNYCAP positions.

How can I apply?
On May 15, 2015, the 2015-16 CUNYCAP application and information will be available on the CUNY portal under “employment opportunities.” There are a limited number of CUNYCAP positions and most colleges will interview applicants during the summer months for fall placement. Students hired for the fall are frequently kept on for the full academic year so an early application will increase your chances of placement. A CUNYCAP representative is available at 646 664-3524 to answer questions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.


VA WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Fantastic Opportunity
For Veterans who are in school on the GI Bill and want to gain experience while earning some income that amounts to the NY State minimum hourly wage tax-free, there’s nothing like VA’s Work Study program.

Marine Corps Veteran Lyn Johnson, who coordinates the program at VA New York Harbor Healthcare System, says that generally, the program is not well known and vastly underutilized. “Students from Columbia University and Pace University have been taking advantage most, but we’re very excited that CUNY is onboard encouraging student Veterans to participate,” says Johnson.

“Already we’ve been getting about five students a semester from the CUNY schools, and there’s room for a lot more.” Navy Veteran Scott Deming, a Work Study student currently enrolled at Pace University, shared his experience as a way of encouraging Veteran students from other colleges to benefit from Work Study at VA.

The Work-Study Experience
Deming worked as a hospital corpsman in the Navy Operational Support Center in Eugene Oregon. He enrolled at Pace University after serving in the military for seven and a half years. Now, very close to completing his degree, he says, “I’ll walk this spring and wish I knew about the work study program earlier.” Looking toward the future, Deming is considering pursuing a Master’s degree and possibly starting his own business related to managing personal health records. And, at the same time he wants to find an avenue to provide solutions to the problems Veterans face when transitioning out of the military.

Deming came to VA’s 23rd Street Campus recently as a Work Study Student, “It’s a fantastic opportunity,” he says. Given a choice to work with mentors in different areas of the hospital, Deming, who is working toward a BBA in Management with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, chose the business office. While in the Navy he had a job as the medical department rep, experience that gave him a head start with his current work at VA which involves Veteran Outreach, Tricare, billing, and eligibility.

“I love it. I’m getting the opportunity to learn skills and apply them,” says Deming of the Work Study experience. He also tremendously values that VA knows school achievement is a priority and work schedules are flexible to accommodate school obligations.
Preparing for an Interview? Use These Helpful Tips!!

Research, Research, Research...

- **Review your Social Media Pages**: Recruiters commonly search for an applicant on Google or Social Media. Don’t use a selfie for your LinkedIn profile picture. Instead, post a professional head shot. Make sure all personal pages, such Facebook, are set to private. (While you at it, if you find a picture a recruiter shouldn’t see, you may want to consider taking it off the internet.)

- **Do your research**: Search online for information about the organization and the position you are applying for. Think of 6-8 ways you can use your experiences to help them reach their goals. Similarly, consider all the ways this position will help you reach your professional and personal goals.

- **Prepare an “Elevator Speech”**: In the time it would take you to travel in an elevator, you have to be able to sell yourself to the interviewer. This doesn’t mean you need to speak fast, but it does mean you need to consider the main points you want to tell the interviewer about yourself. Why are you the perfect candidate for this position?

Prepare to Make a Great First Impression

- **Don’t Underestimate Self-Confidence and Personal Grooming**: Like it or not, people do draw conclusions about us based on first impressions. Make sure that you are dressed neatly in business attire. If you need attire, connect with *Operation Good Jobs*, which provides interview attire for veterans in need.

- **Show That You Value Yourself**: Besides good personal grooming, good posture and a positive attitude go a long way to show you have self-respect.

Treat it as a Conversation, Rather than a Test

- **Be Genuine**: Consider how you want to be remembered. Talk about your most significant experiences and, if possible, tell a brief (1-2 minute) story that showcases your skills. Don’t try to be anything you’re not and don’t try to crack too many jokes (it becomes annoying).

- **Engage in Thoughtful Dialogue with the Interviewer**: Remember that conversations go two ways. While you do need to listen carefully to what the interviewer says, don’t be afraid to respond with a thoughtful answer or question.

- **Should you Address a RECENT Gap in Work History?** Only address this if necessary. If the interviewer asks about a period when you were not working, explain the positive things that you did during that time, such as school, volunteering, counseling, traveling, gaining experiences, etc.

Prepare to Follow-Up

- **Have a Few Questions Prepared**: Many interviewers ask the applicant if they have any questions about the company. Feel free to ask about expectations of the position (if not already addressed) or other thoughtful, open-ended questions.

- **After the Interview**: Send an email to the interviewer, thanking him or her for the time and consideration. You can add a sentence or two about why the job is perfect for you and why you are perfect for the job. Make sure the email is written in a professional format and tone.
CUNY Big Apple Job & Internship Fair
Friday April 17, 2015

CUNY’s annual Big Apple Job Fair connects graduating CUNY students and alumni with internships and employment opportunities.

Friday, April 17, 2015—11:00-2:00 PM
River Pavilion and Galleria, Jacob Javits Center, Manhattan
(Enter between 11th Avenue and 35th Street)
NO RSVP NECESSARY
Attendees must wear business attire and bring a current resume.

For more information and quick tips, visit:

Veterans Innovation Partnership (VIP) - Fellowship
The VIP program offers citizen veterans who are pursuing a masters degree a one-year paid fellowship with a U.S. Government international affairs agency. Employment would begin in Fall 2015.

CBS Summer 2015 Veteran Internship Program
CBS Corporation is seeking to hire veterans, who are currently enrolled full-time in an accredited university. Paid internships are available in NYC as well as in other U.S. cities. NYC positions are available in various departments, including News, Radio Digital (finance), Corporate Tax, and Showtime (marketing/research/business development).

Learn More and Apply Now: https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/asp/4g/cim_jobdetail.asp?