



Eastern-in-the-News



EASTERN SERVES AS 'MILITARY-FRIENDLY' COLLEGE FOR RETURNING VETS

Moorefield — June 12, 2012 — As both the White House and the WV statehouse have launched special websites to ease the transition of veterans returning from military to civilian life (www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces; and www.wvmilitaryconnection.org), a local community college is also offering special services to make the vets' re-integration successful.

Identified as a "military-friendly" college by the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC), Eastern WV Community and Technical College makes available to veterans all of the key benefits and services that veterans groups look for to make higher education readily accessible to their members.

These features include offering flexible degree options, a supportive policy for using [CLEP](#) (College Level Entrance Examination Program) and DSST/DANTES (The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support), and awarding credits for military experience as certified by the American Council on Education (ACE). Tuition costs also factor importantly.

"Even with a minor tuition increase in the last few years, Eastern remains a remarkable educational bargain," said Monica Wilson, Eastern's Associate Director of Admissions. "Our semester tuition continues to rank among the very lowest in the entire state, and that makes our programs very affordable.

Credit for Experience

"And for veterans especially, our financial aid department understands all of the ins-and-outs of current GI benefits for college tuition, and will make sure that all vets who register get everything they deserve."

Wilson also emphasized that the college will work closely with veterans to determine just how much of their military experience they may convert to college credit in line with the ACE standards and guidelines. "As Governor (Earl Ray) Tomblin has pointed out, troops returning to West Virginia usually bring significant skills and experiences learned from their military training. Very often, we can convert that skill and experience to college credit, through a system of accreditation established by the American Council on Education (ACE).

The ACE program offers 38 exams in diverse subject areas such as *health, ethics, business, finance, technology, humanities, mathematics, physical science*, and more. These exams offer the veterans an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned during their service training and active duty, and translate that knowledge into college-equivalent credit.

"The CLEP and DSST/DANTES exams offer similar opportunities for accreditation," said Wilson.

Flexible Majors

As the returning vet establishes transcript credit, Eastern's academic advisors work with each one individually to determine his or her most effective program choices.

"Often the returning veteran will want to register for one of our traditional majors — say, Business, I.T., Early Childhood Development or Nursing," said Wilson. " And then there are some who will choose what we call a non-traditional major: the WV Board of Governors Adult Degree Completion program.

Through this statewide program, adult students with a broad range of life and educational experiences may combine a core of academic courses with credits earned through prior learning experiences to structure a unique associate degree program. The Board of Governors A.A.S. is designed to graduate students who are prepared to become active, socially responsible members in their communities and places of employment.

Eastern also hosted Senator's Manchin's Open Meeting with Veterans last summer at the college's Technology Training Center in Petersburg, that gave veterans and active duty service members direct access to representatives of the US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs and the WV Division of Veterans Affairs.

"I am committed to making sure that West Virginia's service members receive the education, housing, medical, and other services they deserve," Senator Manchin said then.

"Those who have served have done so much for us," Governor Tomblin noted recently. "As they return home, it is right and fitting that we do all we can to serve them."

For more information about Eastern's financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "www.easternwv.edu".

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.