WASHINGTON, DC – President Obama, Vice President Biden, and the First Lady joined college presidents and other education leaders from around the nation at the second White House College Opportunity Day of Action, where organizations announced over 600 new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

Expanding opportunity for more students to enroll and succeed in college, especially low-income and underrepresented students, is vital to building a strong economy and a strong middle class. President Obama believes that the United States should lead the world in college attainment, as it did a generation ago.

The President has increased Pell Grants by $1,000 a year, created the new American Opportunity Tax Credit worth up to $10,000 over four years of college, capped student loan payments to 10 percent of monthly income, and laid out an ambitious agenda to reduce college costs and promote innovation and competition in higher education.

Together, college and system presidents, education leaders and organizations will reach hundreds of thousands of students in the coming years.

Impacts include:
- Increasing the number of career-ready college graduates
- Enhancing college readiness
- Community College Partnerships to Graduate 200 more Engineers Per Year.

**High-Impact Math Education Practices:**
The National Science Foundation is releasing an open letter calling for proposals to pilot innovations for helping students learn the mathematics taught in the first two years of college and to plan and execute workshops in 2015 on using research to improve student success in mathematics.

**Cover Story**
The Department of Education will offer larger First in the World grants in its 2015 discretionary grant programs so that successful strategies can be implemented.

**Veterans Services Wins Awards**

**Financial Aid and VA Education**
CCAC Veterans Services Center (VSC)
by Dwight Boddorf, Director VSC

We value the skills, assets and experiences veterans bring to the CCAC community, and are committed to helping them achieve their educational goals. Listed below are hyperlinks to useful services.

SERVICES PROVIDED
Include, but are not limited to:
- Providing information on VA benefits specific to a student’s situation
- Referring students to the appropriate campus or community resources
- Helping students navigate the campus and all the various departments
- Connecting students with other student veterans at CCAC
- Helping students make the transition from military to student life at CCAC

CONTACT US:
ALLEGHENY CAMPUS
Phone: 412.237.6503
Email Veterans Services
Home > Admissions > Veterans Services

CCAC Veterans Services Center (VSC)
The Community College of Allegheny County received two awards for the support the college offers to veterans and individuals serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

CCAC has been designated as a 2015 Military Friendly School by Victory Media, a global media outlet connecting the military and civilian worlds.

This designation signifies that CCAC is among the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country doing the most to embrace military students by dedicating resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

In addition, CCAC has been selected as a 2015 “Top School” by Military Advanced Education following a research study undertaken by the magazine, which publishes a list evaluating best practices in military education.

For more information click: http://www.kmimediagroup.com/mae/latest/

CCAC President’s Innovation
Community Colleges Innovation Certificate

See: https://www.ccac.edu/Veterans/
Of the Senators voting yes, 31 were Democrats, 24 were Republicans and 1 was Independent.

Of the Senators voting no, 21 were Democrats, 18 were Republicans and 1 was Independent.

The more than 1,600 page bill, considered a compromise on both sides, was a $1.014 trillion budget which will keep the lights on in Congress through September 2015.

Despite calls for caution on spending, the new budget calls for more in outlays than the government anticipates bringing in, meaning that the federal debt will keep going up. The federal debt currently stands at $18,006,076,545,531.24.

**Programs:**

**Veterans:** Pay raises for most federal employees, including the military, were preserved under the bill although capped at 1% (the military was hoping for 1.8%). Military civilian personnel didn’t fare quite so well overall, however: cuts to the total budget likely mean layoffs.

**Healthcare**

Also a winner: the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. Funding remains at the 2014 levels and supporters consider the lack of cuts to the program at this stage a victory.

**Immigration**

Following a set of political maneuvers, the bill only funds the Department of Homeland Security through February 2015.
Veterans Career Services

LOCAL & NATIONAL JOB SEARCH SITES

Local and National Job Search Websites

Career Development & Planning

Student Career Resources

Employer Services

Cooperative Education

Job Fairs

For resume and career assistance email Dana Jarvis at djarvis@ccac.edu

CCAC College Central Job Bank Register free to access current job openings, internships, job fairs, co-ops, work-study jobs, and many other career-related services.

Job Gateway One-stop online resource for job seekers services, employer services, social services and training.

Imagine Pittsburgh An initiative of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and an affiliate of The Allegheny Conference on Community Development. More than 20,000 local jobs and internships plus spotlighted companies, related news articles, and more.

Indeed Find millions of jobs from thousands of company websites, job boards and newspapers. Besides jobs, this website also focuses on salaries, trends and forums.

Monster.com This site provides listings of over 370,000 jobs worldwide.

Stay Connected by http://www.studentveterans.org

CCAC Veterans Services
P: 412.237.6503 E: veteransservices@ccac.edu

CCAC Counseling Services https://www.ccac.edu/Counseling_Services.aspx

CCAC Supportive Services https://www.ccac.edu/Disability_Services.aspx

Veterans Administration http://www.va.gov/

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

Veterans on Campus: Support and Training Program

Veterans of America (SVA) and Kognito Interactive have collaborated to create two, innovative programs: Veterans on Campus: Peer Program and Veterans on Campus: Faculty & Staff.

These 30-minute online, interactive training simulations place users in realistic scenarios with fully-animated, responsive virtual student veterans facing a range of challenges as they transition out of uniform and into campus life, including isolation, cultural disparities, academic difficulties, time management, and mental-health issues.

The Veterans on Campus programs combine SVA's tested peer support knowledge and Kognito Interactives evidence-based role-playing training simulations to provide a highly-engaging and effective learning experience that will enhance users' ability to support veterans in achieving academic success.

Additionally, a portion of the sales of this training program go directly to supporting the ideas and activities of our veterans through providing funding for our Chapter Grant Program. To learn more, please view our FAQs page.

Veterans on Campus: Peer Program

Uses virtual role-plays to teach student veterans and student leaders how to support fellow student veterans as they face challenges in adjusting to college life.

Veterans on Campus: Faculty & Staff

Additionally, in the training, faculty and staff engage in simulated conversations with three virtual student veterans, helping each one resolve a challenge they are facing as a result of reintegration.

Learn more at: http://www.studentveterans.org/veterans-on-campus-support-training

KIM’S TIP OF THE MONTH

What if my benefits are ending?

"The VA will pay for a student's final semester of classes even if they don't have enough benefit eligibility.

For example, the VA will pay Chapter 33 tuition, books and housing as if the veteran has full eligibility."

Learn more at: http://www.studentveterans.org/veterans-on-campus-support-training
iPad Mini Giveaway

Enroll for Spring 2015 for a chance to win an iPad Mini.

Enrollment Steps and Application at www.ccac.edu

Registration Services Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8a.m. to 7p.m.
Friday: 8a.m. to 4p.m.
*Saturday: 10a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
*(Allegheny and South Campus only)

CCAC is giving away an iPad mini to one lucky student at each campus who registers and pays for spring 2015 credit classes.

The contest is open to all part-time and full-time credit students, studying on campus or online.

Simply register on campus or online and pay for spring 2015 credit classes and you’re automatically entered in the drawing! Stay tuned for additional details.

• Like us on Facebook for additional giveaways.

FINANCIAL AID & VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

Apply Jan 1 for 2015-2016 Aid
At the FAFSA website: www.fafsa.ed.gov

VA Education Benefits
Contact CCAC Veterans Services for more information on applying at 412.237.6503 or go to our online link at: https://www.ccac.edu/Veterans_Educational_Benefits.aspx

You may choose any of these three methods to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

• Login to apply online (Recommended) or
• Complete a PDF FAFSA (Note: PDF FAFSAs must be mailed for processing) or
• Request a paper FAFSA by calling us at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 319-337-5665. If you are hearing impaired, contact the TTY line at 1-800-730-8913.

Complete a PDF FAFSA

The PDF FAFSA is available for you to print and fill out manually or is screen-fillable. Screen-fillable means you can enter your data on the screen before printing. If you choose this option, you will not be able to save your data to your PC.

The 2014 - 2015 School Year (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)
Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of CCAC Holiday Break</td>
<td>Jan 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with 100 percent drop of charges SP15 16 week</td>
<td>Jan 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin (Monday) SP15 16Wk</td>
<td>Jan 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Monday) CCAC closed</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Resume (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Jan 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 100 percent drop of charges for 14 week term</td>
<td>Jan 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin (Monday) SP15 14Wk</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 75 percent drop of charges for 16 week term</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2015 registration begins</td>
<td>Feb 02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 75 percent drop of charges 14 week term</td>
<td>Feb 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to apply for May 2015 graduation</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did you know?

The CCAC Veterans Services Center (VSC) serves over 850 veteran, military, and veteran dependent students annually.

Visit Us At

http://www.ccac.edu/

Click the admissions link and Veterans Services.

Apply Now!

2014 - 2015 FAFSA
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Like Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/#!/CCACVeteransServices

Veterans Services
veteransservices@ccac.edu

Allegheny Campus
808 Ridge Avenue
Jones Hall 212
Pittsburgh, PA. 15212
P: 412.237.6503

Boyce Campus
595 Beatty Road
Admissions – S555
Monroeville, PA. 15146
P: 724.325.6617

South Campus
1750 Clairton Road
Suite A305
West Mifflin, PA. 15122
P: 412.469.6310

North Campus
8701 Perry Highway
Suite 1006A
Pittsburgh, PA. 15237
P: 412.369.4191

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Chief Editor Dwight Boddorf - Editor Pricilla Robertson