

CAMPUS NEWS/FEATURES

Reserving money for college

Kesha Collins
STAFF REPORTER

There are several avenues to take in paying for a college education, and the Army Reserves is one route that more than 100 students at Winston-Salem State have taken to pay for their expenses. During the fall semester, 136 students were certified to receive financial benefits from the military, said Cynthia Joel, the Veteran Affairs coordinator for WSSU. To attract future and present students, the reserve component of the Army offers incentives that may include:

- Sign-on bonus (up to \$20,000)
- Montgomery G I Bill
- Tuition assistance
- Loan repayment program (up to \$20,000)

"Joining the Reserves is more than receiving money for college, the Reserves allow individuals to develop leadership skills and self discipline," said LaToyia Carter.

"It's a commitment and you have to be dedicated and willing to make sacrifices."

Carter knows this firsthand. During the second semester of her junior year, Carter had to sacrifice graduating on her expected date because she was called to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Not everyone has to put education on hold because of deployment, however. Christina Worth, a current WSSU student, said that being in Army ROTC has kept her from being deployed," she said.

"Being in ROTC along with the Reserves also gives me the opportunity to receive extra money for school, training and it has helped me develop my time management skills." It also gives you a chance to pursue a military career as well as a civilian career, she said.

Some people may shy away from joining the Reserves because of the thought of having to put their education on hold and go fight in a war, said SFC

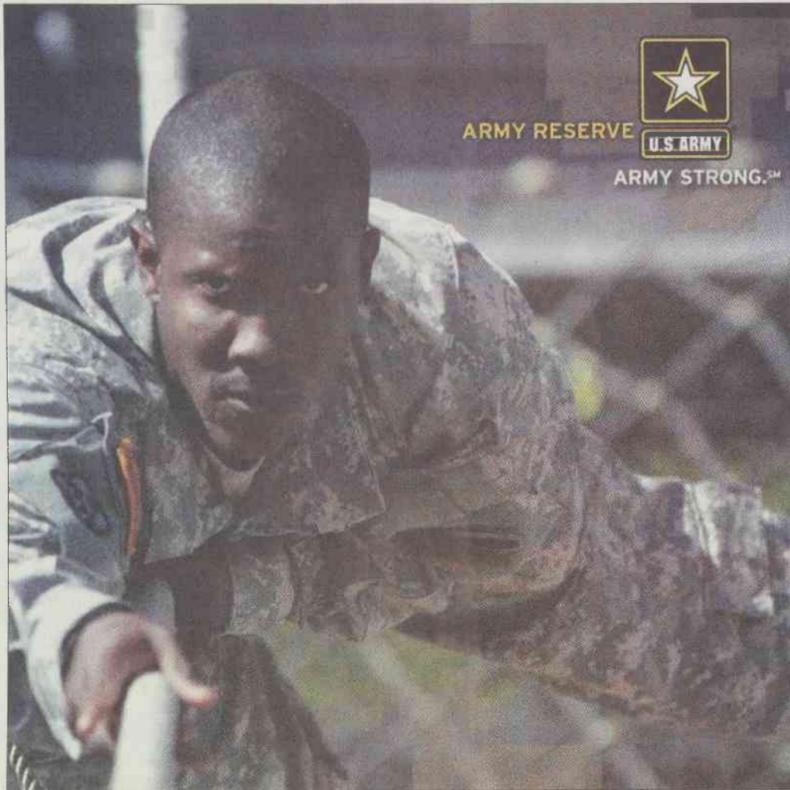


Photo courtesy of US Army Reserves

The Army Reserve is a route many students have chosen to pay for their education.

Eddison Cyrus, an Army Recruiter. Now the Reserves are offering a program that may ease the minds of those who wish to join but are worried about being deployed. This program is called the Army Reserve Education Career Stabilization Program. ECS allows qualified candidates to complete up to four years of post-secondary education without interruptions. Cyrus said that in order to stay exempt from mobilization through this program the soldier must stay enrolled in school and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5. Another option for being in non-deployable status is to be in ROTC, he said.

An enlistment in the Reserves does not guarantee a student will receive all the incentives that are offered. "All students are qualified to receive the Montgomery G.I. BILL and Tuition Assistance, but other

benefits like sign-up bonuses and Student Loan Repayment is offered on job by job bases," said SFC Cyrus. Job qualification is determined by a candidates ASVAB score which helps applicants identify what they are good at, what their interest are, and the perks the military can offer them.

Although an enlistment does not come with all the incentives offered, it does, however, obligate soldiers to fulfill their enlistment after graduation Cyrus said. "If a students enlist for six years and graduates within three of the six, they still have to complete the remaining years of the contract."

Incentives

Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (up to \$309 per month for 36 months for full time students)

Army Reserve MGIB "Kicker" (add up to \$100 per month to GI Bill for 36 months)
amounts vary with job and rank

ROTC Scholarships (up to \$17,000 per year for college)

College Loan Repayment Program (up to \$20,000 for selected specialties to repay college loans)

Tuition Assistance (up to \$4,500 per academic year)

These incentives who are available only to students that are enrolled in school, either full-time or part-time. In return for the incentives, students must attend scheduled Battle Assembly dates which is once a month, maintain a satisfactory status in the Reserves and school, and for tuition assistance, students must pass classes with a C or better.



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

Smoking is limited to 100 feet from school buildings.

Old policy: Up in smoke

Charlene Wheeler
STAFF REPORTER

The new smoking policy at Winston-Salem State University is causing smokers to walk a little farther in order to have a cigarette.

According to the new University of North Carolina campus system law, smokers must be at least 100 feet away from any school building. This does not leave many spots on campus for smokers. However, students are allowed to smoke outside older dorms like Dillard Hall and Atkins, but not the newer ones like Foundation Heights.

Soon that will change as well, starting July 1, there will be no smoking outside the dorms.

"I think that it is a dumb idea," said Matthew Virgil, a junior at WSSU. "If no one can smoke inside then at least let us be able to smoke outside somewhere that's not far away. Everything around this city and campus is based off of tobacco—the names of the streets and the buildings."

The new policy was taken into effect on January 1, 2008. Students, faculty and staff have been informed of the new WSSU policy through an e-mail and yard signs scattered around campus.

In an online poll at thenewsargus.com, 89 percent of those polled said that smoking should be banned on WSSU and all UNC system campuses because smoking is harmful to those who smoke and those around them.

According to the General Assembly of North Carolina for employees, a first reported violation of this smoking policy will result in a written reprimand and a second violation will result in disciplinary action.

Violation of this policy is considered a personal conduct issue and is subject to disciplinary action including dismissal from employment for employees. Student violators will receive two warnings before being subject to sanctions under the Student Judicial Code.

Although the e-mails were sent before students went home for winter break, apparently not everyone checks their e-mail.

"I didn't know about the new smoking policy. I thought we could still smoke out here," said a student smoking just outside of the Thompson Center.

Around Campus

The struggle to live for African-Americans in the Jim Crow South was at best, extremely difficult, and at worse, deadly. Many African-Americans escaped that oppression in a mass migration North in the hope of finding a better life. That migration is the subject of a new book titled, *The Saint Louis African American Community and the Exodusters*, authored by Dr. Bryan M. Jack, Winston-Salem State University assistant professor of history.

The book, published by the University of Missouri Press and scheduled for release at the end of January, discusses the first mass migration of African-Americans out of the South and how their migration symbolized freedom and resistance to racial and economic oppression.

The book grew out of Jack's doctoral dissertation at Saint Louis University. "The reason I wrote it was because the Exoduster migration is a little-known, but important event in United States and African-American history," said Jack. "It was the first large migration of African-Americans (about 20,000 men, women, and children) out of the South after the Civil War. They were fleeing racial violence and lynching, economic and

political intimidation."

Jack reports that newly freed slaves and descendants of slaves headed to Kansas, where they believed that they would be given free land in the hope of starting new lives. "Most arrived in St. Louis destitute with no means to continue their journey. The St. Louis African-American community came together to feed, clothe, and house them as well as provide for their transportation to Kansas."

He also shares that white southern planters and St. Louis government officials tried to stop the Exoduster, because they did not want the African-American labor force to leave the South. Jack says previous studies of the Exoduster have portrayed the St. Louis efforts of helping the Exodusters as simply charity, but he argues that the St. Louis African-American community viewed their relief efforts as an assertion of their own freedom and independence.

"The St. Louis African-American community understood that if African-Americans were not allowed to leave the South, then the rights of all African-Americans were in danger."

In doing the research for his book, Jack used the actual affidavits and interviews given by the migrants to St. Louis officials, which were later shared with Congressional leaders of that time investigating reports of lynchings

and other brutalities. "These sources gave the Exodusters a voice to testify against the brutal conditions that they were facing in the South. They also spoke to the hopes that they held for the future."

Jack is scheduled to lecture and do a book signing at Left Bank Books in St. Louis, MO, on April 3, and is hoping to have other appearances especially in Winston-Salem.

The book will be available through Amazon, from the University of Missouri Press, and at various retailers.

For more information about the book, contact Dr. Jack at 336-750-2976 or e-mail him at jackb@wssu.edu.

Winston-Salem State University Ralph Bunche Society (RBS) member Antoinette Dunston has received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Phelps Stokes Fund to study in France this semester.

Dunston is a junior Marketing major with a minor in French from Townsville, NC. She currently has a cumulative 3.4 GPA. This experience abroad will be Dunston's third, but this will be her first experience abroad as a Ralph Bunche Society member.

Dunston's first study abroad experience was the summer of

2006 in Chambéry, France. Her second was last summer in Benin and Ghana. She will spend the spring 2008 semester at the Université d'Angers in Angers, France. She will be there Jan. 14 - May 26.

"I will be studying French to complete my French minor. Because of my scholarship from the Phelps Stokes Fund, I don't have any out-of-pocket expenses," said Dunston. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to study abroad again and for the scholarships that I have received."

Dunston said after she graduates she plans to join the Peace Corps and hopefully return to Africa to help out in any way she can. After her tour in the Peace Corps, Dunston said she hopes to land a position within the government, but if that does not work out, she wants to return to France to teach English.

All of Dunston's trips have been coordinated through WSSU's Office of International Programs.

Named for one of the nation's most important proponents of international understanding and cooperation, Bunche was the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The Ralph Bunche Society is designed to cultivate students' global citizenship, foreign language skills, and Bunche's values as an internationalist. WSSU is the first university in the nation to serve as a host site for a pilot pro-

gram named in Bunche's honor.

For more information about the RBS and opportunities to study abroad contact WSSU's Office of International Programs at 336-750-3345 or e-mail Dr. Funwi Ayuninjam at ayuninjamff@wssu.edu.

Sharon Hush, interim registrar at Winston-Salem State University since Sept. 4, 2007, has been officially appointed registrar, effective immediately.

Hush's appointment became effective Dec. 28, 2007, after a national search. She replaces William Cain who retired from the position after more than 26 years of service to WSSU.

"Ms. Hush has done an outstanding job during her tenure as interim registrar. I know she will continue to provide her high level of service now that she has been named to the job permanently," said WSSU provost Pedro Martinez.

Hush has served as an assistant registrar at Oral Roberts University, and as records supervisor and scheduling officer at N.C. State University in a career spanning more than 17 years in higher education positions. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Sociology from N.C. State University.