



2025 Annual Training Conference

Orange Beach Event Center · 4671 Wharf Parkway W, Orange Beach, AL 36561

****ALL SESSIONS ARE 45 MINUTES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED****

Sunday, October 19th, 2025	
3:00 PM	Registration Opens - Springhill Suites Conference Hotel
3:00 PM-6:00 PM	SWAG Pick-Up Party & Welcome Reception (Hors d'oeuvres) - Springhill Suites
6:00 PM	Registration Closes - Dinner on Your Own
Monday, October 20th, 2025	
7:30 AM	Registration Opens – Orange Beach Event Center
8:00 AM	Full Breakfast/Networking
9:00 AM	Conference Opening Ceremony: Presentation of Colors by Gulf Shores High School Navy JROTC President's Welcome, Business Meeting / Board of Directors Position Openings
9:30 AM	VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! PRIZES!!!!)
10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker - TBD
10:45 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes
11:00 AM ★	VR&E - Jaime Wilder - Division Manager - Department of Veterans Affairs
12:00 PM	Lunch Provided - Alabama BBQ Bonanza!
1:00 PM ★	Enrollment Manager - Shay Norton-Leonard & Fahtimah Mamdo - National Training Team - Department of Veterans Affairs *
2:00 PM	Feature Presentation - The American Village Citizenship Trust - Col. Alan B. Miller & Natalie Steed
2:45 PM	Snack Break - 15 minutes
3:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	Federal Tuition Assistance - James Shamlee - University of Alabama - Military Services Program Manager
	ANGEAP - Sara Gilmore - State ANGEAP Manager
★	Military Transcripts & Degree Works - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	VA, Banner, Argos, and You - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
4:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	Federal Tuition Assistance - James Shamlee - University of Alabama - Military Services Program Manager
	ANGEAP - Sara Gilmore - State ANGEAP Manager
★	Military Transcripts & Degree Works - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	VA, Banner, Argos, and You - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Let's Talk About It! - Open Panel Q&A Session & Business Card Swap
Be Sure to Check Out Our Auction Items! Get Those Bids In!!	

Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

6:00 AM	Morning Meditation - Yoga/Exercise w/ Rosario Thomas - Veterans Specialist - Southern Union CC
7:30 AM	Registration Opens – Orange Beach Event Center
8:00 AM	Full Breakfast/Networking
9:00 AM	Welcome, Announcements, Nominations for Board of Directors (Main Hall)
9:15 AM	VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! MORE PRIZES!!!!)
9:30 AM	Keynote Speaker - TBD
10:15 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes
10:30 AM ★	Debt Management - Nicole Haselberger - Assistant Chief, Veterans Resolution Division - Department of Veterans Affairs *
11:15 AM	VA Work Study - Kevin White - National Training Team - Department of Veterans Affairs *
12:00 PM	Lunch Provided - Mixed Grill & Chill!
1:00 PM ★	State Approving Agency Updates Q&A - James Thompson, Kimberly Minniefield, Laura Taylor
2:00 PM	Feature Presentation - TAP - Assisting with Transition from Military to Civilian Life - Melinda Manyx
2:45 PM	Snack Break - 15 minutes
3:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	Best Practices for Admissions & Advising - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
★	Surviving and Thriving as an SCO/VRO - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	Maximizing Military Credits for Your Students - Barry Graves - Registrar - Athens State University
	Financial Aid Updates - TBD - AASFAA (Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
4:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	Best Practices for Admissions & Advising - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
★	Surviving and Thriving as an SCO/VRO - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	Maximizing Military Credits for Your Students - Barry Graves - Registrar - Athens State University
	Financial Aid Updates - TBD - AASFAA (Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Let's Talk About It! - Open Panel Q&A Session & Business Card Swap
7:00 PM	Presidents' Dinner - Magnolia Hall

Get Ready for a Night of Spooky Fun!

Dress to Scare-Press! Prizes for the Best Costumes!

Haunted Bayou Presidents' Dinner @ Magnolia Hall

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

6:00 AM	Morning Meditation - Yoga/Exercise w/ Rosario Thomas - Veterans Specialist - Southern Union CC
7:30 AM	Registration Opens – Orange Beach Event Center
8:00 AM	Full Breakfast / Networking
9:00 AM	Welcome & VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! EVEN MORE PRIZES!!!!)
9:15 AM ★	ELR Updates & Q&A - TBD - Education Liaison Representative - Department of Veterans Affairs
10:00 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes
10:15 AM ★	SCO Training Requirements - Traveon Ward - National Training Team - Department of Veterans Affairs *
11:00 AM	Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship - Kayla Kyle - Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
12:00 PM	Lunch & Final Bids!!! AUCTION ENDS!!!!
1:00 PM ★	85/15 Requirements under 38 CFR § 21.4201 - Jerome Golombek - National Training Team *
2:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	What to Expect When You're Expecting....AN AUDIT! - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
★	SCO Round Table (Q&A - Don't Be Shy!) - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	Business Office & VA Benefits - TBD
	A Postsecondary Tour of Duty: A Soldier's Journey - Michelle Webb - Senior VA/FA Specialist – Coastal Alabama CC
2:45 PM	Snack Break - 15 minutes
3:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
	What to Expect When You're Expecting....AN AUDIT! - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
★	SCO Round Table (Q&A - Don't Be Shy!) - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
	Business Office & VA Benefits - TBD
	A Postsecondary Tour of Duty: A Soldier's Journey - Michelle Webb - Senior VA/FA Specialist – Coastal Alabama CC
4:00 PM	AVAA Announcements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AVAA Board Election Results ● Scholarship Winners ● Awards & Recognitions ● Silent Auction Results
5:00 PM	Dismissal - Dinner on Your Own

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Farewell Breakfast & Conference Wrap Up Q&A's
10:00 AM-1:00 PM	AVAA 2025-2026 New Board Meeting

Thank You for Attending the 2025 AVAA Conference. Have a Safe Trip Home, & See You Next Year!

***SESSIONS COUNT TOWARD THE VA'S SCO ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CERTIFY VIA THE SCO TRAINING PORTAL POST-CONFERENCE.**

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