



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	Early Bird Registration Opens! SWAG Pick-Up Party & Welcome Reception (Hors d'oeuvres)
6:00 PM	Registration Closes - Dinner on Your Own
Monday, October 20th, 2025	
7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:00 AM	Full Breakfast/Networking
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony: Presentation of Colors by Gulf Shores High School Navy JROTC
	National Anthem by The Coastal Sound - Coastal Alabama Community College
9:30 AM	President's Welcome, Business Meeting / Open Board of Directors Position
10:00 AM	Brigadier General (Ret.) Jeffrey Newton - Commissioner - Alabama Dept. of Veterans Affairs
10:45 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes
11:00 AM	Keynote Speaker - Well Being in the Midst of Transition - Major General (Ret.) Paulette Risher
12:00 PM	Lunch Provided - Alabama BBQ Bonanza!
12:45 PM	VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! PRIZES!!!!)
1:00 PM	VR&E - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
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
Freedom	Federal Tuition Assistance - James Shamlee - Military Services Program Manager - University of Alabama
Independence ★	Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due - Jimmie Sipe - Lead Enrollment Services Specialist - Jefferson State Community College
Liberty	ANGEAP - Sara Gilmore - State ANGEAP Manager
Valor	VA, Banner, Argos, and You - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
4:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
Freedom	Federal Tuition Assistance - James Shamlee - Military Services Program Manager - University of Alabama
Independence ★	Surviving and Thriving as an SCO/VRO - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
Liberty	ANGEAP - Sara Gilmore - State ANGEAP Manager
Valor	VA, Banner, Argos, and You - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
5:00 PM	Let's Talk About It! - Open Panel Q&A Session & Business Card Swap
6:00 PM	Dinner on Your Own

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/Voting opens. (Main Hall)
9:15 AM	VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! MORE PRIZES!!!!)
9:30 AM	Keynote Speaker - Peggy Lee Wright - Ret. US Army UH-60 Blackhawk pilot, 82nd Airborne Owner & Founder of “The Company You Keep”. Proud mother of four.
10:15 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes
10:30 AM	Debt Management - Michelle Webb - Senior VA/FA Specialist – Coastal Alabama Community College
11:15 AM	VA Work Study - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
12:00 PM	Lunch Provided - Mixed Grill & Chill!
1:00 PM	State Approving Agency Updates Q&A - Kimberly Minniefield, Laura Taylor
2:00 PM	Feature Presentation - TAP - Assisting with Transition from Military to Civilian Life - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
2:45 PM	Snack Break - 15 minutes
3:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
<i>Freedom</i>	Best Practices for Admissions & Advising - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
<i>Independence</i> ★	Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due - Jimmie Sipe - Lead Enrollment Services Specialist - Jefferson State Community College
<i>Liberty</i>	Registrar Best Practices for VMA Students - Barry Graves - Registrar - Athens State University
<i>Valor</i>	Financial Aid Updates - Stephanie Miller - AASFAA (Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
4:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
<i>Freedom</i>	Best Practices for Admissions & Advising - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
<i>Independence</i> ★	Surviving and Thriving as an SCO/VRO - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
<i>Liberty</i>	Registrar Best Practices for VMA Students - Barry Graves - Registrar - Athens State University
<i>Valor</i>	Financial Aid Updates - Stephanie Miller - AASFAA (Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
5:00 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, Daily Announcements
9:15 AM	VA Kahoots!!! (Fun! Shenanigans! EVEN MORE PRIZES!!!!)
9:30 AM	Keeping in Compliance - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
10:15 AM	Coffee & Snack Break - 15 minutes - GET THOSE FINAL BIDS IN FOR SILENT AUCTION!!!
10:30 AM	SCO Training Requirements - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State Cc
11:15 AM	Feature Presentation - Heroes Welcome Initiative - Jennifer Holliday - Military Family Liaison - Alabama Military Stability Foundation
12:00 PM	LUNCH, VOTING CLOSES AND AUCTION ENDS!!!!
1:00 PM	85/15 Requirements under 38 CFR § 21.4201 - Nick Anderson - Director, Military & Veterans Programs - University of Alabama in Huntsville
2:00 PM	Breakout Session/Round Table Discussions
Freedom ★	What to Expect When You're Expecting....AN AUDIT! - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
Independence	SCO Round Table (Q&A - Don't Be Shy!) - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
Liberty ★	Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship - Kayla Kyle - Director - Alabama Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Valor	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
Freedom ★	What to Expect When You're Expecting....AN AUDIT! - Stephanie Miller - Financial Aid Director - Central Alabama CC
Independence	SCO Round Table (Q&A - Don't Be Shy!) - Rose Marie Cobb - VMA Coordinator - Jefferson State CC
Liberty ★	Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship - Kayla Kyle - Director - Alabama Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Valor	A Postsecondary Tour of Duty: A Soldier's Journey - Michelle Webb - Senior VA/FA Specialist – Coastal Alabama CC
4:00 PM	AVAA Announcements
	● 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. See You Next Year!

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