



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACTS:**

Hank Wilson  
John Glenn College  
of Public Affairs  
540.588.1262

Tamara Brown  
National Veterans Memorial  
and Museum  
614.371.4446

## **First Class of Graduates with Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** -- Sixteen professionals, representing a wide range of employers from Ohio and Northern Kentucky, completed the first Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans through The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The pilot program was launched in February in partnership with the National Veterans Memorial and Museum with funding from Battelle and the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation.

"Military service is the best on-the-job leadership training in the world," said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, President and CEO for the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "Veterans bring so much to the workplace, but it is important to help them invest in professional development to continue to grow and thrive in their civilian careers. This is what this program is all about."

The Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans is a 12-session program spread across five months that aims to help Veterans transition from the clear organizational structure and culture of military life to the more ambiguous organizational structure and culture of civilian organizations. It is a graduate-level program where participants acquire six credit hours that are transferable to any of the graduate degrees at the Glenn College.

The pilot class met at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum on Fridays and then quickly transitioned to online course delivery for the remainder of the sessions.

This fall, the program will be offered entirely online, enabling Veterans and their supporters from across the country to participate. Veterans applying for the upcoming online program will be able to use their G.I. Bill benefits through the VA. Registration information can be found at <http://glenn.osu.edu/veterans>.

"The certificate consists of two courses, each worth three credit hours. The first addresses leadership in public and nonprofit organizations; the second in leadership development application," explained Glenn College Professor Jos C.N. Raadschelders, faculty director of Professional Development and Training Programs. "As with all the Glenn College's professional development programs, the emphasis is on experiential knowledge. This means the experience of Veterans in leadership positions is actively used to help illustrate the general principles of organization and management."



Graduates of the Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans are:

- Christopher Baker, Amazon
- Gregory Barbiaux, JP Morgan Chase
- Andrew Biesterveld, COTA
- Ryan Blackburn, Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- David Baorkowski, JP Morgan Chase
- Mark Conwell, Huntington
- Denise Flowers, COTA
- Anthony Fries, NiSource
- Sean Maloney, Huntington
- Joseph Massey, COTA
- Joseph Onesto, JP Morgan Chase
- Samuel Peck, Huntington
- Mark Sapp, Amazon
- Noah Scott, Amazon
- Matthew Toomey, Huntington
- Christina Villarreal, Encova Insurance

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### **About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum currently takes visitors on a virtual narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing the experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. The Museum pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. Sign up at [NationalVMM.org](http://NationalVMM.org) to receive our weekly enewsletter sharing information from Veterans about coping with our current living and working conditions, live online events, Veterans stories and more.

### **About the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University**

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University is committed to inspiring and developing the next generation of public and nonprofit professionals who can handle complex issues and make change a reality in civic life. Ranked as the best in Ohio and 13th nationally among the 272 public affairs graduate schools in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report ratings, the Glenn College teaches its students how governments, nonprofits, and private firms can work together to serve the public and get results. Its faculty has practical, real-world knowledge that keeps the college's research current and innovative. Providing technical assistance and consulting to local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as nonprofit and private organizations, is one of the many ways the Glenn College improves public policymaking and management through research and analysis.