



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Education Service
Washington, D.C. 20420**

MAR 13 2015

President / Department Head
All Institutions of Higher Learning

Dear Higher Education Executive:

VA is pleased to announce that the Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program open season for the 2015-2016 academic year will run from March 15th through May 15th. During the open season, institutions can (1) request participation in the program, (2) modify participation in the program, or (3) request withdrawal from the program. Additionally, participating institutions may indicate their commitment to adhere to the Principles of Excellence set forth in Executive Order 13607.

A copy of the Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement with instructions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the GI Bill website. Please refer to these documents for additional information.

Institutions with existing Yellow Ribbon Program agreements

Please review your current agreement to determine whether any modifications are needed. You may view the terms of your current agreement via the GI Bill website (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp>) by clicking on For School Administrators, School Resources, and Yellow Ribbon Program Information (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/yellow_ribbon_info_schools.asp).

If your institution wants to change any data on its agreement or withdraw from the program, the institution must submit a signed agreement via email, fax, or postal mail. Submit only one signed agreement through one method of delivery. We strongly recommend submitting the signed agreement through email.

Participating institutions that did not previously agree to adhere to the Principles of Excellence may update their agreement to indicate a commitment to adhere to the Principles of Excellence by completing the top section of the agreement, checking "modification to existing agreement", completing block 14, and signing appropriately or by submitting an email to principles.excellence@va.gov. We ask

that only the institution's main campus submit information on compliance with the Principles of Excellence; any addendum to the agreement or a separate email notification must also include the name, address, and facility code of each campus.

The decision to adhere to the Principles of Excellence is not required to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. An institution may agree to adhere to the Principles of Excellence or may rescind its decision to adhere to the Principles of Excellence at any time by submitting an email to principles.excellence@va.gov.

As the Yellow Ribbon Program agreement is an open-ended agreement, existing agreements for the 2012-13, or 2013-14, and/or 2014-15 year will remain valid until modified or withdrawn. If your institution does not need to modify any information previously provided or withdraw from the program, then no further action or communication is required.

Institutions without existing agreements

Institutions that do not have an existing Yellow Ribbon Program agreement for the 2012-13, or 2013-14, and/or 2014-15 academic year may request approval for the Yellow Ribbon Program by submitting a signed agreement via email, fax, or postal mail. Submit only one signed agreement through one method of delivery. We strongly recommend submitting the signed agreement through email.

With your support, we can help ensure that our nation's Veterans and dependents receive the education benefits they deserve.

Respectfully,



Robert M. Worley II
Director, Education Service