

July 9, 2009

For Immediate Release

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**Florida Tech at Patuxent
Joins G.I. Bill Yellow Ribbon Program,
Eases Costs for Vets, Dependents to Attend**

MELBOURNE, FLA.—Florida Institute of Technology at Patuxent River Naval Air Station has joined the approximately 700 colleges and universities nationwide who are part of a program that waives a portion of the tuition and costs for post-9/11 veterans and eligible dependents. The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

Through the program, Florida Tech has voluntarily entered into an agreement with the Veterans Administration (VA) to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. Students in graduate programs at extended studies sites each will have up to \$1,800 waived for the first 10 eligible students at each site.

These sites include Orlando, Kennedy Space Center and Rockledge in Florida; Fort Lee, National Capital Region, in Alexandria, Va., and Hampton Roads, also in Virginia; Patuxent River and Aberdeen proving Ground in Maryland; Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey and the virtual campus.

Eligible veterans are those who served at least 90 days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Those who served at least 36 months on active duty are entitled to the maximum benefit; those who served less time are eligible for a percentage of

the full benefit based on length of service. The VA matches each dollar that an institution contributes toward an eligible student's tuition costs, up to 50 percent of the difference between the student's tuition benefit and the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees.

Florida Tech's off-campus programs have been offering graduate degree programs to members of the military since 1972 when master's degree programs were first offered at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland in 1972.

For more information contact the Patuxent NAS VA certifying officials Junee Drakeford-Johnson at jdrakefo@fit.edu, or Amy Parker at amy@fit.edu, (301) 862-1004.

About Florida Institute of Technology

Founded at the dawn of the Space Race 50 years ago, Florida Tech is the only independent, technological university in the Southeast. With more than 7,000 students enrolled on main campus, extended campuses and online, Florida Tech has been named a Barron's Guide "Best Buy" in College Education, listed among America's best colleges in U.S. News & World Report, and ranked in 2009 as one of the nation's top 18 engineering technical institutes by the Fiske Guide to Colleges. The university offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. Fields of study include science, engineering, aeronautics, business, humanities, mathematics, psychology, communication and education.

Florida Tech's Extended Studies Division offers over 35 in-residence and online master's degree and graduate certificate programs at 10 sites located in five states, including the Virtual Campus. Degree programs are tailored to meet the educational needs of individuals employed in business and industry, active military duty personnel and U.S. government employees.

Additional information is available online at <http://uc.fit.edu/es>.