

Keynote Speaker & Panelist:

Robert A. White

Director of Community Impact, Minority Veterans of America



Robert A. White is a nationally recognized leader in the veteran community experienced in strategic nonprofit development, public policies, and veteran initiatives. He currently serves as the Director of Community Impact for Minority Veterans of America (MVA). Minority Vet's mission is to create belonging and advance equity for minority veterans.

As the former Chief Executive Officer of Vetted Foundation, he supported high-performance veterans in their transition into corporate careers and

entrepreneurship through an accelerated management program at top MBA schools. Robert's military career spanned over 20 years in the Army as both an Enlisted Engineer and a Field Artillery Officer. He holds an Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) degree from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

Robert's philanthropy work includes appointments to multiple local veteran boards and committees. He is also a Partner at SVP Seattle where he works on racial equity through grant making and partner recruitment. He continues to consult the public and private sectors, nonprofits, and institutions of higher learning on advancing veteran initiatives and public policies. He has dedicated his life to helping others and advocates for social and racial equity for underrepresented communities.

Panelists:

Patti Gerhauser

Women Veterans Program Coordinator, Veterans Leadership Program



Patti Gerhauser began her professional career in 2006 working as an HIV/AIDS educator in Ghana, Africa. There she developed a community education program, and performed community outreach in both rural and urban settings.

Following her work in Ghana, Patti served in the U.S. Navy, from 2007-2011, as an AEGIS spy radar tactician on the USS Gettysburg. She spent two years on sea service and deployed to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden. In the Gulf of Aden, she served with the United Nations' Combined Task Force 151, which led anti-piracy efforts in 2009.

After the military, Patti attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Communication and Conflict Management.

After graduating in 2015, Patti went to work in Erie, PA as a facilitator for a community-based, anti-poverty program called "Getting Ahead." She also worked for the Erie School District, teaching conflict management and conflict resolution skills to middle and high school aged youth.

In 2017, Patti moved to the Pittsburgh area with her husband, Ryan, and two children, Aurora and Connor. There she worked in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood community as a Community Organizer for the Hazelwood Initiative. As an Organizer, she worked with community members and external partners to create and implement a comprehensive community development plan. She also led advocacy efforts for policies and practices that would prevent displacement of long-time Hazelwood residents.

Patti began in her current role, as the Women Veterans Program Coordinator at Veterans Leadership Program, in February 2019. In this position, she leads outreach and advocacy efforts, coordinates community partnerships and events, and manages social and supportive programming for Women Veterans in western Pennsylvania. She also currently co-hosts a podcast - alongside Army Veteran, Aryanna Hunter - entitled, "What A Veteran Looks Like."

Timothy M. Jones

Service Navigator, Veterans Leadership Program



In 1999, while serving on active duty, **Timothy Jones** was **stalked, raped, and hazed**. These traumatic events altered the next twenty years of his life. Jones endured a ten-year journey of struggle, hitting his rock bottom.

After receiving assistance from the *Department of Veteran Affairs*, Jones navigated past each adversity, reclaiming his "colorful" voice. Today, Jones's purpose and mission is to **inspire hope** and **empower healing** of those who have had encounters with **Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS)** and **sexual assault**.

As Service Navigator at Veterans Leadership Program, Jones supports local veterans as they navigate the transitions of life. Veterans Leadership Program services nearly 4,000 Veterans annually in Western and Central

Pennsylvania.

In 2015, the *John C. Maxwell Team* recognized Jones as a Top 100 candidate for the **2015 John C. Maxwell Leadership Award**. Jones also walked more than 200 miles from Pensacola to Tallahassee with a goal of **raising awareness** for approximately 5,000 homeless veterans in the State of Florida, earning recognition from Governor Rick Scott.

The Florida Humanities Council and *The Telling Project* highlighted Jones's journey with the production of **Telling: Pensacola**. This production allows six area veterans the opportunity to educate their community on the effects of military service.

Jones facilitates *Sexual Assault and Rape Prevention trainings*. Jones has facilitated trainings for Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Wright State University, Fort Campbell, Kent State

University, Hofstra University, Hill Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, Region One Trauma Informed Care, Seventh Special Forces Group, and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Washington D.C. Jones has become a top-of-mind keynote speaker.

Jones believes that, where colorful voices lay dormant and doubtful, with **hope, healing and action**, those voices and dreams can instead become **ignited!**

Moderator:

Aryanna Hunter

Director, University of Pittsburgh - Office of Veterans Services



Aryanna Hunter: Iraq War veteran, mom of three, author, podcaster, and veteran advocate.

Growing up the youngest of ten children in a family that lived below the poverty line, finding a way to make things happen was just a part of life. In 2001, at the age of 18 and answering the call of her nation, Aryanna enlisted with the United States Army just weeks after the terror attacks of 9/11 and served with the XVIII Airborne Corp on the front-lines during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Aryanna spent more than a decade as a Global IT Project Manager for multiple Fortune 500 companies and is also founder of the non-profit American Nutritional Security that works to better nutrition in communities as a matter of national security.

In 2017, Aryanna decided to take on the political establishment and ran for Lt. Governor against an incumbent. Aryanna would later end her own campaign and turn her attention to co-founding a political action committee with a mission to level the financial playing field in politics, called Fight the Power PAC.

Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, an MBA, and a Master's degree in Public Administration, Aryanna is now pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Engagement at Point Park University.

Currently, Aryanna co-hosts a new veteran centric podcast called "What A Veteran Looks Like" with Navy veteran Patti Gerhauser and is the Director in the Office of Veterans Services for the University of Pittsburgh.

Aryanna is a Defense Council member of the Truman National Security Project, an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador, and belongs to many civic organizations to include the NAACP, VFW, The Mission Continues, and others. She resides in Murrysville, Pennsylvania with her three children Donovan, Camryn, and Atlee.