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## Helping veterans fund their education

YTI and other schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon program.

By **ANGIE MASON**  
[Daily Record/Sunday News](#)

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Derrick Girouard, of York, right, works on drafting at YTI Career Institute. The school is joining the Yellow Ribbon program, which is aimed at ensuring tuition costs are covered for veterans like Girouard, who served four years in the U.S. Air Force. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS - PAUL KUEHNEL)

York, PA - After years of moving around with the military, Derrick Girouard is ready settle down.

The 26-year-old served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was deployed overseas, both with the military and as a civilian firefighter. He returned last summer and soon headed back to school at YTI Career Institute, where he's studying drafting and design.

YTI's accelerated programs help veterans get in and out of schooling and into their career fields, he said. Veterans are really starting new lives, he said, "and we want to do that quickly."

Girouard's school is now joining two other local schools in participating in a program aimed at making sure military veterans like him receive enough funding to cover their post-secondary education.

YTI, the Art Institute of York, and Penn State York are all part of the Yellow Ribbon Program, according to information on the program website. Through the program, the schools partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover tuition that might not be paid for through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For those eligible, the Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay for all resident tuition and fees for a public institution, or for students enrolled in a private institution in Pennsylvania, the higher of the actual tuition and fees or the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition and fees, according to the website.

YTI is joining the Yellow Ribbon Program for the first time for 2012-13, said Roger Moore, financial aid director.

The veterans affairs department made some changes with the Post-9/11 GI Bill related to how much tuition would be covered, he said, and that left veterans in some of YTI's programs short funding for a term. Tuition for YTI can vary



Derrick Girouard  
(DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS - PAUL KUEHNEL)

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depending on the program.

"We actually absorbed that difference to get them through this term," Moore said, "then applied for participation in Yellow Ribbon."

The program is a joint effort between the participating schools and the veterans affairs department to make sure vets' tuition is covered, he said.

"In an effort to honor our veterans for their service to our country it was more than important to us to put this in place to ensure that their education is covered," Moore said. "It's just what we believe is part of what they deserve for serving our country."

The Penn State system has been participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program for a few years, said Sharon Christ, director of enrollment management at Penn State York.

There are probably a small number of students benefiting from it at Penn State York, she said, because most are in-state students and likely fully covered through the Post-9/11 GI bill.

"Yellow Ribbon comes in more so for out-of-state students," she said, since out-of-state tuition is significantly higher.

Christ said the university just wanted to make sure veterans get the "fullest advantage of the benefits they can get" so they can earn their degrees and move on.

### Online

Learn more about the Yellow Ribbon program at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov).

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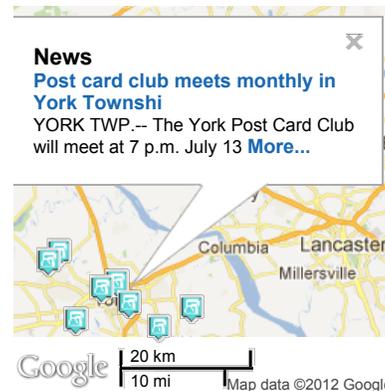


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By ANGIE MASON Daily Record/Sunday

News York Daily Record/Sunday News

Updated:

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