



CIVIL AIR PATROL

VOLUNTEER UNIVERSITY

Meet the New Provost for Volunteer University

Lt. Col. Mike Bryant, acting interim provost since Oct. 1, 2022, was recently selected as Volunteer University's provost by Col. Bryan Cooper, the chief of Civil Air Patrol's Education and Training program, and his selection team.

Bryant succeeds Col. Joe Winter, the first provost for Vol U, and Lt. Col. Brenda Reed, the former provost.

"I am excited to continue working with Vol U to move members through their professional development," Bryant said.

Bryant has worked with Vol U since the new program was launched in August 2020. He started out as chair for Level II in-person training. His success in that role led to his becoming dean in 2021 — giving him oversight of the Level I-V online chairs and the virtual in-residence coordinators.



As provost, Bryant will provide support for the dean, the chairs, and the coordinators while committing to Vol U's academic excellence. Twice a month, the provost leads a new group of CAP members who have finished their instructor training in Axis. The provost leads them through the last of their training online so they can become instructors for Vol U. He conducts office hours the first Monday of each month to field any questions by instructors or prospective instructors, and he meets regularly with his deans and chairs.

At the start of Vol U in 2020, Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, then national commander, issued a challenge to Col. Regena Aye, then the Education and Training program chief: "Our goal is to have over 1,500 individuals who can teach Level I across the country. The fruits of your labor will benefit the members of Civil Air Patrol for many years to come."

Vol U is beginning to reap those benefits. More than 1,700 members have applied, with over 1,000 instructors approved to lead Vol U modules.

“I wonder if Gen. Smith and Col. Aye [now Brig. Gen. Aye, national vice commander] could have imagined just how Vol U was going to revolutionize the way that CAP members now learn and progress through the program levels,” Bryant said. “Why is this important? Our members, now more than anytime in the history of Civil Air Patrol, have the most flexible opportunities to continue their learning and professional development. Members can take modules by cohorts, virtual in-residence, or in-person modalities. This gives our members the freedom and flexibility to choose what works for them and their individual schedules.”

Bryant has been the Professional Development/Education and Training program director for the Kentucky Wing since August 2014. He was named CAP's 2018 Professional Development officer of the year.

In March 2023, Bryant began his 27th year in Civil Air Patrol. He resides in Bowling Green, Kentucky, with his wife of 35 years, Maj. Janet Bryant, who is also an active CAP member. Their twin sons are now 32 years old, and they have one 7-year-old grandson.