

Gina Svoboda is interning with NCAC as a non-traditional student from Misericordia University, Dallas, PA. Ms. Svoboda has a unique and diverse background to include military and government, business, the arts, and a return to school.

Having served multiple tours in Southwest Asia, to include combat during Operations Desert Storm/Shield, she found a military niche with a locally based biomaterials company and focused on government procurement and contracts for the company. Honing off her military background and being a decorated combat veteran, she worked as a Service Officer with the Pennsylvania American Legion and assisted veterans with military benefits. This effort brought in millions of dollars for disabled and financially disadvantaged veterans in twenty-one counties, throughout Northeast PA and Southern New York. Because of her knowledge with Veteran benefits, she was asked to help spearhead a local news segment, WBRE's Veterans Views, which is in its seventh year. The segment airs nightly and provides information to the military and veteran community to include Veterans, their spouses, caregivers and children, in the WBRE/WYOU viewing area.

She was always very enthusiastic about the arts and realized she could use her administrative skills to support the artist community, allowing the artists create. She held the position of Gallery Coordinator at the Artists for Art (AFA) Gallery in Scranton, PA. Through the AFA gallery, she was part of the team that started First Fridays in Scranton in 2005. She has been involved with the Scranton Jazz Fest since its inception (2004) and has worn many hats to include volunteer, backstage management, and 18 years later, a committee member. Upon moving back to Luzerne County, she became involved with the Wyoming Valley Art League as a volunteer.

With a graduation date of Spring 2023 (major in Professional Studies and a minor in Professional Writing), Ms. Svoboda plans to take her past skills and knowledge and apply them to building the arts and art-based programs from Lackawanna to Luzerne County and beyond. She is extremely excited about her internship with NCAC and the potential to create and expound upon grants-based programs for the arts.