

## AGENDA ITEM V

### *AY 2023–2024 Governor's Military and Veteran-Friendly Campus Program Report*

#### **Background Information**

Act 232 of the 2015 Legislative Session enacted R.S. 17:3138.5 to address the need for comprehensive, statewide support to aid military veterans transitioning from military service to enrollment in postsecondary education. Targeting the need for faculty and staff awareness of "veterans' culture" and for orientation and mentoring programs designed specifically for veterans, the law required the Board of Regents (BOR) to establish a process for designating an institution as a *Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus* (GMVFC, or Friendly Campus), beginning in Fall 2015.

With advice from the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council and Faculty General Education Committee (SATC-GE), the BOR developed an application process for institutions interested in receiving the designation. In Fall 2015, 28 of Louisiana's 29 public colleges and universities submitted applications for initial designation to the Governor. The law specifies that the designation is to be renewed annually, with an institution's renewal application to include a report containing a series of prescribed data elements from the previous year indicating veterans' participation in campus offerings. Any institution that fails to maintain Friendly Campus status must again complete the application for initial designation if or when the campus chooses to seek it again.

Act 429 of the 2021 Legislative Session (R.S. 17:3138.5) amended Act 232 of 2015 to extend participation in the Governor's Military Friendly Campus Program to *non-public* education institutions, including the colleges and universities of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU). This mandate also included institutional reporting of the completion rates of veterans, their spouses, and their children.

Act 53 of the 2023 Legislative Session (R.S. 17:3138.5) amended Act 429 of 2021 to authorize the Board of Regents to establish additional tiers of recognition for institutions, to increase the duration of the designation from one to two years, and to provide an interim report in the years in which institutions do not submit renewal applications. This year marks the inaugural year that institutions could apply for consideration to receive the new Tiers of Distinction.

#### **Staff Summary**

BoR staff reviewed each application to determine whether the institution met the requirements for continued designation as a Friendly Campus, with a particular focus on the specific data required by law:

- the number of veterans granted application fee waivers;
- the number who attended the specialized orientation program;
- the number who participated in the priority class registration;
- the number of students (veterans and dependents) who benefitted from the articulation and transfer process, including the number of credits accepted and a list of the courses credited; and
- the number of veterans, spouses, and dependent graduates.

#### ***Mandatory Criteria for Continued Designation as a GMVFC:***

- Waive Application Fees for Veterans: Institutions reported 3,300 application fee waivers for AY 2023–24.
- Veterans' Orientation: Institutions reported 1,871 students participating in the special orientation

sessions in AY 2023–24.

- Priority Class Scheduling: Institutions reported that 5,037 students participated in priority scheduling for the fall, winter, spring, or summer semesters/terms of AY 2023–24.
- Military Articulation & Transfer Process: Friendly Campuses reported serving a combined total of 7,085 veteran or dependent transfer students, transferring 114,877.94 credit hours in AY 2023–24.

Chart 1, below, details the total number of veteran students, their spouses/dependents, course articulation participation, and total graduates. Institutions provided all data required for the 2023–2024 academic year, which are summarized in this chart. Transfer policies put in place by the BoR and mandated by the Legislature in the last three years continue to reap benefits for students and have contributed to increased numbers of military and veteran students and their spouses and dependents enrolling, participating, and graduating compared to the previous year (Chart 2). These policies provide a framework by which institutions can accept credit for prior learning, which for military students and their dependents is invaluable and directly contributes to their ability to attain credentials in a shorter time. As institutions refine the application of these policies, we expect to see an even greater increase in the number of transfer students enrolled and credit hours awarded.

**CHART 1: AY 2023–24 Reported NEW Incoming Enrollment for GMVF Campuses**

SYSTEM	INST.	NEW VETS	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEPS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEP CREDIT HRS	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS VET+ SPOUSE/ DEPS	TOTAL VET GRADS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEP GRADS
LSU System	LSU A&M	31	1,838	456	11,043.1	12,881.1	151	702
	LSUA	165	13,591	203	18,740	32,331	44	44
	LSUE	37	2,100.44	11	423.35	2,523.79	4	19
	LSUS	96	6,198.21	41	1,978	8,176.21	103	40
Total		329	23,727.65	711	32,184.45	55,912.1	302	805
SU System	SUBR	16	665	16	1,363	2,028	8	2
	SUNO	50	1,000	0	0	1,000	120	0
	SUSLA	16	42	47	137	179	6	2
Total		82	1,707	63	1,500	3,207	134	4
UL System	GSU	6	276.5	6	315	591.5	9	24
	LA TECH	898	2,410.67	181	531	2,941.67	37	55
	MCNEESE	54	2,301	56	2,112	4,413	15	25
	NICHOLLS	317	947	309	925	1,872	27	22
	NSU	22	211	15	159	370	53	54
	SLU	468	1,224	53	141.5	1,365.5	47	61
	ULL	86	5,269.31	89	3,322	8,591.31	42	37
	ULM	54	2,316	100	3,252	5,568	21	34
	UNO	58	168	33	97	265	19	0
Total		1,963	15,123.48	842	10,854.5	25,977.98	270	312
LCTCS	BRCC	63	3,401.355	124	7,982.5	11,383.855	69	104
	BPCC	7	58	2	39	97	36	33
	CLTCC	2	6	53	506	512	17	72
	DELGADO	223	2,504	422	3,647	6,151	25	10
	FTCC	398	1,167	463	1,302	2,469	36	47
	LDCC	425	932	540	974	1,906	24	29
	NTCC	15	439	21	458	897	15	17
	NWLTC	2	6	5	24	30	25	60
	NUNEZ	9	0	0	0	0	6	24
	RPCC	20	375	28	655	1,030	16	56
	SOLACC	99	1,854	148	2,917	4,771	33	4
	SOWELA TCC	24	444	50	1,220	1,664	60	101
Total		1,267	10,811.355	1,828	19,069.5	29,880.855	346	501
GRAND TOTAL		3,641	51,369.49	3,444	63,608.45	114,977.94	1,052	1,622

**CHART 2: AY 2022–23 Reported NEW Incoming Enrollment for GMVF Campuses**

SYSTEM	INST.	NEW VETS	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEPS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEP CREDIT HRS	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS VET+ SPOUSE/ DEP	TOTAL VET GRADS	TOTAL SPOUSE/ DEP GRADS
LSU System	LSU A&M	24	1,411	506	10,557.70	11,968.70	194	555
	LSUA	102	7,000.55	133	8,019.61	15,020.16	51	25
	LSUE	32	1,402.73	8	557	1,959.73	6	7
	LSUS	41	1,363	8	379	1,742	98	50
Total		199	11,177.28	655	19,513.31	30,690.59	349	637
SU System	SUBR	19	1,086.50	22	1,259	2,345.50	33	31
	SUNO	15	162	4	39	201	6	7
	SUSLA	4	39	1	17	56	4	1
Total		38	1,287.50	27	1,315	2,602.50	43	39
UL System	GSU	6	297	3	192	489	8	11
	LA TECH	1,164	2,572.84	175	494	3,066.84	56	52
	MCNEESE	54	1,050	77	3,187	4,237	10	11
	NICHOLLS	271	780	157	489	1,269	39	16
	NSU	8	0	0	0	0	102	6
	SLU	32	2,049.20	14	703	2,752.20	47	41
	ULL	80	5,584.45	79	3,239	8,823.45	41	42
	ULM	58	2,986	86	3,150	6,136	32	36
	UNO	127	359	27	80	439	8	3
Total		1,800	15,678.49	618	11,534	27,212.49	343	218
LCTCS	BRCC	69	2,437.67	128	4,828	7,265.67	61	94
	BPCC	12	118.5	6	46	164.5	34	18
	CLTCC	0	0	0	0	0	8	20
	DELGADO	1,063	1,832	1,165	1,663	3,495	40	15
	FTCC	14	672	27	1,071	1,743	17	24
	LDCC	28	1,453	23	692	2,145	44	67
	NTCC	17	308	16	153	461	12	33
	NWLTC	0	0	0	0	0	48	45
	NUNEZ	1	3	0	0	3	14	13
	RPCC	18	503.7	32	845	1,348.70	12	37
	SLCC	94	1,774	121	1,998	3,772	40	0
	SOWELA TCC	96	275	108	428	703	18	25
Total		1,412	9,376.87	1,626	11,724	21,100.87	348	391
GRAND TOTAL		3,449	37,520.14	2,926	44,086.31	81,606.41	1,083	1,285

## **Tiers of Distinction**

Act 53 of the 2023 Louisiana Legislature invited the Board of Regents to establish additional tiers of distinction to recognize higher levels of excellence demonstrated by participants in the Governor's Military and Veteran-Friendly Campus program. These tiers reflect an institution's commitment to its Veteran and Military students and their spouses/dependents and exist in addition to the requirements for designation as a Friendly Campus.

BoR staff conducted a landscape analysis of national best practices in this area and consulted with each system's Chief Academic Officer (CAO) to develop the criteria for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Tiers of Distinction.

Regents staff identified seven additional criteria beyond those needed to receive Friendly Campus designation and specified the requirements that comprise the Gold, Silver, and Bronze distinctions. These Tier Criteria were approved by BoR action at its March 27, 2024, meeting and reside in the BoR Uniform Policy on Governor's Military and Friendly Campuses, which can be found [here](#).

The levels of excellence that make up the structure of the tiers consist of Bronze, Silver, and Gold in ascending order of status. Each institution's designation will be determined based on which of the following veteran services the institution provides:

<b>Tier Criteria</b>
A Veteran's Center with programming (required for Silver and Gold status)
Ongoing veteran-veteran support, such as a buddy system, veteran peer mentor program, or veteran organization
Dedicated financial aid and advising services trained to specifically serve veterans and service members
Counseling support specifically designed for veteran students
Specifically designed degree pathways that recognize military experience and training
Providing flexible course-taking formats and degree structures that conform with veteran and active service member life obligations
An additional graduation event for veteran students

For Gold Status, an institution must meet all the tier criteria. For Silver Status, a campus must have a Veteran's Center and meet at least an additional three of the tier criteria. For Bronze Status, a campus must meet at least two of the tier criteria.

## **Staff Analysis**

Based upon the applications received, BoR staff have determined that each of the 28 public postsecondary institutions and one non-public institution, listed below, meet the requirements specified in R.S. 17:3138.5 and R.S. 3165.2 for designation as a *Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus* for the 2024–25 academic year. This represents 100% participation in this program by public postsecondary institutions in the state. This year, a private university, Louisiana Christian University, has met the initial

criteria and attained the designation.

Additionally, BoR staff reviewed the information submitted by institutions for consideration under the new Gold, Silver, and Bronze Tiers of Distinction as specified in R.S. 17:3138.5. In this inaugural year, 21 institutions met the designated criteria for consideration under the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Tiers of Distinction.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval to forward to the Governor the following 28 *public* postsecondary institutions and one *non-public* institution with an endorsement as having met requirements for continued or initial designation as *Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campuses* and 21 *public* postsecondary institutions and one *non-public* institution as having attained the *Tiers of Distinction Designation for 2024–2025*:**

#### **Louisiana Community and Technical College System**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Baton Rouge CC, <i>Bronze</i>  | ▪ Northshore TCC                         |
| ▪ Bossier Parish CC, <i>Gold</i> | ▪ Northwest Louisiana TCC, <i>Bronze</i> |
| ▪ Central Louisiana TCC          | ▪ Nunez CC                               |
| ▪ Delgado CC, <i>Silver</i>      | ▪ River Parishes CC                      |
| ▪ Fletcher TCC, <i>Silver</i>    | ▪ South Louisiana CC, <i>Bronze</i>      |
| ▪ Louisiana Delta CC             | ▪ SOWELA TCC, <i>Bronze</i>              |

#### **Louisiana State University System**

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ LSU A&M, <i>Silver</i>        | ▪ LSU Eunice, <i>Silver</i>     |
| ▪ LSU Alexandria, <i>Silver</i> | ▪ LSU Shreveport, <i>Silver</i> |

#### **Southern University System**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Southern University A&M         | ▪ Southern University Shreveport, <i>Bronze</i> |
| ▪ Southern University New Orleans |   |

#### **University of Louisiana System**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▪ Grambling State University, <i>Silver</i>    | ▪ Southeastern Louisiana University, <i>Silver</i> |
| ▪ Louisiana Tech University, <i>Bronze</i>     | ▪ University of Louisiana Lafayette, <i>Silver</i> |
| ▪ McNeese State University                     | ▪ University of Louisiana Monroe, <i>Silver</i>    |
| ▪ Nicholls State University, <i>Bronze</i>     | ▪ University of New Orleans, <i>Bronze</i>         |
| ▪ Northwestern State University, <i>Silver</i> |  |

#### **Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities**

- Louisiana Christian University, *Bronze*