

**Student-Soldier Memorandum of Understanding
Between
U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Baton Rouge
And
Louisiana Community and Technical College System**

Background

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the Baton Rouge Recruiting Battalion recognize that all adults should hold a college credential. Obtaining a college credential provides meaningful career advancement opportunities to civilians and military personnel alike.

The Baton Rouge Recruiting Battalion conducts continuous quality recruiting operations across Louisiana, Mississippi and western Tennessee in order to provide the strength to the U.S. Army and the nation. As a team, we foster an environment of trust and accountability as we perform our mission to lead the most qualified Americans to provide the strength of our Army.

The LCTCS is one of the fastest growing two-year college systems in the nation in terms of production. LCTCS colleges consistently rank nationally in the top 100 producers of industry based certifications, short-term certificates, and associate degrees. In 2016, LCTCS colleges graduated 28,853 students, the largest graduating class in the system's history. Eighty percent of the graduates earned credentials in high-demand, high-income fields as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. As a result, in 2016, the Lumina Foundation, one of the nation's most respected educational and philanthropic organizations commissioned that Louisiana has the highest percentage in the nation of working age adults who hold a high-quality postsecondary certificate and that the state's overall degree attainment rate improved from 50th to 26th in the nation.

Objectives

The LCTCS and the Baton Rouge Battalion hereby voluntarily enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which sets forth a mutually beneficial framework that will improve degree completion of student-soldiers and better educate civilian students and their families of the many career option in the Armed Services.

Execution of this MOU will (1) provide greater opportunities for LCTCS completers to serve their country and (2) facilitate opportunities for soldiers to pursue their educational goals.

LCTCS Responsibilities

To achieve these objectives, the LCTCS will:

- Grant soldiers and their dependents priority registration status;
- Ensure all LCTCS colleges complete an application to be a Concurrent Admission Program (ConAP) school within 90 days of execution of this agreement;
- Identify a single point of contact at each LCTCS college for the Battalion to communicate with;
- Notify the Battalion of college events at which the Battalion might be interested in attending;
- Convene faculty and staff for professional and curriculum development;
- Provide information on programs offered at each LCTCS college that align to military careers; and
- Provide candidates from member institutions for various education tours/events hosted by the Battalion.

Battalion Responsibilities

To achieve these objectives, the Battalion will:

- Encourage soldiers to further their educational attainment and improve their skills by taking classes at LCTCS colleges;
- Make all soldiers aware of educational benefits available to them;
- Encourage soldiers to maximize the use of their educational benefits to assist in paying for college;
- Provide information to soldiers on programs of study at LCTCS institutions;
- Provide professional development opportunities to educate LCTCS faculty and staff on the Battalion, educational benefits available to soldiers, and the role higher education plays in advancing careers for soldiers; and
- Host opportunities for LCTCS faculty and staff to engage in curriculum development.

Joint Responsibilities

To achieve these objectives, the LCTCS and Battalion jointly agree to the following:

- Collaborate in the creation of a crosswalk that matches LCTCS programs to Battalion careers; and
- Share information that is mutually beneficial to current and future student-soldiers.

Duration

This agreement will become effective upon approval by the Battalion Commander of the Battalion and the President of LCTCS for current and future student soldiers. The Battalion and the LCTCS will review this agreement every three years and make adjustments or amendments as deemed appropriate to maintain the integrity of all institutions as well as for the improvement of processes benefitting the student soldiers. Such changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provision of the existing agreement.

The parties have executed this Memorandum of Agreement on this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Lt. Col. Eric Saulsbury
Commander
U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Baton Rouge

Dr. Monty Sullivan
President
Louisiana Community and College System