Northwestern State University

AND

SOWELA Technical Community College

Memorandum of Understanding for Consideration of Reduced Tuition

BACKGROUND: The success of higher education in Louisiana depends on the various institutions and systems working together to achieve the common goal of enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of our State. Northwestern State University (NSU) and SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) provide higher education opportunities to the citizens of north Louisiana and beyond. SOWELA has evolved and expanded to fulfill the technical training needs of the region; to continue that evolution will require that SOWELA provide ongoing professional development and advanced educational opportunities to its faculty and staff. To that end, NSU offers undergraduate and graduate programs that SOWELA faculty and staff need in order to meet credentialing standards set by programmatic, regional, and national accreditation agencies.

Both NSU and SOWELA have a shared mission to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana's citizens; enhancing the academic preparation of SOWELA personnel helps to ensure a better prepared workforce and promotes economic development in Louisiana. Therefore, NSU seeks to assist SOWELA in its efforts to promote ongoing professional development and advanced educational opportunities to its faculty and staff by providing certain tuition waiver benefits to qualified SOWELA employees who wish to enroll at NSU.

The following conditions will apply to SOWELA employees who seek the NSU tuition benefit below. The SOWELA employee must:
1. be employed on a full-time basis at SOWELA,
2. submit an application for admission to NSU and pay the appropriate application fee,
3. meet admission requirements for NSU,
4. take courses for credit; fees will not be waived for audit classes,
5. adhere to NSU policies and procedures,
6. submit a signed and completed copy of this form for each semester in which the benefit is requested,
7. pay the academic excellence fee, operational fee, energy surcharge fee, and technology fee,
8. pay account balances in full each semester.

SOWELA employees who meet all requirements listed above may register at NSU for
1. up to six credit hours per term in undergraduate courses at a rate of $25.00 per credit hour; or
2. up to six credit hours per term in graduate courses at a rate of $50.00 per credit hour.
The tuition benefit shall apply only to courses and programs not available at SOWELA and for which regular tuition is charged. The tuition benefit may not be used in combination with any other discounted program.

The effective date of this MOU is April 30, 2015.

This MOU may be reviewed for renewal periodically.

Signed:

[Signature]
Dr. Jim Henderson
Northwestern State University

[Signature]
Dr. Neil Aspinwall
SOWELA Technical Community College

[Date]
7/07/15

[Date]
3/15