

Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges Rank Nationally in Top 100 Degree Producers

BATON ROUGE, La. - Eleven Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) institutions were recently ranked in Community College Week's 2011 edition of the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers, published on June 13. The 2011 Top 100 analysis examines degrees and certificates awarded during the 2009-2010 academic year. The data is collected by the National Center for Education Statistics, or NCES, through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set, or IPEDS, completions survey. The survey took both two-year and four-year institutions into account. These listings include colleges that have awarded the largest number of associate degrees and certificates with the primary listings containing the top 100 overall. Additional lists include the institutions that award the most associate, one- and two-year certificates by race. The study also includes a disciplinary/vocation list with the top 50 institutions that award degrees and certificates in a particular field of study.

The colleges that were mentioned in this year's rankings are: Acadiana Technical College (Lafayette Campus), Bossier Parish Community College (Bossier City), Capital Area Technical College (Baton Rouge Campus), Central Louisiana Technical College (Alexandria Campus), Delgado Community College (New Orleans), L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College (Houma), Northeast Louisiana Technical College (Delta Ouachita Campus in West Monroe), Northshore Technical College (Sullivan Campus in Bogalusa), Northwest Louisiana Technical College, South Central Louisiana Technical College (Young Memorial Campus in Morgan City), and Sowela Technical Community College (Lake Charles).

"I'm proud of our colleges for their continued efforts to make sure that students receive the degrees and certifications they set out to earn. This study truly demonstrates how hard we are working to help our students reach the finish line in their academic efforts," said LCTCS President Joe D. May.

For the second year in a row, South Central Louisiana Technical College received the highest rankings of an LCTCS college, placing second in the nation as an overall producer of one-year certificates. The campus awarded 3,897 certificates in the 2009-10 academic years. One-hundred campuses were ranked in the category.

Delgado Community College made the ranks on six different lists. In the one-year certificate category, Delgado was ranked 80th out of 100 top producers. On the lists that considered race, Delgado ranked 50th out of 100 associate degree producers for African Americans in the category of all disciplines. In the category of Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support Services degrees, Delgado ranked 50th out of 50. The school was ranked 37th in the nation as a producer of Associate Degrees for Health Professions and Related Programs. In the category of Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences, Delgado placed 29th out of 50 associate degree producers. The college also made the list in the Nursing category, placing 26th out of 50 ranked associate degree producers.

Four LCTCS colleges made the ranks as top producers of two-year certificates overall. Acadiana Technical College was ranked 9th in the nation. Northeast Louisiana Technical College was ranked 36th. Central Louisiana Technical College was ranked 48th and Capital Area Technical College was ranked 53rd in the nation out of 100 colleges.

The majority of the LCTCS colleges made the ranks on the list of one-year certificate producers for all disciplines. In addition to Young Memorial campus and Delgado Community College, seven additional colleges were listed as top providers. Acadiana Technical College ranked 17th, Central Louisiana Technical College ranked 30th, Northeast Louisiana Technical College ranked 42nd, Northwest Louisiana Technical College ranked 48th, Northshore Technical College ranked 52nd, L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College ranked 91st and Capital Area Technical College ranked 95th.

Bossier Parish Community College ranked 17th in the nation for producing associate degrees in Community Technologies/Technicians and Support Services. The college produced 39 degrees in the category for the 2009-2010 academic years.

Sowela Technical Community College was ranked 20th in the category of top 50 associate degree producers in Engineering Technologies/Technicians. The college produced 124 degrees in the category for 2009-2010 year, an increase of 28 percent over last year.

The article's main conclusion is that health disciplines are showing the strongest growth, moving up from the third most popular career choice ten years ago, to now the second most popular. General Studies and Liberal arts disciplines remain the most conferred degrees.

Community College Week is a bi-weekly publication that has been the independent source of in-depth information for and about two-year college faculty, administrators and trustees since 1988. The magazine provides a myriad of coverage on issues in community college education including analyses of critical academic trends and issues, vital statistics, technology updates and employment opportunities.

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