

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **New Online Degree Program Targets Military Personnel**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Carolina State University is joining a national trend in offering accessible education to men and women in uniform. Leadership in the Public Sector (LPS), the university's first 100 percent online college degree completion program, is designed for military personnel and other North Carolinians who need to study at a university without walls.

The interdisciplinary major, approved by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, draws on the areas of public administration, political science, philosophy and history. The LPS program prepares students to evaluate and participate in nonprofit organizations or local, state and federal institutions. LPS students will develop the ethical, theoretical, and analytical skills necessary to lead public sector organizations.

Military personnel based in North Carolina qualify for in-state tuition regardless of where they may be stationed, thanks to legislation passed in 2003.

“North Carolina has made a commitment to those who serve in the armed forces, and NC State is ensuring that commitment is carried out,” NC State Provost Larry Nielsen says. “As a land grant university, our core mission is to provide access to high-quality education first and foremost to the people of North Carolina. We are staying true to that mission while we apply our technological expertise to serve those in the armed forces, even if they are stationed across the world. This new program will enable soldiers and others to finish their undergraduate degree, whether they're in Fayetteville, Iraq, or anywhere in-between.”

“This program is a good fit for the military,” says Janie Best, education service officer at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. “Our enlisted men and women receive a lot of training in successful leadership. The Leadership in the Public Sector program allows them to build on their military background and education. And what a great benefit for our military to earn their degree from a university where they are afforded in-state tuition at such a reasonable cost.”

In addition to serving active military personnel and their families based in North Carolina, the LPS program will appeal to working adults and community college graduates. Candidates must have an associate's degree or a minimum of 60 hours of college-level work.

Dr. Michael Vasu, who is on the faculty of NC State's School of Public and International Affairs, directs the LPS program for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS). He says students in the LPS program can access NC State as their virtual campus 24 hours a day from any location that has Internet access. All instructors are full-time NC State professors, and students will have ample opportunity to interact with their professors and peers online.

"The Leadership in the Public Sector program prepares students to become leaders, even as they serve our nation," Vasu says.

Online enrollment for the program is underway. Classes begin in January 2007. More information is available at <http://www.chass.ncsu.edu/lps>

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