



## **The Alabama Community College System's Global War on Terrorism**

WHEREAS, men and women who are members of Alabama's National Guard and reserve units represent America's finest tradition of the "citizen-soldier"; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's "citizen-soldiers" have patriotically served their country with bravery, valor, and distinction when called upon in times of national crisis; and

WHEREAS, Alabama National Guard and reserve units have been placed on notice of immediate call-up with many units already in active service in support of Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, this call-up not only interrupts the lives of "citizen-soldiers" but can also place tremendous personal, financial, and emotional pressures on their immediate family members; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide a statewide-coordinated program of assistance to the immediate family members of those called to active duty; and

WHEREAS, the state community and technical colleges have a proud tradition of rapid response in meeting the pressing needs of the state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Community College System's network of institutions provide a unified service delivery system in all geographical regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of Postsecondary Education recommends that each college individually, and The Alabama Community College System collectively, respond to the needs of the immediate families of activated National Guard and reserve members by making our existing services and programs available and by developing and extending support, counseling and referral services to family members:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby recognizes the tremendous personal sacrifices made by Alabama's "citizen-soldiers" who proudly serve their country in support of Global War on Terrorism and takes this opportunity to express its solemn support and affirm its gratitude; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chancellor is authorized to utilize all appropriate resources of The Alabama Community College System to provide immediate and long-range assistance and support to activated soldiers and their immediate families as they adjust to this abrupt and traumatic change to include but not limited to the following initiatives:

1. **TUITION REFUNDS.** Tuition refunds will be made to Alabama service men and women who have been activated as part of Global War on Terrorism and who have personally incurred tuition expenses.
2. **GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SCHOLARSHIPS.** Tuition scholarships shall be provided to children and spouses of Alabama service men and women who have been activated as part of Global War on Terrorism. Such tuition scholarships shall be available to qualified family members. Such tuition scholarships shall be available only after all other federal financial assistance is applied.
3. **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.** Each college's counseling staff will make available group counseling services to the families affected. These services may include stress management seminars, financial planning seminars, family support groups, or other related services.
4. **STUDENT MOBILIZATION.** Our students are our most valuable resource and asset. Student leaders from Alabama's two-year colleges will marshal their energies and talents in support of Alabama's response to this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the Board's intent that Global War on Terrorism will complement those efforts that are already being sponsored by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans and other veterans organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is our prayer that Global War on Terrorism will offer comfort to those families who must bear the burden of freedom most personally, and that those who serve our country on foreign soil will return safely.