



NSU News

A Publication for the Northwestern State University Faculty & Staff

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PEOPLE

Assistant Professor of English **Dr. Lilly Berbery** organized/lead a panel titled “Early Modern City Comedies,” at the Shakespeare Association of America Conference.

The event took place April 6-9 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Freshman Connection dates below

2022 Freshman Connection dates have been added to the First Year Experience website. Registration is live.

- Session 1: May 19-20
- Session 2: May 25-26
- Session 3: June 2-3
- Session 4: July 7
- FC CENLA: June 21
- FC Leesville: June 22
- FC Shreveport: June 23

For more information, please visit <https://firstyearexperience.nsula.edu/freshmanconnection/>.

Pasch earns V.L. Roy Award from SGA



Northwestern State University’s Student Government Association honored Dr. Yonna Pasch as V.L. Roy Faculty/Staff Member of the Year during the SGA’s end-of-year awards program and induction for new officers. Pasch is director of Student Affairs. Named after the NSU president who established the Student Government Association in 1925, the award is presented to a member of the NSU faculty/staff who has shown dedication and service to the SGA or the university at large. Outgoing SGA President Tja’h Edwards presented the award.

Investiture for Dr. Marcus Jones will be Sept. 9



Jones

The investiture of **Dr. Marcus Jones** as NSU’s 20th president will take place with a formal ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium and will be followed by a community reception in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

Other events that will take place surrounding the investiture of Dr. Jones include a day of service and an outdoor event for students and a breakfast for faculty and staff.

More details will be available as plans are finalized. Updates will be posted at www.nsula.edu and at www.northwesternstatealumni.com.

Jones’ investiture was postponed earlier this year to allow for more student participation.



The countdown is on for Spring 2022 Commencement!

Northwestern State University will hold Spring 2022 commencement exercises with four ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 11 and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, May 12, according to University Registrar Barbara Prescott. Commencement will take place in Prather Coliseum. The ceremonies will be streamed live on the university's website, www.nsula.edu.

Graduates and guests should note some changes in entrance and exit procedures for the upcoming ceremonies. Graduates will enter the Coliseum on the west side facing the Kappa Sigma House. Guests for graduates with last

names beginning A-L should use entrance and exits on the east side of Prather Coliseum, which faces the tennis courts. Guests for graduates with last names beginning M-Z should use entrance and exits on the west side of Prather Coliseum, facing the Kappa Sigma House.

ADA accessibility entrance is located at the main entrance at the front of the Coliseum.

Faculty and stage party will enter on the east side of Prather Coliseum, the side facing the tennis courts.

Detailed information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.nsula.edu/graduation.

Louisiana Political Science Association meets at Northwestern

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Political Science Association was held on March 5, 2022, in Morrison Hall. LPSA Vice-President and NSU Professor of History **Dr. Greg Granger** hosted the meeting, which featured fifteen presentations by students and faculty from NSU/Scholars' College, LSUA, ULM, ULL, Louisiana Tech, and McNeese University. Dr.

Dean Kostantaras of NSU, Dr. John Sutherlin of ULM, and Dr. Jennifer Dumas of ULM participated in a roundtable discussion of the war in Ukraine, moderated by Dr. Granger. Dr. Pearson Cross of ULL share a summary of his new co-edited book on Louisiana politics, *The Party is Over*. Finally, Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., was the keynote speaker,

sharing his thoughts on city administration. Dr. Granger would like to express his gratitude to **NSU President Marcus Jones** for his support, to Mayor Williams for lending his time on a Saturday, to the Louisiana Scholars' College, and to NSU Catering. Dr. Dumas of ULM is 2022-23 Vice President and Dr. Granger is 2022-23 President of the LPSA.



Myths & Legends, Outer Space, Teen Camp! Dates for three sessions of summer Art Camp announced

Registration is now open for Summer 2022 Art Camps held in June!

All sessions run Monday-Friday from 1-5 p.m.. Camp begins each day in Room 205 of the Art Department. Drop off is between 12:30-1 p.m. and pick up is between 5-5:30 p.m.

Tuition cost is \$165 for each weeklong session, this includes a snack and all art materials. A sibling discount of \$10 per sibling is available. A \$10 discount is available for attending two or more sessions. A \$10 discount is available for children or grandchildren of an NSU employee with a copy of an NSU faculty ID. Only one discount per child.

Registration forms are available by contacting Professor Corbin Covher at covherc@nsula.edu.

Both forms are needed for registration.

A limited number of slots are available.

Session 1: **Myths and Legends**

Ages: 5-11

Dates: June 6th- 10th

Mythical creatures, mermaids and monsters come to life in the imaginations of the kids! We'll study legends—real and mythic—and make awesome projects that help you transform your imagination into vibrant entry level pieces of art.

Session 2: **Outer Space**

Ages: 5-11

Dates: June 13th- 17th

This week's theme focuses on art projects with subject matter revolving around space. Aliens, spaceships, other planets and endless possibilities will be explored through entry level art projects.

Session 3: **Advanced Projects for Teens**

Ages: 12-18

Dates: June 20th-24th

This week is designed for older kids looking to learn advanced art skills. The 5 projects we will work on throughout the week are laser engraver/cutter, 3D printing, painting carving and printmaking. These projects will be weeklong projects taught by an NSU Art Professor and an NSU Alumni, similar to the projects taught in classes at NSU.



Destination Science Summer Camp Kids 10-14 will get to explore several branches of science

Northwestern State University's School of Biological and Physical Sciences will host Destination Science Summer Camp June 20-24.

The comprehensive science camp experience will offer workshops in anatomy, physiology, microbiology, chemistry, Physics, genetics and natural science.

The camp is intended for children 10-14 years of age and not recommended for students who have not completed the 4th grade.

The cost is \$125 per attendee. Registration includes a lab coat and safety goggles. Campers must bring their own lunch, but the camp will provide an afternoon snack.

Campers can be dropped

off starting at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Bienvenu Hall and picked up in Bienvenu Hall Room 211 from 5-5:30 p.m.

Campers will be exposed to topics in a variety of fields of science, work with various technologies used in research, interface with the faculty of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences and unwind

at the end of the day with science games, movies and snacks

For more information contact **Dr. Christopher N. Lyles** at lylesc@nsula.edu or (318) 357-6514. More information and online registration is available at <https://sciences.nsula.edu/destination-science-camp/>



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JOHN BEL EDWARDS



Two NSU faculty and the Natchitoches District Defender presented the Cradle to College initiative to Gov. John Bel Edwards. From left are Dr Christy Hornsby, Edwards, Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson and Brett Brunson, J.D.

Governor gets briefed on Cradle to College initiative

Natchitoches District Defender Brett Brunson, J.D., and Northwestern State University School of Education Professors **Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson** and **Dr. Christy Hornsby** met with Gov. John Bel Edwards and the Children’s Cabinet in Baton Rouge last month.

Brunson, Fazio-Brunson and Hornsby shared the collaborative NSU Early Childhood Education and Natchitoches District Defender’s Office service learning project to remap the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to a Cradle to College Pipeline in Louisiana. Brunson outlined his efforts to reduce incarceration and recidivism rates in Louisiana, while Fazio-Brunson and Hornsby described strategies for providing

intervention and support for young children growing up in poverty to boost children’s literacy skills.

“What began as a small project in a single Early Childhood class has now expanded across the School of Education, including the Doctor of Education in Adult Learning and Development program, and across NSU, encompassing multiple colleges, student organizations and NSU Athletics, along with community partners including Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha Theta Chapter,” Fazio-Brunson said.

Individuals interested in donating children’s books or school supplies, can email Fazio-Brunson at faziom@nsula.edu.



Seventeen new members were inducted into Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. From left are Stephen Kale Eversull, Dr. Brian Gabriel, Melody Gilbert, Dr. Eddie Horton, Chapter Coordinator Dr. Sharon Joy, Chapter President Dr. Marcia Hardy, Elisa Silicato, Juanita Marin Tabares, Dr. Debra Hailey, Dr. Kimberly McAlister, Dr. Lily Pharris, Quontice McDowell and Joseph Mesa.

Phi Beta Delta HONor Society for International Scholars inductees 17 new faculty, staff and student members

Northwestern State University's Eta Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Delta hosted a program to induct new members April 24. Phi Beta Delta is the Honor Society for International Scholars. Chapter President **Dr. Marcia Hardy** presided over the meeting.

Faculty and staff inductees were **Dr. Brian Gabriel**, New Media; **Melody Gilbert**, New Media; **Dr. Debra H Hailey**, Education; **Dr. Eddie Horton**, Business; **Dr. Katrina Jordan**, Education; **Dr. Kimberly McAlister**, Education; **Quontice McDowell**, Business; **Dr. Lily Pharris**, Business; **Dr. Tara Smith**, Health and Human Performance; **Dr. Mary Edith Stacy**, Business, and **Dr. Danny Upshaw**, Business.

Student inductees were Anne Boyens, Stephen Kale Eversull, Joseph Mesa, Elisa Silicato, Juanita Marin Tabares and Leidy Natalia Serna Tobon Tabor.

Dr. Sharon Joy was guest speaker. Joy has served as

chapter coordinator since the chapter's inception in 2010 and has also served as international president of Phi Beta Delta. She is an associate professor of music education.

Phi Beta Delta is the first honor society in the United States to recognize scholarship achievement in international education. It was established in 1987 and now has over 200 chapters at universities

throughout the United States and around the world. Its goals are to increase the recognition, credibility and importance of the international experience and create a catalyst for international academic-based programming on college campuses while providing support and recognition to those individuals on campuses who are involved in international endeavors.

International student panel May 10

NSU's International Student Resource Center and Study Abroad will host Spring 2022 Graduating International Students' Panel. The event will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 10 in the Lucile M. Hendrick Room, first floor of the Student Union.

"We are inviting everyone to join us to congratulate our 16 graduating international students on their academic achievement. We will have a panel conformed by the graduating seniors in which they will share their experiences here at NSU, followed by a sash ceremony," said **Vivian Pedroza**, graduate assistant in the ISRC.

For more information, ISRC Director **Telba Espinoza-Contreras** at contrerast@nsula.edu.

Folk Festival set for July 23, needs volunteers

The Natchitoches-Northwestern Folk Festival will be July 23 and volunteers are needed for many components of the Festival.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Dr. Shane Rasmussen** at rasmussens@nsula.



JULY 23, 2022 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

The 2022 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival is seeking volunteers to join the fun and experience the festival from within. Every year the festival relies on volunteers to help with the various components such as providing Security and other positions as needed.

Volunteers will work inside air-conditioned Prather Coliseum and will be needed **Saturday, July 23 from 6:00 am until 10 pm.**



The Festival would not be a success without the valuable and deeply appreciated help of our Volunteer Corps. Thank you so much for being willing to help keep the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Alive and Kickin'!

Volunteers will receive no financial remuneration for the hours they work.

Perks for Festival Volunteers include:

**FREE admission to all
events on the day you
work!**

**Listening to awesome
live music & meeting
great people!**

**FREE commemorative
Festival T-shirt for
working 5 or more
hours!**

***You do NOT have to
be an NSU employee or
student, resident of
Natchitoches or a
resident of Louisiana
to volunteer.**

Louisiana Folklife Center

For more information on
job descriptions, shifts,
and how you can be a
Festival Volunteer,

send an email to:
folklife@nsula.edu
or call 318-357-4332.

Resources and Assistance

For assistance in seeking information about funding opportunities, preparing proposals or administering projects, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs by phone, 357-5222; e-mail at orsp@nsula.edu, or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell
Director

Alysia Jones
Associate
Director

Office of Sponsored Programs

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Kelli Haynes, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, received notification of a \$675,000 award from The Rapides Foundation for “Establishing a Sonography Education Program to Increase Medical Sonographers within The Rapides Foundation Service Area.” **Drs. Joel Hicks** and **Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

Dr. Anna Morris, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, received notification of a \$96,600 award from The Rapides Foundation for “Increasing Nursing Workforce in CenLa through the Intentional Intervention of At-Risk Students.” **Drs. Joel Hicks** and **Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Louisiana Folklife Center, received notification of a \$5,000 award from the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for “42nd Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”

Dr. Ruth Weinzettle, Department of Social Work, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of an additional \$48,480 award from Southeastern Louisiana University for “Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholars Program -Amendment 1.” **Dr. Jennifer Shaw**, **Mr. Andrew Fultz**, **Ms. Tonie Sonnier**, **Ms. Sherrie**

Davis and **Ms. Lisa Mount** are collaborators.

Dr. Hiram F. Gregory, School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$1,600 award from the Cane River National Heritage Area for, “Caddo Conference 2022.” **Drs. Mark Melder** and **Rebecca Riall** are collaborators.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Performance, received notification of a \$16,000 award from Volunteers of America North Louisiana for, “Child Care Screening and Consultation for Choice Neighborhood.” **Ms. Jordan Wilson** is collaborator.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Michelle Brunson, Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to the Central Louisiana Community Foundation entitled, “Preschool Family Literacy.”

If you should have any questions or interests in submitting a proposal, please contact either Carla Howell or Alysia Jones at orsp@nsula.edu or 318.357.5222 to discuss the proposal preparation process.

CONSAH faculty volunteer at ‘Super Heroes Promote Super Health’ Fair



Northwestern State University’s College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, Sigma Nursing and Sci-Port Discovery Center partnered to present the inaugural community health fair “Super Heroes Promote Super Health” in Shreveport. Faculty and staff volunteers performed health screenings, administered flu and COVID vaccines and booster shots while discussing women’s health, fitness and nutrition, medical weight loss, rehabilitation, behavioral health and more. The event was free and open to the public and included door prizes and a kids’ zone. Organizers plan the health fair to become an annual event. Seated from left are Pamela Holcombe, Joel Hicks and Anna Morris. Standing are Courtney Reger, Melissa Rennie, Tamara Manns, Alyea Pollard, Sheri Wilson, Sandra Blake, Jaime Usie, Heather Hayter, Renee Downey, Tiffany Rogers and Anne Jones.



The Rapides Foundation awards \$3.4 million in Health Occupation Grants

The Rapides Foundation has awarded seven grants totaling \$3,392,313 to help meet the healthcare workforce needs of employers in central Louisiana. Grants have been awarded to four post-secondary institutions serving students in the Foundation's service area: Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Louisiana Christian University, LSU at Alexandria and Northwestern State University.

The multi-year grants were awarded through the Foundation's Healthcare Occupations Program, which seeks to increase the numbers of healthcare graduates prepared to meet the basic level of licensure or certification required by employers for initial hire of high-demand healthcare occupations.

"Access to quality healthcare services is important to reduce health disparities and improve health status," said Joe Rosier, president and CEO of The Rapides Foundation. "We know that the shortage of qualified healthcare professionals is often cited as one of the main barriers to people receiving care. These grants will address the issue by increasing the number of health professionals who graduate and are prepared to provide critical healthcare services within the region."

The Healthcare Occupations Program Grant supports nonprofit, accredited colleges and universities to add and expand current healthcare program offerings and concentrations to meet the critical workforce needs of local employers and specifically addresses shortages in the three occupational fields of nursing, behavioral health and allied health.

The Rapides Foundation first offered the Healthcare Occupations Program grant funding opportunity in 2016 as a result of its analysis of the healthcare workforce landscape in the region and awarded six grants totaling \$2.1 million. After updating its healthcare workforce analysis in 2021, the funding opportunity was opened again and in February 2022 the Foundation's Board of Trustees awarded seven grants totaling \$3.4 million. This brings the total amount

of grant funds awarded under this funding opportunity to \$5.5 million.

The grand opportunity is offered under the Foundation's Healthcare Access Initiative in support of its mission to improve the health status of central Louisiana. Through its Healthcare Access Initiative, the Foundation addresses the supply and demand gap in the healthcare workforce and builds the capacity of regional postsecondary institutions to meet healthcare workforce needs.

The following Healthcare Occupations Program grants were awarded in February 2022:

Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) received two grants totaling \$2 million to establish the Central Louisiana Rural Nursing Network and the Central Louisiana Rural Allied Health Network. The Louisiana Community and Technical College System will provide \$2 million in matching dollars from the Rapid Response Fund to support the projects.

Northwestern State University received two grants totaling \$771,600. One of the grants will establish a sonography education program to increase medical sonographers for high-need areas in the region. NSU's second grant supports the intervention of at-risk students in the ASN program by providing mentoring, emotional intelligence development and student support services. The project is expected to improve the retention of ASN students from freshman to sophomore year and ultimately increase the number of nursing graduates ready to enter the workforce.

CLTCC will lead a consortium of Louisiana Community Technical College System (LCTCS) colleges to expand and advance nursing and allied health education and training throughout the Foundation's nine-parish service area. Partnering with CLTCC in this effort are Bossier Parish Community College, Fletcher Technical Community College, South Louisiana Community College and Southwest Technical

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Morrow named Executive Director for Economic Development, Innovation and Outreach

Laurie Morrow has been named executive director for Economic Development, Innovation and Outreach at NSU. Her hiring is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Morrow will supervise and lead the departments of Student Technology, Electronic and Continuing Education, Sponsored Programs and Northwestern State campuses in Leesville, Alexandria, Barksdale Air Force Base and Marksville.

She will serve as principal leader for economic development and provide the vision for developing and implementing strategies and initiatives that will support the development and continuance of business and industrial partnerships for the university and in the region.

Northwestern President **Dr. Marcus Jones** said the establishment of the new position “reflects the university’s expanded focus and emphasis on economic development across the Northwest and Central Louisiana region served by NSU.”

He said, “Laurie Morrow has extensive experience and expertise in working with

business, industry and other entities in developing and maintaining partnerships that will be beneficial to the university and enhance this area’s economic growth and stability.”

The position of Executive Director for Economic Development, Innovation, and Outreach “was created as part of the restructuring of an area of the university that has been directed for a number of years by **Dr. Darlene Williams**, who is transitioning toward retirement later this year.”

Williams is Vice President for Technology, Innovation, and Economic Development at NSU. Williams will work with Morrow over the next several months to help make the transition easier.

Williams said, “It is gratifying that Dr. Jones has selected someone with Laurie Morrow’s capabilities and experience for this position that will be so important for the university and the region it serves in these rapidly changing times in higher education in Louisiana and nationwide.”

In her position, Morrow will collaborate with university leadership in expanding

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The Rapides Foundation Grant ... Continued from Page 6

Community College. The Nursing Network project will add a Practical Nursing evening course at the Winnfield campus, expand its LPN to RN traditional program to the Natchitoches campus and expand its LPN to RN online program to the Alexandria, Ferriday, Jena, Winnfield and Avoyelles campuses. The Allied Health Network project will focus on expanding several different allied health career programs across multiple campuses.

The rural nursing network project is expected to produce 80 nurses annually and 200+ allied health graduates over

the term of the allied health network grant.

Louisiana Christian College was awarded \$396,753 for two projects. The Social Work Behavioral Healthcare Education and Workforce Improvement Project will increase the number of Master of Social Work graduates. Over the three. Years, the project is expected to graduate 75 master level social workers with a Behavioral Healthcare specialization and a commitment to work in the nine-parish service area for two years after graduation.

The second project increases the number of nursing

graduates by focusing on strategies to retain, graduate and prepare traditional and accelerated nursing students to pass the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX).

Louisiana State University at Alexandria received a grant in the amount of \$223,960 to fund its ASN Accelerated Momentum for Completion and Holistic Achievement project. The project will include a three-pronged approach to providing emotional, social and academic support for students, which should lead to on-time completion of the Associate of Science (ASN) degree.

Morrow ... Continued from Page 10

relationships and initiatives to enhance enrollment growth. She will be asked to develop strategic public, private and governmental partnerships to capitalize on new and emerging opportunities and markets trends. Morrow will serve as a key member in advancing the university's strategic vision and work closely with the Leadership Team, faculty and staff, students, and other external constituencies to further align operations with strategic goals.

"I am deeply honored to join Dr. Jones and his team at NSU," said Morrow. "In this role, I will be working closely with university leadership and community partners to advance the vision of Northwestern State University. I am eager to make a positive contribution to the university and our region."

Morrow has more than 20 years of experience



Morrow

in the state's Community and Technical College System. She has led the Natchitoches campus of the Central Louisiana Technical Community College since 2017 and headed the campus when it was under the Northwest Louisiana Technical College from 2008 to 2017.

In her roles as campus dean, facilities manager and chief academic officer,

Morrow supervised all aspects of operations including recruiting, retaining and educating students, maintaining campus facilities and seeing that academic programs were keeping up with a changing educational environment. She also supported mutually beneficial partnerships between the college, business and industry and other educational institutions.

Morrow was director of Admissions, assistant campus dean and an accounting instructor for Northwest Louisiana Technical College from 1997 to 2004 and director of Admissions for Louisiana Technical College, Region 3 from 2005 to 2008.

Morrow attended Northwestern State and earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from Louisiana Tech.

Northwestern affiliation with UEDA will promote economic development

Northwestern State University is now affiliated with the University Economic Development Association, joining over 160 organizations, including a mixture of higher education institutions and business stakeholders, sharing best practices in economic development. The partnership will further the university mission of preparing its student population "to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation."

The promotion and growth of NSU's economic development strategy is central

to the mission of **Laurie Morrow**, NSU's executive director for Economic Development, Innovation and Outreach.

According to Morrow, "this affiliation will afford us the opportunity to engage with discussions and programs on economic development, as well as observing best practices from other institutions."

UEDA also provides a valuable framework to provide focus to economic development programs and services, she added.

For more information, visit universityeda.org.



ADVANCE students engage in hands-on learning in a science lab.

Registration is open for ADVANCE 2022 program

NSU's ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars (ADVANCE), now celebrating its 34th year, will host its traditional residential program for academically motivated students July 10 – 30. Students currently in grades 7 – 11 enroll in and complete one course during the three-week program. They attend 108.5 hours of class and cover an entire year's worth of high school material or a semester of college level material. Course offerings include the humanities, mathematics, natural sciences with laboratory components and computer programming.

All applicants must provide a copy of their most

recent report card and state standardized test scores to determine their eligibility. If scores have been misplaced, many schools provide that information on school transcripts, and transcripts may be submitted to ADVANCE. If applicants have taken an ACT or SAT, those scores may be submitted with their applications.

While the academic program at ADVANCE is top-notch, the residential program sets ADVANCE apart from other similar summer programs.

The residential staff offers a wide variety of social and recreational activities to assist students in forming lasting friendships, strength-

en the ADVANCE community and help all students have a great time when not in class. Dr. Chris Hynes, director of ADVANCE, states that "ADVANCE combines the need to improve academically with the desire to spend summer break in the traditional way – having fun!"

A \$250 discount will be granted to families with two or more students attending the program or to applicants who are dependents of NSU employees or students.

Applications are now being accepted. For more information visit <https://advance.nsula.edu>, call (318) 357-4500, or email palm-erh@nsula.edu.