

Hello,

Southern Union State Community College and I, Rosario Thomas, would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your family for the service and sacrifice made to protect our freedom. A few highlights are addressed in this letter specifically related to Veterans Education Benefits.

On January 5, 2021, the President signed the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 into law (Public Law 116-315). The new law requires schools and training providers to be financially responsible, instead of the student, for benefits paid directly to an educational institution. This applies to tuition and fee payments and Yellow Ribbon program payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (including under the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship), and to advance payment of benefits under the various GI Bill programs.

Currently, VA payment systems for the Post-9/11 GI Bill automatically establish debts against students or schools and an overpayment letter is generated and sent. A school debt is established when a student terminates enrollment on or before the first day of the term and VA has paid the institution tuition and fees (and in some cases Yellow Ribbon payments). A student debt is established when the student reduces or terminates enrollment after the first day of the term. When a debt is established, either the student or the school is notified and provided next steps to address the overpayment.

Beginning Spring 2023 Southern Union State Community College will be implementing a new policy; placing all students that are utilizing any federal VA Educational benefits CH30,CH31,CH33,CH35 and CH1606 on a processing hold; to better assist the School Certifying Official with maintaining any adds or drops the student may make to his/her schedule. As a result, students must notify the School Certifying Official prior to any of the said adjustments to their schedule.