

University of Houston  Clear Lake

Capt. Wendell M. Wilson Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS)

SFAC Presentation 2025-2026

Luis Polanco De Leon, Director

MISSION STATEMENT

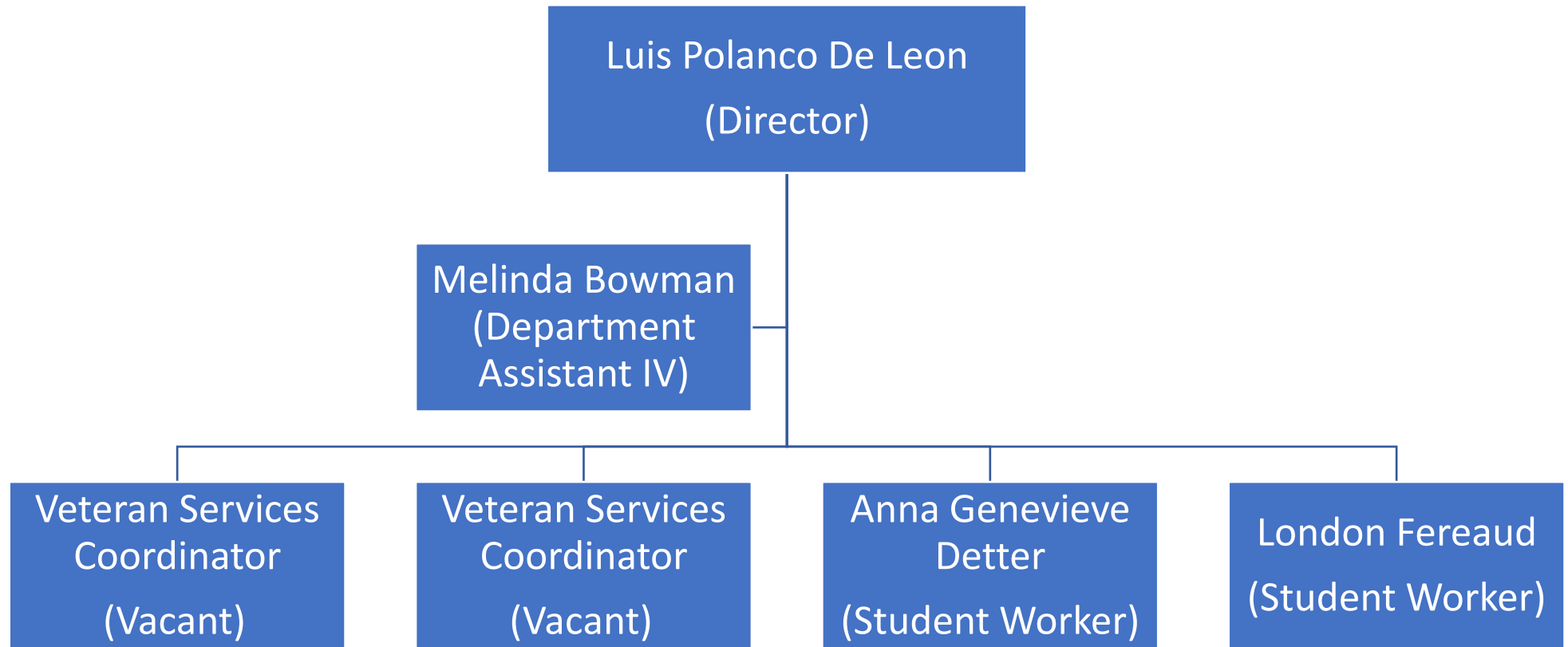
It is the mission of the Capt. Wendell M. Wilson Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS) to help veterans and their dependents flourish in their higher education goals. We act as a liaison between the veteran or dependent student, the school, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), and the Texas Veteran Commission (TVC) to ensure these goals are met. Our staff members are committed to assisting veterans and eligible dependent students with federal or state education benefits gained through military service.

How we accomplish this:

- Benefit certification (VA & TVC)
- Educational counseling and guidance
- Liaison services between students and UHCL
- Outreach events and workshops to build community and enhance awareness of resources



OMVS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Justification of Student Fee Allocation

Student Fee Allocation Benefits:

- **Retention and Success:** Timely benefit processing, reducing financial/administrative barriers.
- **Outreach and Community Building:** Events that promote inclusion, awareness, and community connection.
- **Efficient Benefit Access:** Streamlined services ensure students can focus on academic success.
- **Specialized Support:** Tailored services address the unique needs of military-connected students.



Budget Overview

Funding Sources and Uses:

- **Central/Education & General:** \$190,684 (This covers Director, Admin staff and office operations).
- **Student Services Fee (SFAC)-Base:** \$57,640 (This covers part of the Director and Admin staff, along with events).
- **VA Funding:** \$5,600 (This is what we receive from the VA per certification).

Sources of Funding	Uses of Funding
Central / Education & General (Fund 2064) FY2025 Budget: \$190,684	Two SCO for Benefits / Certifications
	Part of Director Staff
	Part of Admin Staff
Student Services Fee (SFAC Fund 3049) FY2025 Budget: \$57,640	Office Operations (telephones, office supplies, copier)
	Student Events
VA Funding-Annual Reporting Fee/Income (Fund 2080) FY2025 Budget: \$5,600	Part of Director Staff
	Part of Admin Staff
	Defray costs of Certification (\$16 / certification)

IMPACT OF FUNDING ON STUDENTS & PROGRAMS



Increased Access to Resources:

The funding allocated to the Office of Military and Veteran Services has allowed us to expand our reach and provide more targeted resources to our veteran and military-connected students. This includes hiring additional student workers who offer direct support, ensuring that our students have timely access to VA benefits, academic resources, and other essential services.

Student Employment Opportunities:

One of the most direct impacts of funding has been the ability to offer employment opportunities to our military-connected students. These positions not only help students financially, but also offer valuable work experience within the university setting, enhancing their professional development and campus involvement.

Future Potential with Increased Funding:

If additional funding is secured, we will be able to further enhance the services we provide. This includes expanding our student worker program, offering more workshops and community-building events, and providing additional outreach to military-dependent students. Each dollar invested in our office directly impacts the student experience and success.

Key Programming

With \$10,000 in SFAC funding, we successfully organized the following events:

- **Boots to Suits: Veteran Employer Panel - Interviewing and Networking**
This event connected veteran students with potential employers, providing essential guidance on interviewing and networking as they transition to civilian careers.
- **Artist in Arms: Forward Operating Gallery**
A gallery exhibition showcasing artwork by veterans, promoting community engagement and highlighting their unique experiences through creative expression.
- **VA S.A.V.E. Suicide Prevention Training**
A crucial training focused on suicide prevention, equipping the UHCL community with strategies to identify and support veterans at risk.
- **Veterans Day Celebration**
A major event celebrating and honoring the service of veterans, with activities engaging students, staff, and the public.



CHALLENGES



- **Funding:**
 - Need for strategic resource allocation to support expanded programming.
 - Ongoing request for one-time funding for student worker salaries to support daily operations and student events/programming.
- **Engagement:**
 - Ensuring high participation in events and workshops requires effective promotion and outreach.
- **Adapting to Student Needs:**
 - Constantly evolving student demographics and needs require ongoing assessment and tailored services.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **Information Sessions:** Beginning of each semester to inform new/returning students about resources.
- **Armed Forces Day Expansion:** Greater community involvement and recruiter participation.
- **Student Assessment Survey:** Gather data to better tailor programming and meet students' evolving needs.



ONE-TIME FUNDING REQUEST (FY25 & FY26)



FY25: \$14,000

This funding will cover the salaries of two student workers who are essential for managing high-volume administrative tasks, such as VA benefit certifications, scheduling, and responding to inquiries. Their support ensures the efficient operation of our office and timely service to military-connected students.

FY26: \$25,000

As demand grows, we request an increase to support these student workers throughout the academic year. They will also assist with expanded outreach and events like Armed Forces Day and veteran-specific workshops, enhancing support for our student population.

ACCOMMODATING A 5% FY26 BUDGET REDUCTION

A 5% budget reduction for FY26 would require careful reallocation and prioritization of resources.

1. Staffing Adjustments

We would reduce the hours of our student workers, which could impact response times and administrative support but would help maintain core services.

2. Event Scaling

Planned events such as Armed Forces Day and workshops would be scaled down in size or frequency to lower costs while still providing meaningful experiences for students.

3. Operational Efficiencies

We would streamline office operations, such as reducing office supply expenses and cutting back on non-essential purchases, to limit the impact on student-facing services.

4. Strategic Partnerships

Leveraging partnerships with campus departments and external organizations would help reduce program costs by sharing resources for workshops and events.

While these adjustments would allow us to operate within the reduced budget, it would likely slow our response times and reduce the scope of programming.

QUESTIONS?

