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Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

Policy Statement

Pursuant to Act 211 (also known as Senate Bill no. 36), signed into law on June 10, 2013, which mandates that all public post secondary educational institutions develop smoke-free, if not tobacco-free policies, River Parishes Community College prohibits the use of tobacco and tobacco-related products on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the College.

Rationale

River Parishes Community College is committed to the promotion of a healthy, safe, and clean environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In the Foreword of the 2014 report of the Surgeon General, *The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress*, Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states that while “the prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults has declined from 42% in 1965 to 18% in 2012, more than 42 million Americans still smoke. Tobacco has killed more than 20 million people prematurely since the first Surgeon General’s report in 1964.” He also mentions that “recent surveys monitoring trends in tobacco use indicate that more people are using multiple tobacco products, particularly youth and young adults. The percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who use electronic, or e-cigarettes, more than doubled between 2011 and 2012” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). “Only e-cigarettes that are

marketed for therapeutic purposes are currently regulated by the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)” (News). Sale of such products to minors is not restricted in most states. The adverse effects of e-cigarettes are not fully known, but “potentially harmful constituents have been documented in some e-cigarette cartridges, including irritants, genotoxins, and animal carcinogens” (Notes). This supports an argument for the inclusion of electronic cigarettes in the list of prohibited products. Commercials for such products tout them as a means to get around policy and/or law by being a “safe” alternative to smoking.

In addition to the known adverse health effects of tobacco use, it also contributes to litter on campus, creating unsightly conditions and costing the College over \$5000 annually in custodial expenses. Given this information and to ensure compliance with Act 211, River

Parishes Community College will implement a Tobacco-Free Policy, to be in place to coincide with the opening of the new River Parishes Community College campus, summer of 2014.

Policy

1. Smoking or use of other tobacco products is prohibited on all college grounds, all college owned, leased, or rented properties, and in all campus owned, leased or rented vehicles. This includes but is not limited to all college sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped areas and recreational areas; at lectures, conferences, meetings, and social/cultural events held on school property or school grounds, or on property leased or rented for such events. Use of tobacco products is prohibited inside of all college buildings.
2. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors and is in effect during and after campus hours.
3. Smoking materials must be extinguished and properly disposed of prior to entering the River Parishes Community College campuses or exiting your vehicle. Improper disposal includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Spitting smokeless tobacco product
 - b. Littering (i.e., improperly discarded butts, such as throwing cigarette butts out of windows, etc.)
 - c. Anything that creates fire hazards
4. For the purposes of this policy, tobacco and tobacco-related products include but are not limited to any lighted or unlighted cigarette products (including clove, bidis, kreteks), e-cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, hookah products, and any other smoking product; any smokeless, spit or spitless, dissolvable, or inhaled tobacco products, including but not limited to dip, chew, snuff or snus, in any form (orbs, sticks, strips, pellets, etc.).
5. The sale of tobacco products or tobacco-related merchandise (including items that display tobacco company logos) is prohibited in and on all college properties and at all college sponsored events, regardless of the venue. All tobacco promotion, advertising, marketing, and distribution are prohibited in and on any River Parishes Community College property, including college-run publications.

6. The free distribution or sampling of tobacco products and associated products is prohibited on all college owned or leased properties and at all college sponsored events, regardless of the venue.
7. Tobacco industry and related company sponsorship of campus events is prohibited. Companies that manufacture or sell tobacco products are excluded from participating in campus career fairs, recruitment activities, or other similar events.
8. River Parishes Community College shall provide information on cessation resources, including the Louisiana Quitline number, 1-800-QUIT-NOW, and other resources.
 - a. Tobacco treatment programs will be publicized regularly in student and staff media, posted in all buildings, through Student Services, the college website, and any other appropriate means.
9. Implementation and compliance:
 - a. All prospective students will be informed of the policy when applying for admission. All current and returning students will be made aware of the policy at registration.
 - b. All potential employees will be advised of the policy when applying for vacancies. All current employees will be informed of the policy through all communication channels, including website announcements, e-mail broadcasts, and print media.
 - c. The policy will be prominently promoted on the college website and in print and other visual media.
 - d. All faculty, staff, and administrators will be expected to enforce the policy.
 - e. All first-time violators shall be issued a verbal warning and print reminder of the policy.
 - f. Subsequent offenses, as observed by the same officer who issued the initial reminder, shall incur a penalty based on the violators relationship with the college:
 - i. Students will be fined \$5.00.
 - ii. Faculty and staff shall be referred to their immediate supervisor

- iii. Employees of contractors hired by River Parishes Community College will be reported to the college department responsible for their presence on campus.
- iv. Visitors to campus will be advised of the policy verbally and in print, and respectfully asked to comply; failure on the visitor's part to comply may result in the visitor being asked to leave campus property. If the visitor is on campus by invitation of an individual or a department, as in the case of a guest speaker or vendor at an event, the individual or department responsible for the visitor(s)'s presence will also be advised of the violation.

References

- "News and Events: Electronic Cigarettes (e-Cigarettes)." *FDA: U. S. Food and Drug Administration*. U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, 10 Jan. 2014. Web. 5 Mar. 2014.
- "Notes from the Field: Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2011–2012." *CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 5 Mar. 2014.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Web. 5 Mar. 2014