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# **Hazlewood Benefits: Do They Really Benefit Our Veterans?**

Presented by Donna Artho and Amanda Clark  
Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Sam Houston State University

## » Discussion Outline

- I. Description of Hazlewood and Legacy Acts
- II. Qualifications for Eligibility
- III. Hazlewood in Context
- IV. Fiscal Impact of Hazlewood Exemptions
- V. Hazlewood Enrollment and Completion
- VI. Legislative Aspects of Hazlewood and Legacy Acts
- VII. Q&A and Future Tracking Models
- VIII. Resources and Contact Information



## » Description of Texas Hazlewood and Legacy Acts

- The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does not include living expenses, books, or supply fees. (TX Education Code Section 54.341.)
- The **Hazlewood Act** extends to spouses and dependent children of eligible active duty, Texas National Guard, and Air National Guard Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of injury or illness directly related to military service, are missing in action, or who became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of a service-related injury or illness. Each child and spouse will receive a 150 credit hour exemption.
- Under the **Hazlewood Legacy Act**, eligible Veterans may assign unused hours of exemption eligibility to a child under certain conditions (81st Legislature (R), SB 93).



## » Hazlewood Veteran Qualifications

- Texas residency
- Honorable separation from U.S. Armed Forces
- Minimum 181 days active service
- No other education benefits are available to be used in place of Hazlewood
- Not in default on student loan from State of Texas
- Course is state-funded or eligible for formula funding





## » Hazlewood Spouse/Child Qualifications

- A spouse of a Veteran, who meets the Texas residency requirement or who died/became disabled in the line of duty, OR
- A child between the ages of 18-25 of a Veteran, who meets the Texas residency requirement or who died/became disabled in the line of duty and is resident of Texas during enrollment
- No other education benefits are available to be used in place of Hazlewood
- Not in default on student loan from State of Texas
- Course is state-funded or eligible for formula funding



## » Hazlewood Legacy Act Qualifications

- Texas residency
- Relationship to Veteran of one or more categories:  
Biological Child, Stepchild, Adopted Child, or  
Claimed as Dependent by Veteran in current or  
previous tax year
- Between 18-25 years of age
- Make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the  
institution
- Course is state-funded or eligible for formula funding



## » Hazlewood in Context: Federal and State Veteran Data

- In 2012, approximately 800,000 students in higher education nationwide were classified as Veterans (Vacchi, 2012).
- Most Veterans on campuses were enlisted soldiers and not officers (Vacchi, 2012).
- In 2011, about 60% of Veterans receiving federal benefits served after 9/11/2001 (Marklein, 2012).
- In 2002, Texas was one of four states housing the highest number of military personnel (Segal & Segal, 2004). As of 2009, Texas holds the largest number of active-duty military personnel (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009).
- The largest military base in the U.S., Fort Hood, is located in Killeen, Texas.
- After implementation of original GI Bill, a significant increase in college attainment by men occurred (Bloom, Hartley & Rosovsky, 2007).



## » Fiscal Impact of Hazlewood Exemptions

- Approximate statewide totals for Texas public universities, which have exempted or waived tuition and fees for students who met Hazlewood Act or Legacy Act eligibility, are:

FY 2009 \$19.3 million

FY 2010 \$26.9 million

FY 2011 \$57.8 million

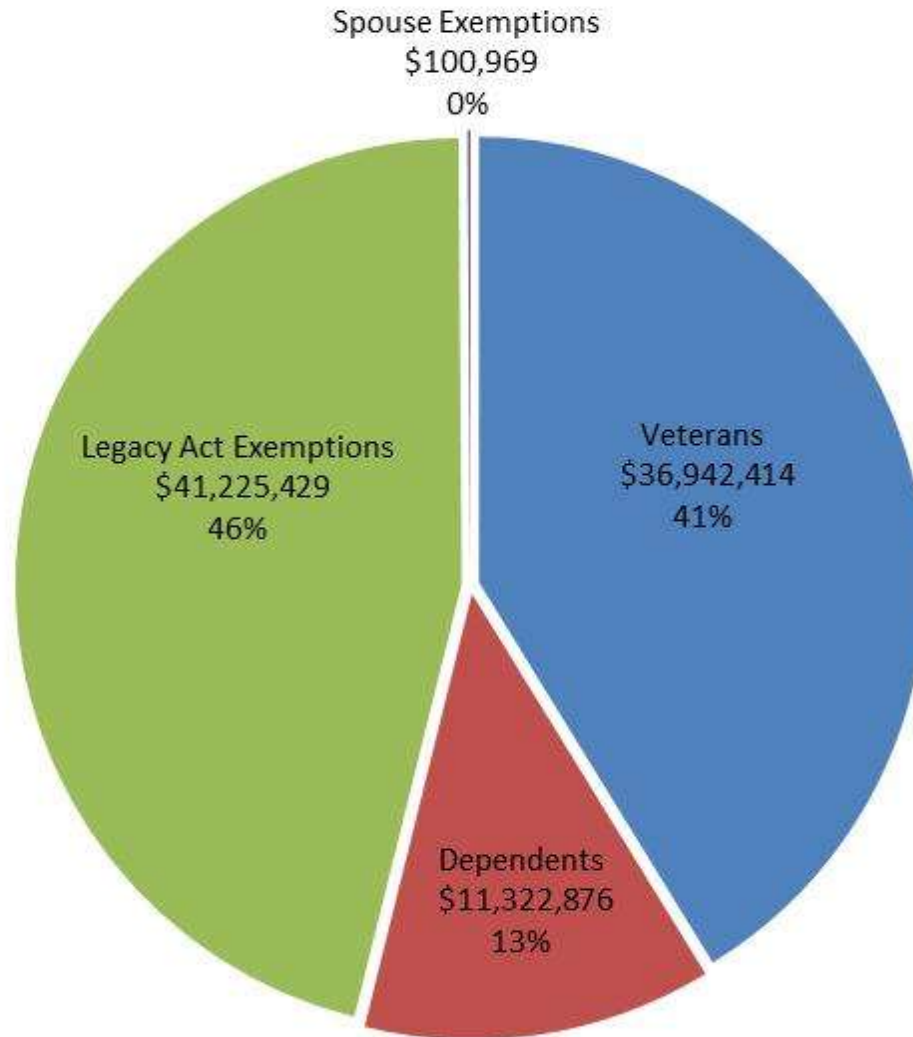
FY 2012 \$89.6 million (54% increase from FY 2011)

- Average annual increase from 2009 to 2012 is 52%.
- At the same average rate of growth, FY 2013 exemptions will near \$136 million, statewide.
- Universities must subsidize forgone revenues by increasing tuition and/or reducing costs.

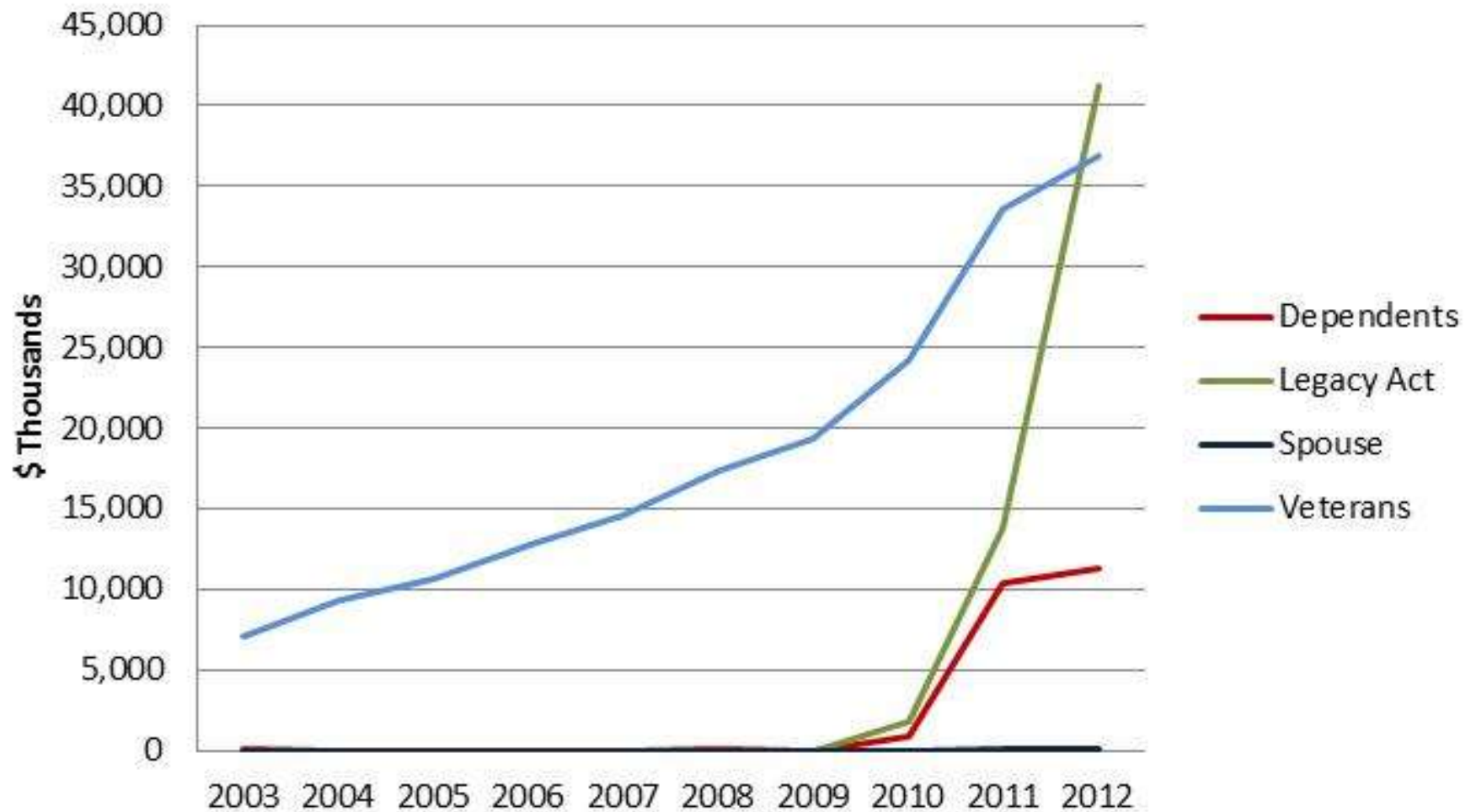




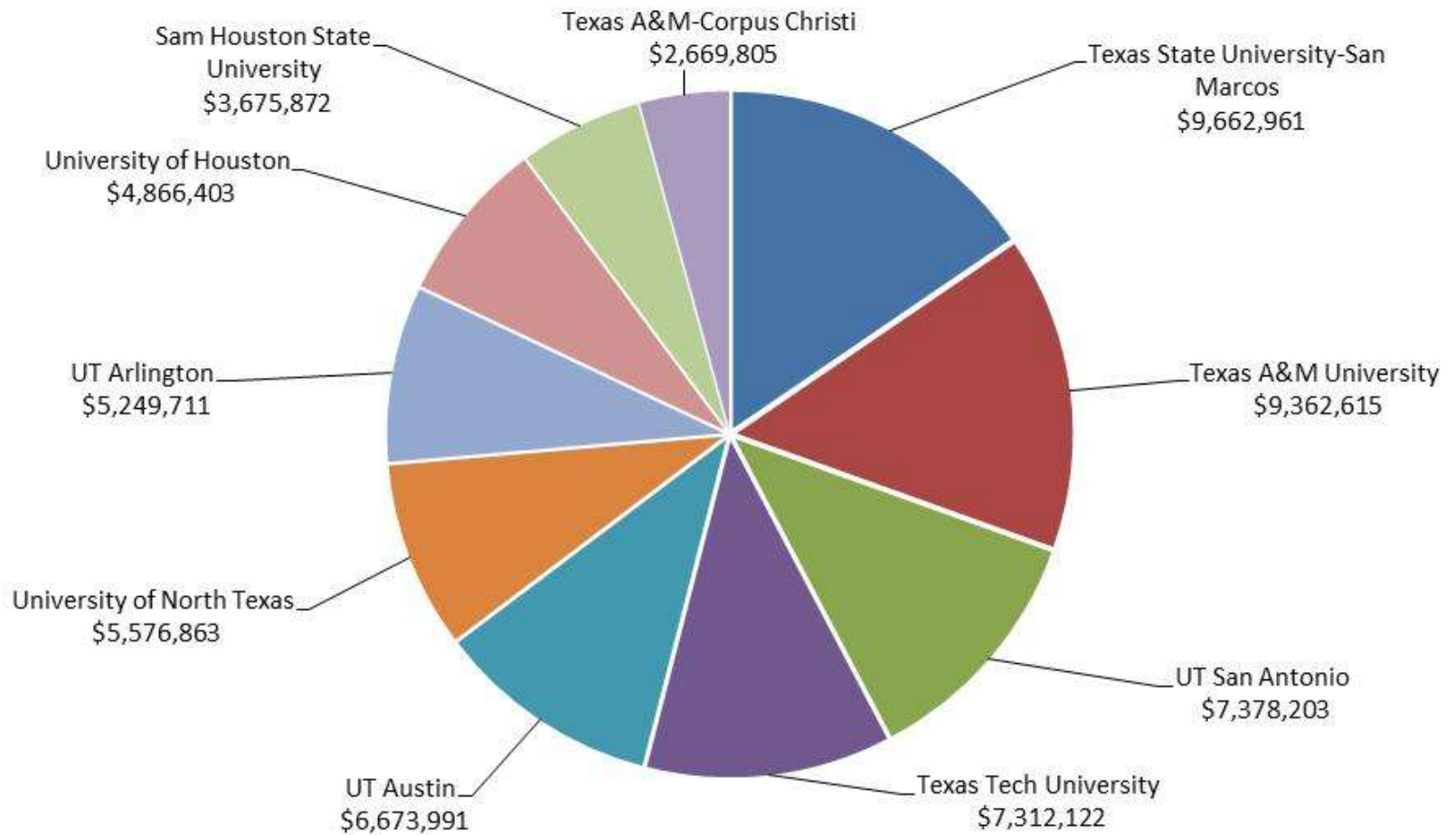
## Hazlewood Exemptions and Waivers FY 2012 at Texas Public Universities



## Change in Hazlewood Exemptions by Type



## Hazlewood Exemptions and Waivers FY 2012 at Texas Public Universities



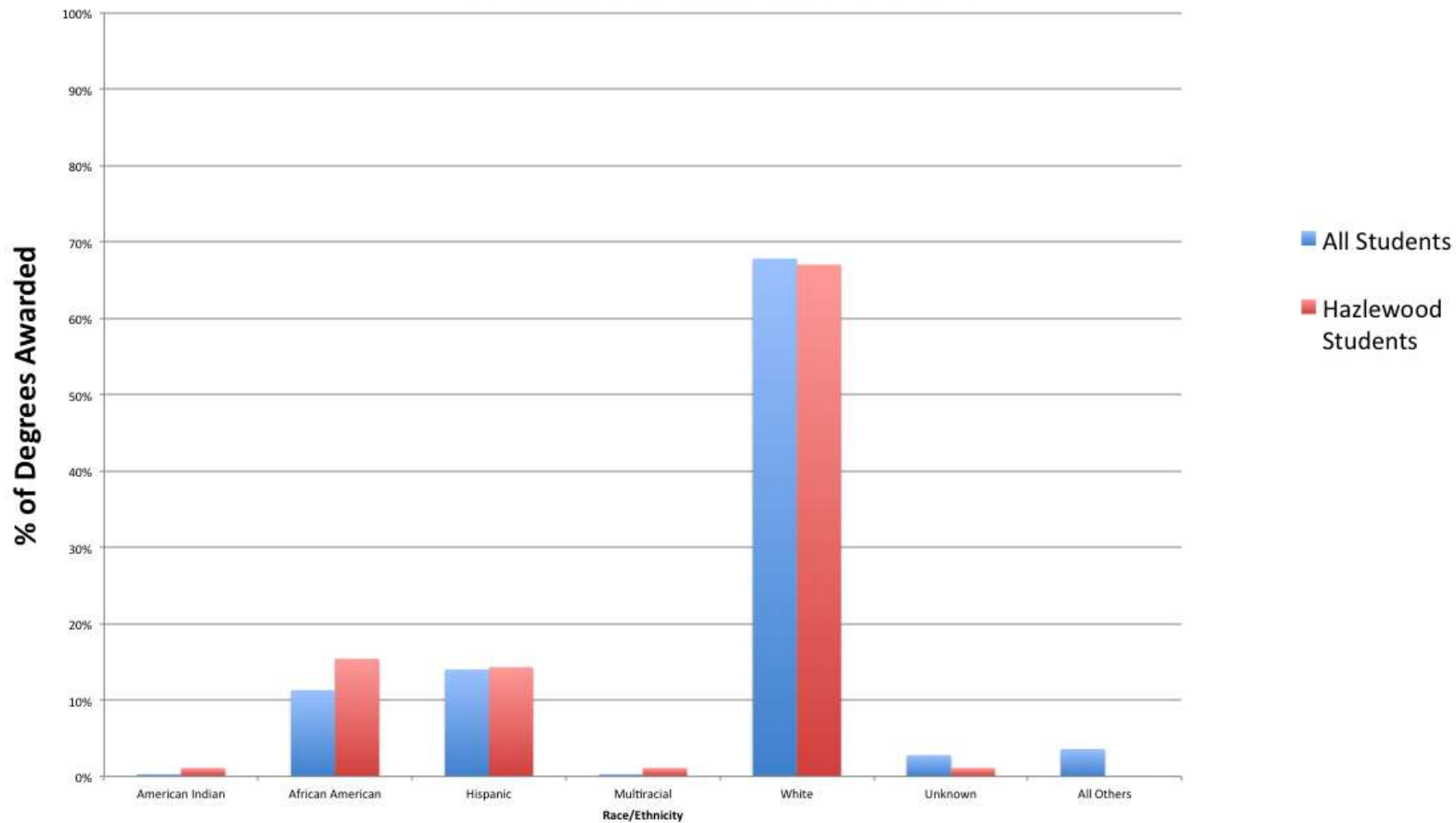
## » SHSU Hazlewood Enrollment and Completion

- 1,304 unduplicated enrollments from Fall 2003 - Fall 2012 (includes spring and summer)
- 419 Degrees Earned: 295 Bachelors, 120 Masters, 4 Doctorates
- 389 Hazlewood Recipients Earned Degrees
- Comparison of Degree Yield over Duplicated Enrollments (fall semesters)
  - SHSU Hazlewood Students - 21%
  - SHSU Student Population - 22%
  - State average - 21%**
- FY12: 91 degrees earned
  - 69 Bachelors
    - First-Time Freshman average time to degree is 4.25 years (4 outliers took longer than 6 years, increasing time to degree to 5 years.)
    - State average is 5.3 years.**
    - First-Time Transfer average time to degree is 2.24 years.
  - 21 Masters
    - Average time to degree is 3.7 years.
  - 1 Doctorate
    - Time to degree is 4 years.

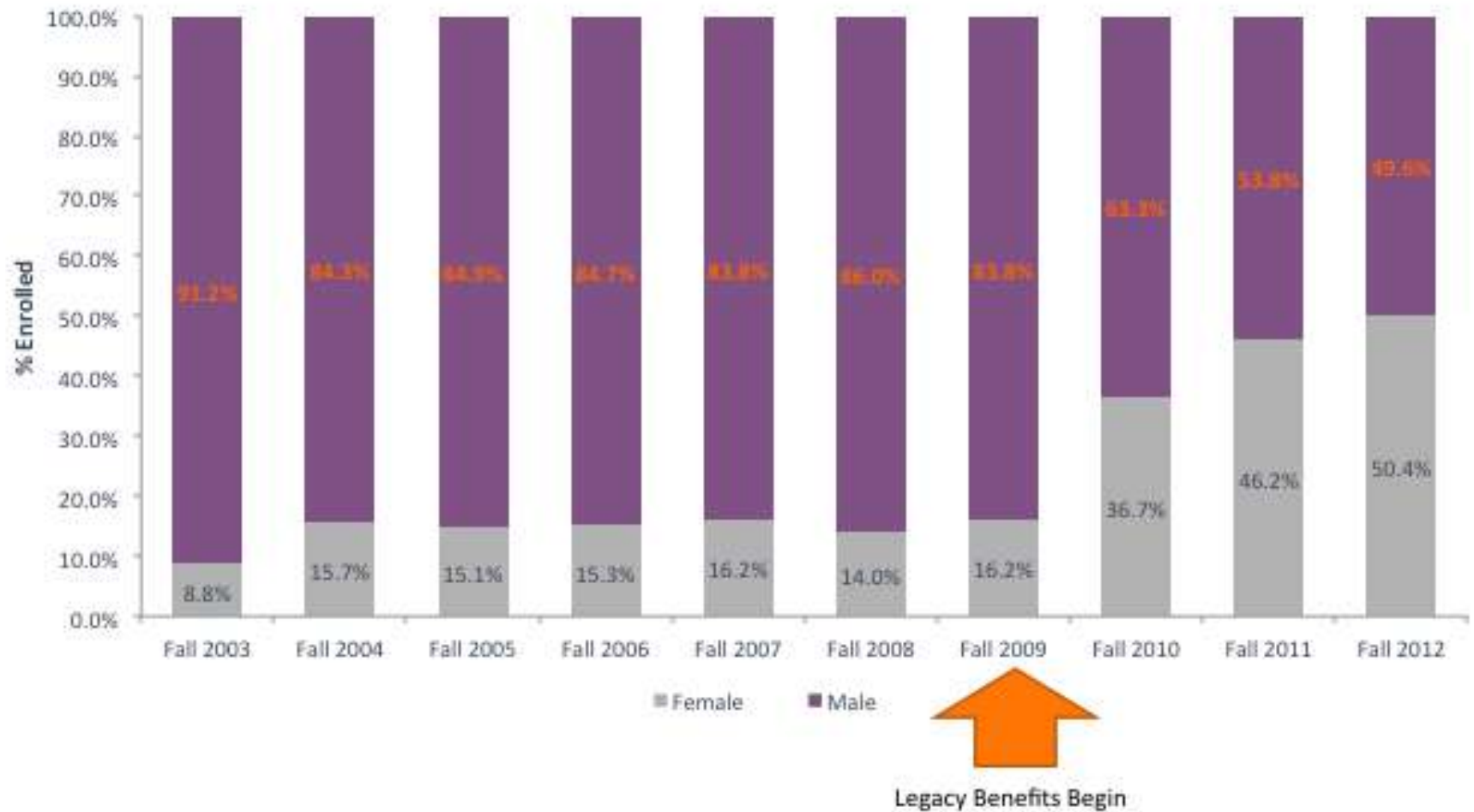




## FY 2012 SHSU Degree Recipients



## SHSU Hazlewood Recipients by Gender, Fall 2003 - Fall 2012



## » Legislative Aspects of Hazlewood and Legacy Acts

*The THECB has recommended to the 83rd Texas Legislature the following changes to the Hazlewood Act:*

- Allow eligible veterans who are out of state on military orders to use Hazlewood.
- Clarify eligibility requirements for disabled and fallen veterans and align statute relating to disabled and unemployable veterans with the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs.
- Make clear that age cutoff for benefits to children only applies to Legacy portion of the program, not for children of disabled veterans or those killed in action.
- Provide clarity regarding stacking of federal and state benefits (pending AG opinion).
- Give veterans the authority to revoke hours assigned through the Legacy Act.
- Add a general clause to make clear that in the absence of legislative clarity, and in cases not explicitly outlined in THECB rules or policy, institutions have the sole discretion to implement the Hazlewood Act, including eligibility, as they deem appropriate provided the legislative intent.



## » Legislative Aspects of Hazlewood and Legacy Acts

*Additional THECB legislative recommendations concerning changes to the Hazlewood Act:*

- The Coordinating Board be provided specific statutory authority to reimburse institutions for forgone tuition and fee revenue, dependent on state appropriations for that purpose.
- Each institution's share of any reimbursement appropriation would be proportionate to their share of statewide Hazlewood exemption costs.





## » Legislative Aspects of Hazlewood and Legacy Acts

*Proposed legislation in 83<sup>rd</sup> (R) session concerning Hazlewood and Legacy Acts, filed as of 2/8/13:*

- HB 81 – Adds “the personal representative” as defined by the Probate Code to the list of individuals permitted to assign unused exemption hours to the child of a Veteran, who has died. Individuals currently allowed to assign the unused exemption include the Veteran’s spouse or conservator, guardian, custodian, as circumstances warrant. Eliminates 25 year age cap from definition of eligible child.
- HB 690 – Permits the THECB to reimburse institutions all or a portion of the costs (forgone revenue from tuition and fees) resulting from the Hazlewood and Legacy Acts. Reimbursement will be proportionate to the costs of each institution. (If this bill becomes a statute, it must still be funded by the legislature.)
- HB 1033 – Adds an option for meeting residency requirements for a Veteran, who has been a resident of Texas for at least 20 years but does not meet one of the other residency tests.



## » Hazlewood and Legacy Act Exemptions

- Q&A
- Proposed Tracking Models



## » Resources and Contact Information

### Online:

Texas Veterans Commission - <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/>

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>

Texas Legislature Online - <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

### Publications:

Bloom, D.E., Hartley, M., & Rosovsky, H. (2007). Beyond private gain: The public benefits of higher education. In J.J.F. Forest & P.G. Altbach (eds.) *International Handbook of Higher Education*, 293-308.

Marklein, M.B. (May 30, 2012). After service, veterans go on to college. *USA Today*.

Segal, D. R. & Segal, M. W. (2004, December). America's military population. *Population Bulletin*, 59(4).

Vacchi, D. T. (2012). Considering student veterans on the twenty-first-century college campus. *About Campus*, 17(2), 15-21. doi: 10.1002/abc.21075

### Presenter Contact Information:

**Donna Artho** - [artho@shsu.edu](mailto:artho@shsu.edu)

**Amanda Clark** - [akc015@shsu.edu](mailto:akc015@shsu.edu)

**Sam Houston State University**

**Huntsville, TX**

