

To

Chairman Mark Romero, and
Members of the Search Committee for McNeese President

From

Dr. Vipin S. Menon
Associate Professor of Computer Science,
College of Engineering and Sciences,
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana

Dear members of the Presidential Search Committee,

I would like to apply for the position of President of McNeese State University. The rest of this letter explains a little more about myself, my teaching experience, administrative and executive experience, and finally why I am applying for this prestigious position.

I am in Higher Education because **the education of the young is too important a matter** to be left to chance, or to be unattended or ignored.

A few hundred years ago, education was the interaction between the teacher and the student. Today, as a leader on the McNeese campus (I have been President of the McNeese Faculty Senate for several years) I realize that nothing will move forward unless we move in a collaborative way bringing together the community, local businesses, our Louisiana legislators, along with the students, parents, faculty and staff.

Part 1: WHAT I will do as President, if selected for the honor:

It is very clear from the last 15-20 years of Louisiana's budgets that universities are expected to be managing their resources in prudent ways. This calls for managing the university's resources wisely, and in a manner akin to that of a private organization. We must do WHAT IT TAKES to win. For McNeese to win, we need to do the following:

1. hire the best **faculty**, pay them wages that are commensurate with national and SREB averages,
2. manage **finances** prudently,
3. make **ATHLETICS** the thing that draws our community to our campus (and not just on weekends!). We have made amazing strides in recent years with our basketball teams and this momentum must be continued,
4. promote and recognize **staff** for outstanding work, while rewarding them with adequate *compensation*,
5. continue the excellent work of **recovery** and rebuilding of our buildings and infrastructure (continuing the GREAT work done by the successive administrations of President Burckel, President Rouse and President Nicholas, after the catastrophic 2020 Hurricanes Laura and Delta)
6. ENGAGE with the Lake Charles **community**, and the wider Southwest Louisiana population. Our

people love their local university, McNeese is close to their hearts. I will strive to make each of them engage and contribute to McNeese with their love and support in all possible ways. If so fortunate as to lead this university, I will ensure that FUNDRAISING in the greater Lake Charles area becomes a top priority for McNeese. There are people willing to contribute generously to McNeese (ours is a very large-hearted community) and they will do even more if convinced that their donations and contributions will produce a thriving campus, a highly talented student community and the talented **workforce** of tomorrow.

7. Connect regularly with the **legislators** in Baton Rouge. These are people with very busy schedules, so McNeese needs to engage them in our operations and how we do things. We at McNeese must be receptive to their needs and specifications, and work with them *collaboratively*, promoting the needs of our SW Louisiana residents.
8. Continue the work of **stabilizing enrollment**. During 204-2025 and 2025-2026, McNeese has seen enrollment increases (3%, 5%, 4%, etc. in various Fall and Spring semesters). While this is a great result, it is also a significant challenge to maintain this trend. I will work creatively and diligently to maintain this upward trajectory.
9. **Focus on QUALITY of EDUCATION**. Faculty and Staff will be regularly rewarded and recognized for improving Quality of Education. Reading, Writing, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Communication skills - will all be encouraged even more. I teach Artificial Intelligence (AI) as one of the many courses I have taught at McNeese. In these days of the omnipresent AI, these five (aforementioned) fundamental skills are even more in demand. CEOs and high-level managers of multiple companies have told me that these fundamental skills are even more needed now.
10. **JOB READINESS**: Students must be job ready on "Day 1" after graduation. I have taught and mentored students who have secured jobs at Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and in many other nationally and regionally prominent companies. We need to, and will, bring them back to our campus, and engage with them to inspire our current students and graduates to achieve similar *success in the corporate world*. Before my PhD, I have worked as a Software Engineer in the private sector, and always train my students to be successful scientists, programmers, testers, engineers, designers, and managers. At McNeese, we will work on all faculty training their students to be job ready on day one. Truthfully, many faculty are already doing this; since faculty are so busy with their assigned duties, they seldom get to share and announce the achievements of their students. We will work on this matter, and we will increase the focus on producing **JOB READY GRADUATES**.
11. **EVALUATIONS**: Provide clear feedback to every faculty member and every staff member. This will be in the annual APR, but also in periodic engagements with the Senior Staff and management, to ensure that every McNeese employee is in alignment with the university's goals and ambitions. Job expectations for the upcoming year will be clearly laid out. Aligning individual employee goals with the university's overall goals will be an integral part of my administration. Faculty and Staff will be actively involved in analyzing and modifying (where necessary) the instruments used for evaluation.
12. **Increase the strength of the relationship between ULS and McNeese**. I will work, both personally and with my team, with every single ULS Board Member, inviting them to McNeese for annual meetings. We at McNeese will learn from them, and thus grow and become better. I have had several interactions and meetings with individual ULS Board members over the years. I am always amazed and humbled by how much these people care. They will be invited to McNeese classrooms to engage with our students and faculty. Lake Charles is geographically distant from large cities like New Orleans, BR, etc., but this engagement with ULS Board Members and Senior Staff will bridge the gap and drive McNeese to a higher level. I can personally attest to the fact they every time ULS Board members have come to McNeese for a meeting, there is a frisson of

excitement on campus.

Part 2: A little about myself: I am an Associate Professor at McNeese State University. I teach Computer Science courses, and I have been doing so for the last 19 years (2007-2026). I earned my PhD in Computer Science from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, in 2007. I have always tried to incorporate some of the best practices that I learned during my 5 years at Tulane, here at McNeese. Teaching classes has been fun and invigorating, and I feel I can contribute much more to McNeese State University.

My teaching experience: Teaching is, in my mind, the best job there is. I have always enjoyed the various aspects of teaching – preparing for the lecture, delivering the lecture, grading tests that demonstrate knowledge gained by the students, and overall improvement both in the teacher and the taught. Reading the Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) I get every semester from my McNeese students is a therapeutic and blissful experience. I am excited to serve the McNeese community (students, faculty, staff, alumni, local businesses and the general Lake Charles community) in the same way and with the same dedication that I have served the students I have been fortunate to teach.

My administrative and executive experience: I have been serving on the McNeese Faculty Senate since 2011. I served on the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, performing various roles such as : Member-at-large (2012-2013, 2016-2017), Vice President (2013-2014), Secretary (2021-2023), and President of the Faculty Senate (2014-2016, 2017-2021, 2023- current). Being President of the McNeese Faculty Senate (FS) and chairing the Faculty Senate meetings for 8 years (as well as chairing the meetings of the FS Executive Committee) gave me the perspective and knowledge that I would value tremendously in running the university as President of MSU. I have chaired the MSU FS Academic Affairs Committee (2012-2017) and served on various committees at McNeese. At various times, I have served on the Senate's Rules Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), Tenure and Promotion (T&P) committee, Community Partnership Committee, Committee on Committees, etc. I have also served on

several University wide committees (i.e., not run under the Faculty Senate) such as McNeese's Academic Affairs Committee, Grade Appeals Committee, University Curriculum Committee, Campus Development Committee, Graduate Council, etc. I have gained insights into the running of the university that leads me to believe that I could take MSU to new heights. I have worked directly or indirectly with EVERY department on campus over the last 15 years on the senate.

Apart from running meetings and chairing/facilitating events, I was also a key part of the MSU FS leadership that organized 4 town hall style meetings in 2015/2016. The first two were attended by House and Senate members (both Republican and Democratic) from the Southwest Louisiana area. Each of these eminent leaders would happily testify to the engaging and welcoming reception they got from the McNeese faculty and staff in Lake Charles, Louisiana. These were all novel events organized at MSU, and by the Faculty Senate, and I was blessed to be leading the faculty senate during those times. I also organized, planned, and managed all those events. I was able to inspire dozens of McNeese faculty and staff members to engage with candidates, politicians, and community leaders. I did all this with a vision that McNeese is a precious leader in Higher Education whose full potential has not yet been seen by the world.

Part 3: WHY I am applying for the job of President of McNeese:

1. **I like to see other people succeed:** I have listened to faculty and student concerns over the last 19 years teaching, learning, and mentoring at this university. I believe that most of the solutions to concerns expressed by MSU faculty and students are local, and not Baton Rouge centered.
2. **I will continue to inspire other teachers and educators** I have worked assiduously in building the Computer Science department over the last 17 years. I will be a President that will be a role model for other faculty and staff, and I will use the intoxication that comes from being in the classroom to inspire others, and, in turn, to be guided by other staff and faculty members at MSU. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "I must be the change I wish to see in the world".
3. **I want to empower other people.** I have long lists of dozens and dozens of things that MSU could be doing, to empower faculty. An empowered faculty will make McNeese a great place to work at. I have had hundreds of conversations with McNeese staff and faculty, and I want to help them realize all their hopes and dreams. A happy and highly motivated faculty and staff will empower and invigorate students, and that will in turn boost enrollment.
4. **I want to promote shared governance.** Shared governance empowers everyone, those in power and those who serve. I will meet with staff senators and faculty senators, and with individual faculty and staff members from various colleges and departments on a regular basis, and help to solve their problems.
5. **Individual (one-on-one) meetings:** McNeese has over 230 faculty members. I have met and interacted with a majority of them over the years. I have interacted well with all their elected

representatives, the Senators. As McNeese President, I will have a one on meeting with EVERY McNeese faculty member in my two years in office. That means all 230+ McNeese faculty members. Since McNeese has over 400 staff members (classified and unclassified), I will also meet with every single one of them in the first 2 years in office. Meetings will be in a welcoming atmosphere, and the discussions will be frank, productive and solution oriented. It has been my experience that people trust me, and genuinely believe in what I say, to the extent that they often expect me to solve problems.

6. **Appointing Senior Staff:** After a rigorous search process, and after listening to all constituents, I will lead the process that will select and appoint senior staff that understand and implement McNeese's vision and goals. Collaboration and shared governance will be emphasized at every level.

7. **My experience on the Faculty Senate:** This is my primary reason to apply. I will make McNeese a truly idea-centric, value-adding, and quality-driven university. As President Kennedy (one of my heroes) once said, I want to do this “ .. not because it is easy, but because it is hard”.

8. **Interaction with the COMMUNITY, and the Faculty Senate:** This is one of my biggest reasons to apply to become President of MSU. I realize that one person can only do so much, and I will get the MSU faculty and staff fully engaged with the local community. As President, I will make sure that a significant part of my time will be devoted to engaging with the community, and inspiring all others at McNeese to do so. This includes inviting the Alumni Association, the McNeese Foundation and the MSU Staff and Faculty Senates to become one seamless and caring community where everyone measures not what they can do for themselves, but how they can truly and fully enrich the lives of others.

9. **Incorporating BEST PRACTICES from other universities:** When faculty and staff go to conferences at other universities, they come back with lots of new ideas, knowledge, and fresh experiences. We try to incorporate them into our classrooms, and make the students' experience a richer one. **McNeese can do ANYTHING**, if we put our mind to it.

Let me give some examples to exemplify the point.

Firstly, I give the same level of rigorous exams to my McNeese students, as I gave to my Tulane students in 2002-2007. My McNeese students can do just as well as the best students at Tulane. I say that with 100% confidence, having taught thousands of students at McNeese.

10. **Creating a CENTER of TEACHING EXCELLENCE:** Since McNeese is a TEACHING UNIVERSITY, I will make it a priority to create a Center of Teaching Excellence. Outstanding instructors will be invited to lead and share their experiences. Students and the SGA will be involved, to make sure that we listen to their needs.

11. **FREE SPEECH:** I will promote the following:
- a) Free, FRANK Discussions among colleagues
 - b) free speech in public, and free expression
 - c) Respectful speech
 - d) Civility in word and deed.

My discussions with Dr. Burckel, Dr. LeMieux, Dr. Adrian, Dr. Rouse, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Daboval (all current and former administrators/presidents/vice-presidents at McNeese) over the years have taught me that I can express my ideas clearly and forthrightly, even though I am a soft-spoken person. This is a free campus, and we need to keep it that way. I will encourage free expression on campus, and I will promote a diversity of ideas. We can all learn from each other. One of my pleasant memories of attending a conference in 2022-2023 (sponsored by former ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson, at the Univ of Louisiana at Lafayette) was when I heard that **McNeese always gets high marks for free speech on campus**, on national surveys of college campuses. Along with jumping with joy and clapping when McNeese scores every basket/goal, we will also support outstanding McNeese performances in all areas. Talking of free speech, McNeese has always had an outstanding **Speech and Debate Team**. We need to be supporting these teams as much as we support sports and games.

12. **Respect for DIVERSITY:** In a college campus such as McNeese, we deal with all kinds of students – traditional/non-traditional, men/women, athletes/non-athletes, fraternities/sororities, sociable/reserved, the diligent/not-so-diligent, rich/poor, people of different races, religions, languages, cultures, and upbringing, LGBTQIA+, local/in-state/international students, right handed/left handed students, and very importantly, students with disabilities. As McNeese President, I will make it my personal mission to support anyone and everyone in their quest for learning. We will need to bring in more desks which support left-handed people since 9% - 10% of all Americans are left handed. I will create more facilities for students with learning problems, and for students with other needs not mentioned above. As I write this paragraph, the names and faces of people that have come to my office with their personal stories are fresh in my memory. I will make McNeese an inviting campus for every student.

13. **On the McNeese campus, I have worked with a wide diversity of student groups.** I have served as the advisor to the Computer Science student club (known as ACM, in several years, including currently), the advisor to the Electrical Engineering student club (known as IEEE, in 2014-2016), the advisor to the McNeese Indian Students Association (in the years 2007-2009, for example we had 120-140 Graduate Students from India *alone*, in Engineering and Computer Science. I will make McNeese a hub of diversity, and make it a place where every student from every background is equally welcome. I have also worked with other organizations such as the SGA (Student Government Association), attended events of the Nepali Students Association, African and Caribbean Students Association, the International Students Association. Students of all backgrounds reach out to me all the time. I have always told them to talk to me, like they would to their father or mother or uncle or family member/relative. **TRUST** is the most important factor. I have walked students who felt insecure on campus, to the office of Student Affairs, or for counseling, and gotten them the help/support/resources they need. I have worked to help

students who didn't get accommodation on campus, get situated. We need to look at students from a holistic point of view – they are human beings too, just like faculty and staff. A university must be *their second home*, their home away from home. In fact, I have always placed student needs above mine.

I was presented with the **Inaugural Campus Cultural Influencer Award**, given by Mr. Ryan Preatto, then Director of Student Activities and Cultural Engagement. That evening (3-21-2019), in Parra Ball Room, in the heart of the McNeese State University campus, was a very memorable one for me.

14. **ENTREPRENEURIAL Leadership and BETTER CLASS ROOMS:** As McNeese President, my vision for the students in our classes is that they engage in the material without stressing about difficult conditions in certain McNeese classrooms

The biggest problem at McNeese for many years was declining enrollment, and we have to address the underlying factors. If you are an entrepreneur, the first thing you care about is the **customer**. Our student is our #1 customer – **the McNeese student is who we go to serve every day**. As a professor, my job is not serving them with an easy exam or an easy grade, but to serve them with the best *knowledge* that they can use to get the *best* jobs and careers for themselves. I would like for all our students to consider the McNeese classroom as the place they want to be. Academic Success is the #1 feature of a good university, and World Class Classrooms will have a transformative effect in our education at McNeese.

15. **IMPROVING PROCESSES:** We improve processes at McNeese, but the pace of improvement must be accelerated. An example of a process which has been improved under my leadership of the McNeese Faculty Senate has been the SEI (Student Evaluation of Instruction). In the 2017-2019 timeframe, McNeese Faculty Senate did a lot of research, used existing SEI questions, questions used from a compilation of dozens of universities, and Louisiana's highest rated university, Tulane University. The Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee selected a wide range of questions and we had the entire McNeese faculty vote on it. The **current SEI questions** are a result of that work. I shepherded the effort through the Faculty Senate, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Graduate Council, the Academic Advisory Committee, and finally the Executive Leadership. The work would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of Prof. Melinda Melton (Biology), Dr. Muhammad Haque (Social Sciences), Prof. Kathlene Williams (Nursing). This was a great example of SHARED GOVERNANCE on the McNeese campus.

Another occasion where I improved the overall working of students, faculty and the advising process is the **change of the Advising Period from a 2-week window to a 3-week window**. This has reduced the stress of having to advise large numbers of students (especially for advisors who are swamped with many advisees) in a limited time window. Quality time with each student has always been my goal. Since I proposed the change from a 2-week window to a 3-week window (as Faculty Senate President), and had it accepted by the University's Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), this has become university policy for the last few years.

16. **Annual Performance Review (APR), Faculty Senate, and Shared Governance:** It is very easy to

talk of shared governance in broad terms. The details are important. As President of the university, I will implement the well-meaning resolutions and ideas regarding APR, that have been developed by the McNeese Faculty Senate over the years. These resolutions promote higher educational standards, excellence without stress, and a cooperative spirit in the departments and colleges. **Let us never forget that TEACHING is the #1 Strength at McNeese, while keeping the McNeese Student at the Center of Every Activity at McNeese.** I will endeavor to create an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition.

17. **HIRING The BEST Faculty:** To live up to our values of Trust, Respect, Courage, Excellence, and Mentoring, we must continue to attract and retain the best faculty. A lot of work needs to be done in this direction. Belief in the university's support system and shared governance are key to faculty motivation. I have been actively involved in all the professional organizations in my field (ACM, IEEE, MAA), and I have also been very involved with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Shared Governance and Academic Freedom are key values of the AAUP. I have served as the vice president and later the president of the Louisiana Conference of the AAUP. After attending ALFS and AAUP conferences (several times a year) I bring lessons and experiences back to McNeese. These make me and McNeese better. As McNeese President, I will be able to use my experiences from ALFS and AAUP to listen to the faculty and to serve the faculty in a way that makes them even more motivated to make McNeese a student-centric university.
18. **Better IT support for faculty and students:** I have worked with some amazing people in McNeese IT. While I admit that many improvements have been made over the years, I will be the first to say that much more needs to be done, before McNeese can be a true IT leader. As a Computer Science Professor for the last 19 years at McNeese, I have taught more than 30 different courses in the curriculum. I realize that McNeese faculty and students need a lot more support with hardware, software (especially with after-hours support) and IT in general. I know I seek help all the time for getting things done, because technology is changing constantly. I will work to create an IT Task Force with a strong team of student workers to support the main IT Team. We have a strong and growing Computer Science (CS) department, with over 150 CS majors. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach, to make sure that our students and faculty get all the support they get, especially with **online learning, after-hours-support** and problem resolution.
19. **Dedication to the Community, Fund raising and Economic development:** During Engineering week every year, I have had the chance to get 15-20 of my Computer Science students to present their programming skills to students from the local high schools and middle schools, along with their parents, teachers, and administrators. This has been an eye-opening experience. Hundreds of people have told me that they found these sessions useful. Like many McNeese faculty, I participate actively in all regular yearly activities such as Open House, Preview Day, Cowboy Day, Literary Rally, etc. where we focus on RECRUITMENT. These are enlightening experiences. At the same time, we realize that we are behind the national averages of achievement in Higher Education, and we have to do everything we can to raise the profile of our community. I am also very happy to say that all the legislators that came to our McNeese Town Hall meetings in 2015-2017 did whatever they could to support the cause of Higher Education, and the cause of McNeese in the 2016 budget session and later budget sessions. It also taught me how much these people loved McNeese, and how much more we could be doing to engage them in our McNeese family.

I also serve on, and chair, the meetings of the **McNeese Computer Science Industrial Advisory Board (CS IAB)**. CS IAB members are IT specialists and Software /IT managers from the Lake Charles area who work with CS faculty in making our program stronger. They play an essential role in our ABET Accreditation processes for the university.

During the **Town Hall meetings** we organized in 2015, 2016, and 2017, I got opportunities to interact with all our area legislators, including speaker Chuck Kleckley, State Sen. Mark Abraham, and American Press Editor Jim Beam. Several of them told me (after I moderated one Town Hall meeting and coordinated the whole event) that they enjoyed the event, and that it would be nice to do more of these events, more regularly. As McNeese President, I will work in close co-operation with the Faculty Senate and McNeese's Office of Public Relations to welcome our community leaders, citizens, parents, business leaders, alumni, and legislators to the McNeese campus. We have some amazing professors and staff on our McNeese campus, and it will be my endeavor as McNeese President to get our community and businesses to attend our lectures, and engage with our students, faculty and staff. **Lake Charles is McNeese, and McNeese is Lake Charles.** If I needed any further proof that, I saw that McNeese spirit, *live*, when the community came in to the Legacy Center to support McNeese as they won the South Land Conference title game (basketball) 92-76 on March 13, 2024. As President, I will get the community to care in the same way about our **Academic Success**.

Accompanying Resume: My resume is attached with this application letter.

Due to a shortfall of faculty, I have been very busy this semester teaching a course load of 21 hours a week (the normal workload is 12 credit hours a week, in a semester). Every minute is devoted to the students and their learning, and it is a part of my STUDENT-CENTRIC mission and focus. I know each one of my 145 students this semester by name and face, and work closely with them to ensure their success.

I would be honored to be granted a chance to talk with the Search Committee members.

Thank you very much for considering my application.

I am honored and blessed that my application is being considered by the esteemed committee members.

Very respectfully submitted. (signed)

Dr. Vipin Menon. 05-01-2026

20. Theory of Programming Languages (CSCI 631),
21. Advanced Database Management Systems (CSCI 637),
22. Computer Literacy and Data Processing (CPST 101),
23. Programming with Visual BASIC (CSCI 102),
24. Introduction to Software Packages I (CSCI 241),
25. Introduction to Software Packages II (CSCI 242),
26. Introduction to Personal Computer Hardware (CSCI 278),
27. Selected Topics in Programming (CSCI 284),
28. Computer Operation and Operating Systems (As CSCI 286 and then as CSCI 386)
29. Foundations for CS Freshmen Success (CSCI 100)

Throughout my time at McNeese, fellow faculty, students, and administrators have told me that my courses have high enrollment, high retention, and good Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI).

Tulane University New Orleans, LA

2002 – 2007

I worked as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) at Tulane University, while I worked on my PhD.

During 2002-2005, I worked as a TA. During 2005-2007, the department promoted me, and hired me to teach independent courses (I had completed all my PhD coursework, and was working on my dissertation), and I was assigned TAs for the lab sections.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE:

Translation Technologies, Incorporated (TTI) Spokane, WA

Responsible for development of software in C and C++ in a Windows NT platform for TTI's CAD Translation process. The translation process performs feature based translation of parts from one CAD system to another, the systems currently supported being Pro-E, CATIA, SDRC, UG.

Implemented the History Tree database, which is at the core of the entire translation process. Implemented several Computer Science-intensive algorithms using linked lists, trees, templates, and Object Oriented Analysis and Design. Developed software for creation of several SDRC features like cuboid, sphere, cone, cylinder, spline curves, etc. Responsible for the entire Graphical User Interface (GUI), which was implemented using the Microsoft Foundation Classes (MFC) in Visual C++ 6.0. Responsible for design, development and maintenance of the GUI. Helped implement TTI's software Coding Guidelines document

**Agilent Technologies, Spokane, WA &
Hewlett Packard Company, Spokane, WA**

- **Software Design Engineer in the Host Firmware Group.** Responsible for design, development and testing of software for Wireless Test Equipment. Developed software in C and C++ in a UNIX environment for the Momentum 8960 platform. Proficiency in Leveraged Design Systems (LDS) and its language and in the use of the VxWorks RTOS (Real Time Operating System). Created the User Interface (UI), enabling the user of the GSM/IS136/CDMA Test Equipment to communicate with the instrument via the Remote User Interface (RUI) and Manual User Interface (MUI). Attained proficiency in C, C++, Unix, Software Configuration Management (Clearcase), Defect Tracking (DDTS).

AMAT (Applied Materials), Santa Clara, CA

- **Summer Internship in the CVD Group.** Responsible for developing and testing software in C on a Unix (SunOS) platform for the AMAT Centura 5200 Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication System. This software facilitates display in scientific and non-scientific notation and extends the capabilities of the user by offering conversion options from English to SI units.

Sandia National Labs

- **Research Assistant.** Responsible for developing Library routines for the PUMA Operating System designed for the Massively Parallel Processor (MPP), the Paragon, at Sandia National Labs.

Tandem Institute of Computer Technology, India

- **Software Engineer.** Designed and taught Programming Classes in C, Pascal, COBOL and BASIC.

Software Fluency:				
C++	UNIX	JAVA	COBOL	Python
C	Windows	Lisp	BASIC	
Pascal	Assembly	Prolog	SQL	

Skills:

- Object Oriented Technology: Analysis, design and implementation
- Team based software development
- Experience in developing software using Configuration Management Tools
- Maintaining software using defect (error) tracking methods based on defect database.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

I have received the following honors and awards at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana:

- 1) 2004-2005: **Teaching Excellence Award for Computer Science Graduate Students.** presented by Department Chair Dr. Parviz Rastgoufard. Award presented at the School of Engineering Annual Awards Banquet, 4-20-2005, Presided over by Dr. Nicholas Altiero, Dean of the School of Engineering
- 2) 2005-2006: Upsilon Pi Epsilon **Outstanding Graduate Student Award**, presented by Department Chair Dr. Parviz Rastgoufard. Award presented at the School of Engineering Annual Awards Banquet, 4-19-2006, Presided over by Dr. Nicholas Altiero, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering
- 3) 2006-2007: EECS **Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate students**, presented by Department Chair Dr. Parviz Rastgoufard. Award presented at the EECS Department's Awards Banquet, 4-24-2007.

I have received the following honors and awards at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana:

- 1) **2016: Faculty Senate award for Outstanding Service as President 2015-2016.** (plaque/engraved crystal clock) Presented to me on the floor of the MSU senate, May 4, 2016, by the members of the Executive Committee of the faculty senate.
- 2) **2019: Inaugural Campus Cultural Influencer Award**, presented by Mr. Ryan Preatto, Director of Student Activities and Cultural Engagement. Location: Parra Ball Room, at McNeese State University. Date: 3-21-2019
- 3) **2019: Faculty Senate Award for Dedicated Service.** Engraved Gavel set – presented on behalf of senators, to Dr. Menon by the Vice President and Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Date: 05-1-2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS OVER THE YEARS:

- Member, IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
- Member, ACM (Association for Computing Machinery)
- Member, IEEE Computer Society
- Member, UPE (Upsilon Pi Epsilon is the National Honor Society for the Computing Sciences) since 2004
- Member, AAAI (Association for the Advancement of AI) since 2006
- Member, AAAS (Association for the Advancement of Science) since 2008
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi (the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society) since 2009
- Member, MAA (Mathematical Association of America), 2009-2014

- Member, AMS (American Mathematical Society), 2010-2015
- Member, CCSC (South Central Region) since 2007.
- Member, Steering Committee of the CCSC (South Central Region) 2010-2019

SERVICE:

1) **Program Coordinator, Computer Science Program.**

Duties include: Advising Computer Science students; Coordinate activities of the Computer Information Technology program; Advise Computer Science undergraduate students in the General Concentration and the Applied Concentration, mentor and work with Graduate students; Participate in accreditation activities for ABET; Participate in Course Scheduling meetings. I served as one of the two computer science program coordinators (during the period 2013-2017)

2) McNeese State University **FACULTY SENATE Member** (2011- current)

3) Faculty Senate (FS) **Faculty Affairs Committee Member** (2011-2012, 2021- 2023))

4) **Chair, Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee** (2012- 2021)

5) Vice President of the McNeese Faculty Senate (2013-2014)

6) Advisor, McNeese IEEE Student Chapter. (2013- 2014 and 2016-2017)

7) Advisor, McNeese ACM Student Chapter. (2016 – 2018, 2023- current)

8) Served as a Graduate Program Coordinator in EECS, along with Dr. Seyed M. Aghili, and Dr. J. Uppot. (2013-2016)

9) **Conference Chair**, CCSC-SC Conference at St. Edwards University, in Austin, Texas. The conference was on April 11-12, 2014.

10) **President of the McNeese Faculty Senate** (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2017-2018, 2018-2019-2020-2021, 2023-current)

11) Secretary of the McNeese Faculty Senate (2021- 2023)

11) **ABET Accreditation:** In Spring 2018, I provided all work on CSCI 308 for ABET Evaluator's visit in September 2018. Evaluators met with me and provided very positive feedback on coursework and exams, and said that the assessment work was of very high quality. I have provided all ABET accreditation related work, with regard to outcomes (a), (b), and (j) of Student Outcomes for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

I have mentored new faculty like Dr. Kevin Cherry with ABET related work in 2016-2017

12) **Programming Coach:** Coached ACM Programming teams in several years that we sent student teams to the ACM – ICPC Programming Competition at LSU, Baton Rouge. Includes 2007, 2008, 2009, 2016/2017/2018/2024. Reviewed necessary C and Java and algorithms with students, in teams and individually.

13) **Major Fields Test:** I coached the CSCI students in CSCI 491 (Senior Seminar) for Major Fields Test (MFT) in all semesters during 2010-2019. Most CSCI 491 students attended some or all of these review sessions and said the review sessions were very valuable, not only for the MFT exam, but also in their job search. For example, we had about 6 (1-1.5 hours each) sessions in Fall 2018 and about 5 such review sessions in Spring 2019.

14) Lead Organizer/Facilitator, McNeese Computer Science Industrial Advisory Board (CS IAB), 2022- current.

RECENT PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

1. "A spreadsheet approach to solving NLP and ILP formulations of a modified partition Problem", Journal of Advanced Modeling and Optimization, Vol 19, Number 1, July 2017 L.Turpin, **V.Menon**, G.Ornas

2. "The role of vintage hardware in motivating today's Computer Science students", **V. Menon**, L. Fife, The Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges, pp 63-69, Volume 31, Number 4, April 2016. ISSN: 1937-4771 print, 1937-4763 digital.
3. "The role of the RSA algorithm in awakening the Computer Science student to the beauty of Mathematics", **V. Menon**, L. Fife, T. Spears, The Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges, pp 70-76, Volume 31, Number 4, April 2016 ISSN 1937-4771 print, 1937-4763 digital.
4. "Developing an I-phone app for a more safe and secure encrypted conversation/text/chat", **V. Menon**, M. Rivero, The Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges, April 2013.
5. "Ontologies for the Semantic Web" – **Vipin S. Menon** (Tulane University, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, New Orleans LA 70118), Roy Ladner, Frederick E. Petry (US Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529). Pp 1- pp 11, in "Net Centric Approaches to Intelligence and National Security", 2005, Springer Publications. ISBN 0-387-24295-3

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and POSTERS:

1. Menon, Vipin S. "The Mathematics of Dynamic Programming" presentation given at 87th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, Louisiana/Mississippi section, at South Eastern University (SELU), Hammond, LA. March 5, 2010.
2. Menon, Vipin S. "Mathematics, Cryptography, and Parallel Computing", talk given at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of The Mathematical Association of America (MAA), at The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. Feb 24th- Feb 26th, 2011
3. Menon, Vipin S. "Using Recursion As a Powerful Tool for Solving Intriguing Problems", Faculty Poster presented at the 23rd Annual CCSC - SC conference, April 20-21, 2012, at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX.
4. Menon, Vipin S., Lawrence, R. "An exploration of the Primality Properties of Primitive Pythagorean Triplets". 1086-11-2562 Abstracts of Papers Presented to the American Mathematical Society (AMS). ISSN 0192-5857. Vol. 34, Number 1, Issue 171. Winter 2013. Joint Mathematics Meetings, San Diego January 9-12, 2013.
5. Menon, Vipin S. "The Math in Data Mining", talk given at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of The Mathematical Association of America, at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. Feb 28th-March 2nd, 2013.
6. Menon, Vipin S. "Novel Examples for teaching students to develop Recursive Solutions to Problems", talk given at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of The Mathematical Association of America, at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. March 6th- March 8th, 2014.
7. Menon, Vipin S. "Using Binary Search Algorithms to understand the importance of Stacks", Faculty Poster presented on 04-05-2019 at the CCSC-SC conference, held at the University of Texas, Dallas.
8. Menon, Vipin S. "Using mathematical techniques and Venn Diagrams to understand Boolean functions generated by a Computer Scientist". talk given at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of The Mathematical Association of America, at University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. Feb 28-March 1, 2023.
9. Menon, Vipin S. "Using De Morgan's Laws as a way to better understand circuit optimization using universal gates" - Faculty Poster to be presented at the Annual CCSC - SC conference, Friday, March 31, 2023 at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX. March 31, 2023

INVITED TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, and PANEL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Menon, Vipin S: "On Returning to the Faculty Senate Presidency: Leading Faculty Governance a Second Time". Invited Speaker - This was a guest lecture given at the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates quarterly conference on Saturday, February 17, 2018. The conference was held 10 am – 4 pm, Live Oaks Conference Room, Louisiana State University in Alexandria, LA.

2. Menon, Vipin S.: 79th Annual Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities (CLCU) on March 8, 2018: Faculty Panel: One of five panelists that included Dr. James Robinson (LSU Eunice), Mrs. Amy Fleming (North Shore Technical Community College), Dr. Kevin Cope (LSU, Baton Rouge), Dr. Matthew Ware (Grambling State University), Dr. Sally Richardson, Dr. Thomas Miller (Southern University, Baton Rouge), Dr. Vipin Miller (McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA)

REGIONAL, NATIONAL, and INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

1. 2008. ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM), Stanford, CA.
2. 2009. ACM SIG CSE National Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
3. 2012. 50th ACM South East (Regional) Conference in Tuscaloosa, AL
4. 2013. JMM (Joint Math Meetings) of the MAA and AMS, January 2013 in San Diego, CA
5. 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024 (upcoming): Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges – South Central Region (CCSC-SC)
6. Conference Chair, CCSC-SC 36th Annual Conference in Lake Charles, LA, April 2025.
7. Conference Chair, CCSC-SC 37th Annual Conference in Lake Charles, LA, April 2026