



Division of Enrollment
& Student Engagement



2019-2020

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



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Our Mission

DOESE's mission is to reach prospective students and support current students. We strive to cultivate a positive learning environment that encourages and fosters an inclusive and diverse community, enhancing the overall educational experience of our students.

Our Vision

DOESE's vision is to embrace, advocate for, and connect with students where they are now to prepare them to master the knowledge and skills needed to meet challenges facing them today and in the future.



Our Reason Why



Departments in the Division:

Enrollment Services

Financial Aid

First Year Experience

Center for Student Success (CSS)

Student Life

Residential Life

Counseling Services

Disabilities Services

Student Life

Residential Life





Dear Friends,

Since its inception in fall 2017, the Division of Student Engagement, has embraced, advocated for, and connected with LSUA students to support them on their college journey and increase retention rates. The past two years have been full of growth and excitement. We are excited to see the Division expand to include Enrollment Management. This reorganization helps to support students with a seamless transition as they shift from high school to college.

We strive to uphold the mission and vision of LSUA by assisting students in their academic journey to excellence, as well as providing psychological support and fostering a diverse, active community. This review serves to highlight snapshots of the main accomplishments of the Division.

On behalf of the Division, I extend a sincere thank you to Chancellor Paul Coreil, and to our colleagues across the LSUA campus. We appreciate you working together with us. I also want to specifically thank the entire Division for Enrollment and Student Engagement team for their dedication, commitment, and integrity. Your passion for students and willingness to go the extra mile are inspiring.

As we look ahead to the new school year, I am excited by our plans and goals and optimistic regarding the future for our department and, most importantly, our students.



Abbey Bain

Dr. Abbey Bain, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for DOESE



Shelly Gill

Assistant Vice Chancellor of
Enrollment Management

Enrollment Management



Kaitlyn Nichols

Senior Associate Director of
Admissions; Dual Enrollment
Coordinator

Overview

Enrollment management works with students from first meeting through the enrollment process. We also work closely with dual enrollment students throughout their time with us. This year Enrollment Management worked to strengthen and build relationship with the community as well as continuing their recruitment efforts. Highlights include:

Community Partnerships and Outreach

We also developed a relationship with the City of Alexandria to start offering informational sessions to the youth in the city.

- Partnering with CLTCC, we provided information about college opportunities in Central Louisiana
- ACT Workshop
- With help from the LSUA Foundation (check on that for me) – we have provided computers to the youth center for educational use. Called 'Think Tank'.
- Organized and led campus wide push for Together Tuesday arranging for LSUA representatives to be present at every Rapides Parish school

Recruitment Highlights

- Attended numerous fairs, events, and programs to actively recruit students to LSUA
- Hosted high school counselors on campus for a brunch with the chancellor and academic departments
- Hosted two Spend the Day @ A Events for prospective students and parents



Center for Student Success

A Brief Background

In Fall 2017, the Advising Office was renamed Center for Student Success to better align with our mission and service to students. Along with the office change, position titles were also updated to reflect new job descriptions. Professional Advisors were updated to Advising and Retention Specialists and the Academic Counselor is now the Student Development Specialist. Advising efforts were reorganized and streamlined.

What We Do Today

Each Advising and Retention Specialist works directly with specific academic departments. This partnership has increased communication throughout the semester and allowed the Specialist to become an expert within the degree plans and expectations for students their first year.

The CSS also created and implemented a communication plan to restructure and coordinate communication to students through email, calls, texts, and meetings. At a minimum, students are contacted eight times throughout the academic year. These informal check ins have assisted in forming meaningful relationships with students, which assists with a student's connection to the university, and, therefore, have increased their retention rate. The communication and meetings are tracked to monitor a student's progress and document issues, challenges, or successes the student has achieved.

Meet Our Advisors



Brittany Dixon

Retention and Advising
Specialist



Haley Halford

Retention and Advising
Specialist



Georgia Fox

Retention and Advising
Specialist



Kathy Wimmert

Student Development
Specialist

Registration

The CSS partnered with the Office of the Registrar to kick off a Registration Campaign: Registration is as easy as 1, 2, 3. The Center for Student Success also coordinated group scheduling sessions with our student athletes and academic departments. As a result, we had the highest enrollment for continuing students the first week that registration opened in the history of the University.

Early registration brings stability to LSUA's course offering and classrooms management, student planning and budget. Implementing these practices has caused retention of first-time and continuing students rise. Even in the face of COVID-19, we saw registration for full-time freshmen soar to a record number.



LSUA Cares

The LSUA CARES initiative was established as an early identification and intervention program for students in distress. With almost 150 responses the first semester it was active, we were able to work with struggling students who may not have received assistance without the program. Students, faculty, staff, and parents can all utilize this platform to refer a student in need.



Generals Brigade

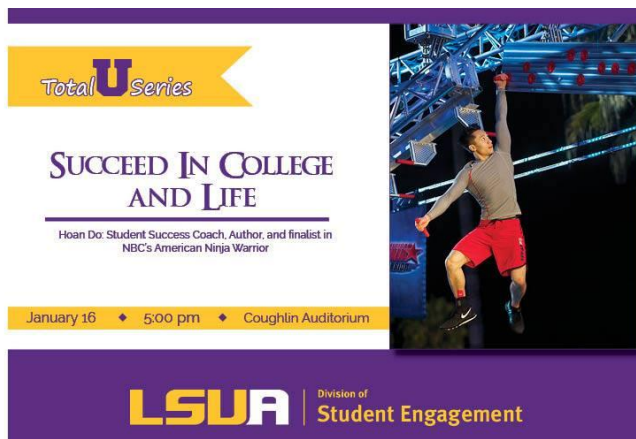
The Generals Brigade is a monthly newsletter emailed to LSUA parent and family members. This was established to keep families informed of their student's experience at LSUA. Recognizing the important role families play in their student's success, this newsletter aims to keep them connected to administration, important dates/deadlines, and events happening on campus.



Ms. LSUA Pageant

Ms. Kathy Wimmert oversees our Ms. LSUA Pageant each year. Open to all female students regardless of age or marital status, the pageant encourages and rewards leadership and academic excellence among contestants. Contestants compete in casual and evening wear categories and answer a question pertaining to their platform topic. Each contestant also participates in an interview with the judges prior to the pageant. All participants have a mentor from the university faculty or staff. The winner receives a \$1,500 scholarship in addition to representing LSUA at official school events. The first runner-up receives a \$1,000 scholarship and the second runner-up gets a \$500 scholarship.





Total U

By far the biggest project taken on by the CSS and spearheaded by Dr. Abbey Bain, Total U was established in 2018 as a student development symposium each month with a vision of stimulating personal, social, cultural, and cognitive development for LSUA students. CSS partnered with a wide variety of departments and organizations on campus as well as constituencies off campus in the community.

Average student attendance to each event is 120. The August 2019 presentation by Jamey Mroz broke the record for number of attendees at 185 with Dean Martin Johnson, Hollis Conway, and Chad Moses close behind.

Speakers included:

- an Olympic multi-medalist
- an American ninja warrior
- a representative from To Write Love on Her Arms
- a former Ms. America participant
- corporate business leaders
- administrators and deans from LSU
- a FBI agent

Topics included:

- motivation
- stress management
- exercise
- safe sex and consent
- alcoholism
- drugs
- smart money management
- depression
- surviving abuse
- religion/philosophy
- safeguarding from computer hackers.





Christine Tilley
Counselor, LCSW

Counseling Services



Cynthia Sandoval
Counselor

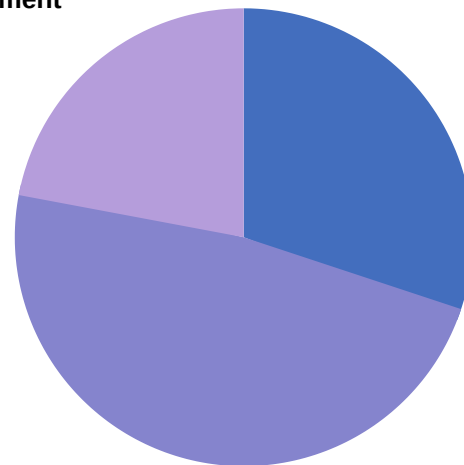
Our Mission

The goal of Counseling Services is to provide LSUA students with the psychological resources and tools they need to help them succeed personally, academically, and professionally. By supporting the mental and emotional well-being of college students, statistics show there is higher rate of retention. Counseling Services collaborates with departments throughout campus to assist students with successful transitions and maintaining mental health. Counseling Services was also instrumental in assisting with orientation for students and parents and the facilitation of in-service for the Total U series. We also provide emergency intervention as needed to ensure the safety of our students during mental health crises.

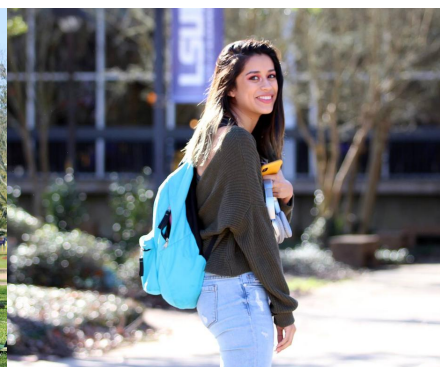
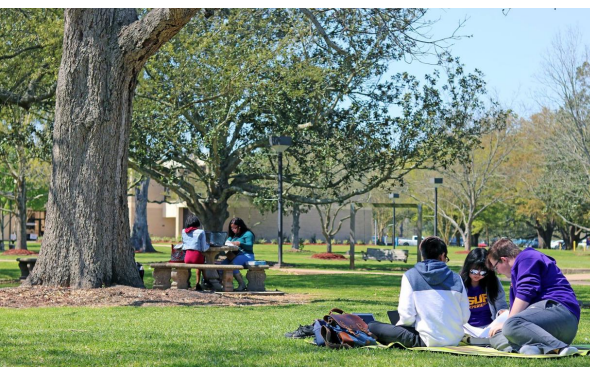
An Overview of What We Do

1-1 appointment
22%

Screening
30.1%



Online dialogue
47.9%



Interactive Screening Program (ISP)

ISP is a program designed to quantify stress, depression, and suicidal behaviors. Students can take an anonymous test and then has the option to talk anonymously with a counselor. It is intertwined in the LSUA Cares program.

From July 1, 2019-June 1,2020

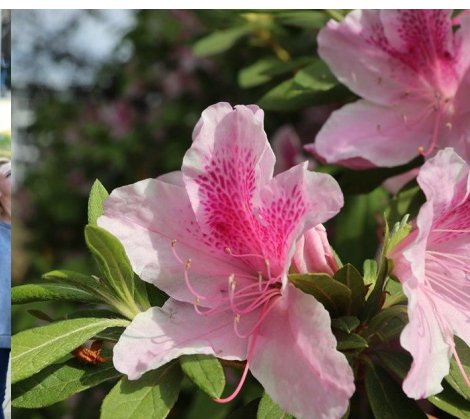
- 191 students completed the screening
- 304 online dialogue exchanges with the counselor

Individual Counseling Sessions

The counselors also provide one-on-one with students. Providing internships for two masters level interns, one from Northwestern State University and the other from Louisiana College, helped increase the number of students and groups we could offer. This year, we also implemented walk-in hours at the DOSE office so that students without an appointment could be seen on an as needed basis. 140 students were seen in the counseling center for individual sessions (almost 3 times as many as the previous year).

Often, the counselor serves as a liaison referring students to medical doctors, psychologists, and therapists as needed. Upon request from the student, counselors can give documentation to faculty to verify that a psychological issue may be negatively impacting a students' academic career as well as providing documentation as part of the financial aid appeals process.

Most importantly, Sandoval, is the crisis point person.. This often involves crises occurring after hours. On a few occasions, both Tilley and Sandoval have even needed to assist with students being admitted to psychiatric facilities. After discharge, they work with the student moving forward to implement a care plan moving forward. These efforts support retention rates.



Group Sessions

Support groups were hosted on campus and later transitioned to Zoom during COVID-19.

- Yoga and meditation groups each week
- Zumba and other movement classes
- Balance: hosted at the Oaks weekly, students learned mindfulness skills to live a healthier more balanced life
- Blue Christmas: groups for students that may struggle with depression particularly during the holiday season
- Staying Strong, Managing Loneliness: group designed for students to interact during COVID-19

Outreach

The counselors and interns also engage in numerous different forms of outreach to raise awareness for mental health and the services we offer. Students need to know 1) the importance and how to take care of mental health in order to succeed and 2) where to find the support they need. In the past year these are some of outreach initiatives:

- Let's Taco' Bout It - event to get students talking about issues and share information regarding suicide prevention awareness)
- Partnered with students and staff to be at the
- Therapeutic Thursday - tables on the quad and self-care tips shared on social media
- Healthy Sex & the Importance of Gaining Consent - event at Oaks with Sandoval
- Stress, Physical Harm It Causes and Ways to Reduce It - talk by Sandoval
- Healthy Relationships and the Dangers of Domestic Violence - coordinated with community partners from the Pineville Police Department, Family Justice Center and STAR
- Psychology club meetings and classes - attended to discuss ISP and counseling services)
- Generals Brigade - submitted writings for the parents' newsletter with suggestions on how to help their students with mental health





Haylee Malone
Student Life Coordinator

Student Life

Our Vision

LSUA Student Life is here for you; our most basic task is helping students get the most out of their experiences at the university. With Student Life, students can find their own niche on campus by connecting with others within or beyond their residence hall, organization, or academic program. Student Life is committed to the holistic development of students through intentional residential communities, diverse leadership opportunities, and a variety of student programming experiences.

To fulfill this mission, Student Life provides opportunities which empower students to learn about themselves and others in an educational community while becoming responsible global citizens.



Campus Events

August 2019 - May 2020

Many campus events are spearheaded by Student life or Student Government under the mentorship of Student Life. However, every department on campus pitches in to make our events stellar, with many initiating and leading. A major accomplishment was introducing our tremendously expanded Weeks of Welcome (W.O.W.) both . Below are a list of just some of our many events this past school year.

Educational

- Total U: Jason Mroz
- Suicide Prevention Month Programming:
 - Taco"Bout It Tuesday
 - Total U with Chad Moses
 - Service for Survivors of Suicide Loss
 - Semicolon Project Giveaway
- A's at A workshop
- Career Fair
- Hazing Prevention Seminar
- Student Life Midterm's Week Events
- Resume Workshop
- Career Fair Fashion Show
- Total U with Dr. Martin Johnson
- Go Green for Mental Health Awareness with Zeta Phi Beta
- Professors in Pajamas Series: Do Ghost Exist?
- Total U: Internet Safety with the FBI
- Total U: Hollis Conway
- Student Government Legislative
- Total U: Juanita Hall
- Dr. Seuss Day
- Total U: FBI
- SANKOFA & LSUA Middle of Nowhere Film
- Screening
- Graduate School Fair



Campus Events

August 2019-2020

Fun

- Trivia Night
- Dive-In Movie: The Meg
- Escape the Library
- Lunch with Leaders
- Generals Games
- Student Government Pool Party
- Student Government Laser Tag
- General's Expo
- Football Toss for LSU Football Tickets
- First-Year Experience and Student Life Free Bag Giveaway
- Ping Pong Tournament
- Disney Trivia
- Movie Night: Aladdin (2019)
- Trash Can Pong
- Digital Caricature Artist on campus
- Movie Night- The Lion King
- Jazz Dance Class
- October Student Government Mid-Terms Brunch for Students



- Student Government Fall Fest with Pumpkin Carving and Lawn Games
- Trash Can Pong
- Welcome Back Bingo
- Movie Night: Knives Out
- DIY Street Signs
- Fan Favorite TV Trivia Night
- Green Screen Photo Ops
- W.O.W. That Cow with the Louisiana Cattleman's Association
- DIY Stress Balls
- Campus Door Decorating Contest
- Wax Hands
- Movie Night: 21 Bridges
- Twistin' to the 60s Dance Class
- Tie-Dye Homecoming Shirts Craft
- Homecoming Court Brunch
- Homecoming King and Queen Announcement
- Zumba

Cultural

- September 9/11 Remembrance Day
- Student Government Constitution Day Event
- National Coming Out Day
- Movie Night- Crawl
- Veterans Day Remembrance Celebration
- Chinese New Year Celebration
- Black Organization for Leadership and Success
- Informational Lunch
- International Women's Day Luncheon



Service/Community

- Campus Blood Drive
- Campus Clean Up
- Trick or Treat Street on the streets of campus
- Campus Harvest Feast for Students, Faculty, and Staff
- Ice Skating at Alexandria Winter Fete
- Blood & Basketball Competition vs LSUS



Housing Events

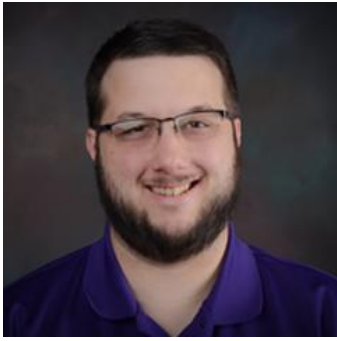
- Grocery Bingo
- So You Think You Know Your Roommate
- No Glove, No Love - Safe Sex Awareness Program in coordination with Counseling Services
- The Haunted Oaks Project
- Movie Night at The Oaks
- The Oaks Goes Pink (Breast Cancer Awareness)
- LSUA's D.A.S.G. (Depression and Anxiety Support Group)
- The Oaks Pride
- Trick or Treat in the Hall - Encouraged campus collaboration with LSUA's children center
- Ping Pong Tournament



Virtual Events for COVID-19

- Virtual Tour of Ellis Island
- Virtual Tour of Louvre Museum
- Recreational ESports League
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Student Government Elections
- Virtual Scavenger Hunt
- Virtual Movie Trivia
- Virtual Denim Day





Michael Courson

Director of
Residence Life

Residential Life

Our Mission

One of the main goals for The Department of Residential Life is to create a strong academic presence in the residence halls and to foster an environment conducive for resident academic success, growth and development.

What We Do

The Oaks are an apartment style housing complex for our students. We strive to ensure students have a smooth and enjoyable living space. The goal is that the Oaks are the home away from home in every sense for our students. To insure this, staff are on-site and on-call 24/7, maintaining, renovating, and working behind the scenes.

Over the course of the academic year, Residential Life staff cultivate a multitude of programs geared towards diversity, community appreciation, and transition skills for students living away from home for the first time. The Oaks Residence Hall prides itself in being an environment fostering students driven to become successful in their college careers while residing on campus and pursuing their education.



General Updates:

- Initiated online housing application
- Partnership with facilities to renovate apartment units
- Facilities purchased key machine to make new keys in house
- Initiated the rental of one-bedroom units for students (planned to be finished by Fall 2020)
- Fifty percent of all apartment units have been renovated ([see pictures](#))
- Transition in leadership, new Director of Residential Life, Michael Courson
- Initiation of RHA (Residence Hall Association)



Enhancements to Student Experience

Reslife constantly works to improve the student experience. The online maintenance reporting system allows residents to submit work orders at any time via any device. Residents note that work orders submitted prior to 1:00 PM are often handled within the same day. Recently, the clubhouse was repainted, and many buildings were renovated.

Surveys show that students have positive experiences with interpersonal relations in their residential halls; they feel like others are tolerant and respectful, and they have a sense of community. Freshmen tend to report to a greater degree than upperclassmen that residential life contributes to their own learning outcomes.





Ethan Lipsey

Director of First Year Experience

First Year Experience

Overview

LSUA's Office of First Year Experience seeks to promote self-efficacy and lifelong learning by empowering first-year students with transformational strategies, practical resources, and engaging workshops.

The Office of FYE oversees student and parent orientations, the Student Ambassador Program, and the academic LSUA Experience, the university's first-year experience program and courses - LSUA 1001: Seminar for Academic Success, and LSUA 3001/4001: Academic Leadership I/II.

The office also participates in other activities including:

- Trains Faculty on teaching LSUA 1001, Moodle, and Launchpad
- Serves on many committees, both administrative and ad hoc such as the Foundation Scholarship Committee, the Athletic Mascot taskforce, and the marketing committee
- Plans many campus, community, and service events every year. including Homecoming, Weeks of Welcome, and Generals Expo
- Works with the community on CLEDA Summit on the Future of Higher Education and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

Student Orientation

FYE planned and oversaw many orientations for both students to campus culture and college courses.

New Student Orientations:

4 Sessions

617 Students

Parent and Family Orientations:

3 Sessions

138 Attendees



Freshmen Seminar (LSUA 1001: Seminar for Academic Success)

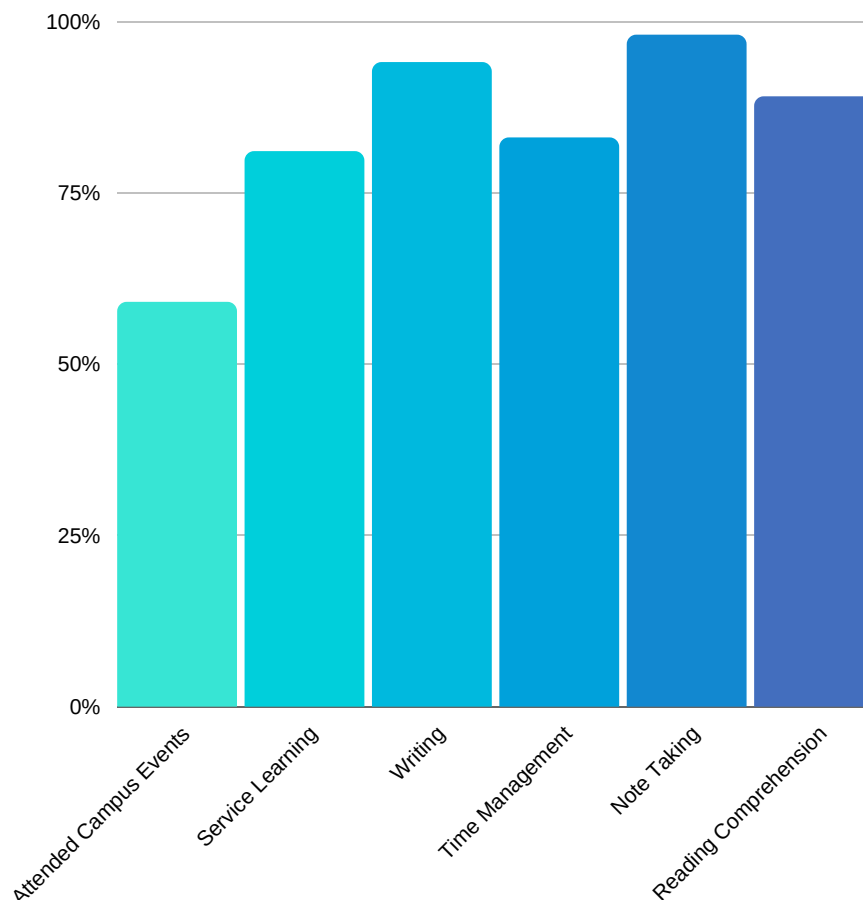
Designed exclusively for freshmen with less than 30 credit hours, LSUA 1001: Seminar for Academic Success is a graded course that helps new students connect to their campus and community through activities, community service, and engaging lectures that help you become a successful college student. On average, students that complete this course have higher GPAs, are more successful in subsequent courses, and find that it eases the transition from high school to university life.

Highlights:

- 240 students completed the course
- 81.9% FTF completers retained FA19 to SP20
- 13 Face-to-face sections offered
- 1 100% online section offered



Percentage of Students Showing Improvement after Course



Student Ambassadors

LSUA's Student Ambassadors are a group of students that exemplify leadership, scholarship, and professionalism. Ambassadors are selected through a rigorous interview process. The Ambassador program provides students with numerous academic and professional networking opportunities that expand their horizons and experience. This year:

- Seven new Ambassadors selected to begin training
- 21 campus events worked
- 7 external events worked
- 100 campus tours
- 9 large group campus tour
- 5 media/news spots
- 4 campus service projects
- 6 graduates - 4 accepted into graduate or professional schools





Jeff Massey
Financial Aid Director

Financial Aid

Overview

The staff of the LSUA financial aid office is committed to processing a variety of student financial assistance for students through strict adherence to the many federal, state, and institutional policies that govern the individual funds.

We understand that many students require the assistance of the various financial aid programs to cover the costs associated with enrolling. We strive to process students' information in the timeliest manner possible. However, as stewards of aid funds from a variety of sources, we are obligated to assure the strict adherence to all of the regulations governing all sources of student financial aid and the sources of revenue that provide for those aid resources.

Outreach and Workshops

- Assisted local parish high school counselor's with FAFSA completion nights
- Hosted Zoom sessions for incoming freshmen and parents to explain how to read aid letters and complete the process
- Maintained a [Facebook page](#) with announcements of important dates and instructions

Aid Highlights

- Awarded and disbursed any type of financial aid to 2,805 students.
- Awarded and disbursed federal aid to 2,277 students.
- Awarded and disbursed state aid to 913 students.
- Awarded and disbursed institutional aid to 937 students.
- Awarded and disbursed over \$24,000,000 of total financial aid.



Title IX, Disability Services, & Safety and Risk Management



Daniel Manuel

Title IX, Disability Services,
and Safety and Risk
Management Coordinator

Overview

This office oversees the Title IX, Disability Services, Safety and Risk Management protocols on campus. Daniel works tirelessly to ensure the campus is a safe, inclusive environment for all students, staff, and faculty. This year progress was made in streamlining processes and updating safety measures throughout campus.

Highlights

- Streamlined ADA Intake process for new students
- Updated [Disability Services Handbook](#)
- Worked with facility services to remodel and update campus to be more accessible for students with disabilities
- Spearheaded National Coming Out Day event on Quad
- Led the COVID-19 response team alongside the Vice Chancellor
- Organized first meeting of the North Louisiana Disability Services Consortium with DSCs from NSU, ULM, Delta CC, and BPCC joining to discuss how to serve students with disabilities online during the COVID crisis





COVID-19

Student support has never been more critical than it is now. Due to the COVID 19 crisis, all in person classes transitioned online starting March 13. Through the pandemic, we have continued to put students at the center of our decisions to keep them safe and comfortable while on and off campus.

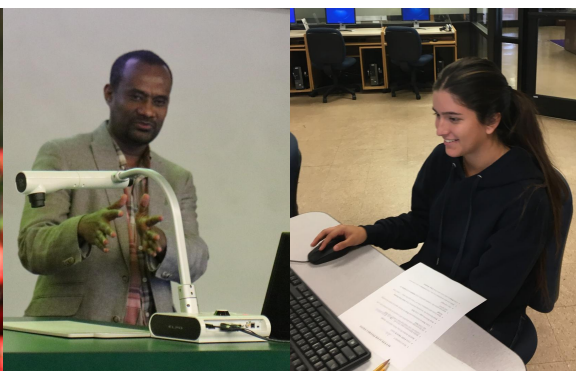
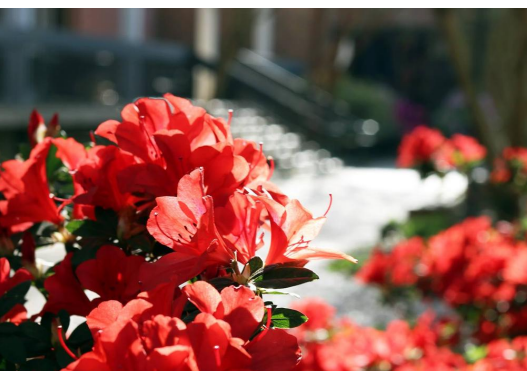
Recruitment of new students remained a priority, and through this crisis our admission counselors have continued to work with students one on one. A variety of staff from the Division held Zoom sessions for admitted students to share the LSUA story when we could not gather in person. *can link to a zoom that will be posted online*

Student Life looked completely different for the spring 2020 semester. Instead of large gatherings on the quad, we engaged students online through virtual BINGO or social media challenges. Our advisors and counselors continued to work with students with alternate communication channels, through texting and zoom to connect with students.

Financially, LSUA did as much as possible to help students and their families. Students living in The Oaks were given a partial refund from their lease and meal plan. LSUA picked up the cost of all online testing services. And students received almost \$1 million in CARES funding from the federal government.

Perhaps the biggest celebration of the semester, graduation, was moved to a virtual format with each graduate's name read and special packages sent to each. All graduates were invited to physically walk in the December commencement.

No matter the circumstances, the Division of Enrollment and Student Engagement worked to ensure students were supported. .





Looking Forward

The future looks bright for LSUA students. The upcoming year promises many new and exciting opportunities for students to engage in community.

Coming Soon....

- Second Annual Weeks of Welcome - Fall 2020
- Take Back the Night Event
- Updated software to streamline behind the scenes communication
- Growth of enrollment and retention

We look forward to another year of fulfilling our mission to advocate for and connect with our LSUA students.

