

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Paul Coreil - LSUA Chancellor



JUNE
2021

DR. PAUL COREIL

LSUA Chancellor



Greetings from LSUA!

We have just completed a very successful spring semester here on the LSUA campus. Our enrollment was the highest spring enrollment in the history of the university with over 3500 students attending. We are still looking to reach 5000 students by 2025 as part of our five-year enrollment strategic plan.

As COVID-19 restrictions continued to ease during the spring, we welcomed numerous face-to-face events back on campus...all in celebration of the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff throughout the pandemic, two hurricanes, a tornado and the freeze of the century!

It was so exciting to have an in-person graduation again. On May 13, we convened at the Rapides Parish Coliseum to celebrate over 260 graduates. It was a breath of fresh air to be in-person with our graduates and their families again in an outstanding venue like the Coliseum. As chancellor of this great university, it is events like commencement that remind me why I love this job so much. It was a tremendous honor to be on that stage and with graduates as they received degrees they have worked so hard to achieve. It was pure joy to hear all the family members cheer them on as diplomas were distributed during the ceremony. Surely there is nothing like it!

In April, we were also able to celebrate with our faculty and staff at our annual Employee Recognition Dinner. Once again in the same room together, it was another wonderful opportunity to applaud all of those employees who have continued to persevere under tremendous stress and challenges. I am truly grateful to work alongside such amazing professionals who have made significant sacrifices to ensure the academic success of our students despite life-altering circumstances. Clearly, we have an outstanding LSUA team that always goes beyond the call of duty to help our students reach their academic and life goals.

A major focus has been on the Louisiana legislature that is currently in session. LSUA has seen tremendous support not only from the Central Louisiana Delegation, but throughout the entire legislature, including the Governor. All eyes are on HB410 which would allow fees to be imposed for a new Professional Aviation Degree Program, as well as HB2 which includes a match for our new Student Success Center. Each of these bills represents an incredible commitment to the continued workforce development growth we want to achieve in the years ahead. We look forward to providing positive updates on these two legislative initiatives in the next edition. We are fortunate indeed to have such an effective and committed Central Louisiana Legislative Delegation, and for that we are grateful.

Please feel free to call me directly if you know of any student interested in attending LSUA. The tuition is affordable, the quality of the education is outstanding, and the bachelor's degrees offered are in high demand and provide tremendous opportunities for job placement in many career options now available in Central Louisiana and across the state. All interested students or family members (parent or grandparent) are more than welcome to give me a call (cell 225-281-6443) or send me an email (pcoreil@lsua.edu). I will be happy to visit with anyone wanting to learn more about our degree programs, meet with me on campus, or simply take a campus tour. We are anxious to hear from you and look forward to seeing you at LSUA very soon!

Until next time, please stay safe and keep the faith.

Paul Coreil, PhD
LSUA Chancellor



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

LSUA Drainage Project Capital Outlay Funding

With the \$3.9 million State Bond Commission Capital Outlay funding and \$2 million federal Flood Mitigation Funding all approved and in hand, the Environmental Assessment for this project is just about completed, and construction should begin in June 2021. The project contractor has been selected and the project groundbreaking is set for June 18 on campus. Governor John Bel Edwards has committed to attend as well as the entire Central LA Legislative Delegation.

HB410 Aviation Fee Bill Passes House

HB410, which authorizes LSUA to charge fees (for the flight time needed for training) for students enrolled in the newly established Professional Aviation program at LSUA, has passed the House of Representatives unanimously and is headed to the Senate. We remain hopeful that it will also receive support in the Senate and be signed by the Governor so this program can be initiated this fall or spring semester.

State Capital Outlay Match for LSUA Student Success Center

We have submitted a \$5 million Capital Outlay matching funds request to the Governor's office and the Legislature to help us achieve the \$10 million needed to construct the Center. With our project shovel-ready and a \$5 million commitment from the Foundation Board, we are hopeful that the state can match our Foundation commitment to reach our goal of \$10 million. We hope to revitalize the campaign during the Summer of 2021 with a new Campus Infrastructure Improvement video now being developed that will delineate all of the campus capital improvements that have been and will be implemented with state capital outlay and federal flood mitigation funding. Additionally, the video will include developing plans to locate retail businesses on the corner of U.S. 71 and the Marksville Highway (current Golf Course on campus). Last, the video will include enhancements planned for the Downtown LSUA Campus where our Allied Health training facility is now located on Jackson Street.

Special Program for the Enhancement of Resources and Opportunities (SPERO)

LSUA continues efforts in developing the program called SPERO for young people between the ages of 18 and 28 who have an identified developmental disability, who have completed high school with a HS diploma, career diploma (or equivalent) and are ineligible for regular college admission. Grants and donations continue to be accepted. Approximately \$46K has been raised to date with at least \$150K needed to start the program. If adequate funding can be raised over the next six months, we anticipate starting the program with four students in the Fall of 2022. A \$126,000 grant was recently approved and awarded by the Blue Cross / Blue Shield Foundation, and Congresswoman Letlow's office has made a recommendation to the Appropriations Committee for federal funding.



CAMPUS UPDATES

New Ms. LSUA Crowned

On April 12, Ms. Kimberly Ducote from Avoyelles Parish was selected to be Ms. LSUA for 2021-22.

2+2 Business Agreements

LSUA College of Business Dean Dr. Randall Dupont has signed agreements with the following community colleges to provide a seamless transition for business students seeking to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration:

- Louisiana State University-Eunice
- Baton Rouge Community College
- Delgado Community College
- SOWELA (Announcement coming soon)

LSUA/LSUE Partnership to Offer a Two-Year Associate Degree in Surgical Technology

Surgical Technology will be offered in our LSUA Downtown Alexandria Allied Health Center on Jackson Street. Students are hoping to begin enrolling in the Fall of 2021.



LSUA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Position

Ms. Connie Cooper has been hired as our new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Connie comes to us from Habitat for Humanity where she serves as the Executive Director. She will work in the Office of Academic Affairs and report directly to Dr. John Rowan, our LSUA Provost. She will also seek input from our Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee to help better inform and advise the University on what actions, initiatives, policies, and programs we can consider implementing to increase diversity, be more inclusive, assure we are providing equal opportunity for all, and be more welcoming to everyone regardless of their race, color, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or disability. The director will help develop an LSUA Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap which will be a primary deliverable of the Advisory Committee over the next year.

New Risk Management Position

A new Safety & Risk Management position has been developed and has recently been filled by Mr. Chad Gauthier. Chad has experience in this job at LSUA during a previous stint and has decided to return to the campus in this expanded position. This will allow for a more focused safety / risk management effort on campus including COVID-19 restrictions and on-the-job safety, weather-related safety, and hurricane response and recovery planning. Mr. Daniel Manuel will continue to focus on Title IX and ADA compliance in addition to enhanced efforts he will dedicate to the Division of Enrollment and Student Engagement working under Dr. Abbey Bain.



LSUA & ACE to Launch Professional Aviation Program Spring 2022

LSUA has partnered with ACE to launch a program in Professional Aviation in Spring 2022. The new program will prepare students to become FAA-certified multi-engine commercial pilots and flight instructors. Students will take flight courses with Acadian Aviation, an FAA-approved and LSUA-affiliated Part 141 flight school that operates at KAEX (Alexandria International Airport).

LSUA Childcare Center Revitalization Plan

The Childcare Center Revitalization Plan is still being implemented and making significant progress. The new business plan is a two-year initiative and includes a marketing plan and direct administrative oversight. Mr. Rafael Romero (Business) and Dr. Rob Wright (Psychology), who serve as Chancellor Fellows, continue to provide leadership towards this effort. Enrollment has increased from 11 students at the beginning of this initiative to a current enrollment of 36 students!

Allied Health Expansion Downtown

On Feb. 25, LSUA announced that the City of Alexandria was willing to provide financial support for the demolition of the old health department building adjacent to our Allied Health Building on Jackson Street in downtown Alexandria. A city appropriation of \$180K to the LSUA Foundation has been approved and will be earmarked for the demolition and beautification of this entire Allied Health city block. The newly cleared site will also be the location of a new Allied Health expansion building that will allow for the growth of Allied Health programs addressing the healthcare-related workforce needs of Central Louisiana.

COVID-19 REPORT

In-Person Spring Commencement

Our Spring 2021 Commencement was held in-person in the Rapides Parish Coliseum. Students were elated to have this graduation experience in such a special venue, considering we have not been able to do this since March 2020.

LSUA Opening to In-Person Classes in Fall 2021

LSUA will be reverting to in-person classes in the Fall due to reduced COVID-19 cases and increased vaccinations across the community. Wearing masks may still be required, but classroom capacity is expected to increase to near normal conditions.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Leadership CENLA Class Begins

Dr. Randall Dupont and the LSUA College of Business revamped the CENLA Leadership program and enrolled 35 outstanding participants for 2021. This is done in partnership with the Central LA Regional Chamber of Commerce. The first session was a tremendous success and a legislative session is planned for late May. Mr. Deron Thaxton, LSUA Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Service, and Mrs. Liz Jonson, LSUA Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications, are among the participants.

LSUA/City of Alexandria Business Launchpad Business Start-up Initiative

LSUA, the City of Alexandria, and the LSUA Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) recently planned and conducted a 10-week series of classes for local entrepreneurs. This initiative was led by Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean of the LSUA College of Business and Mrs. Evelyn Jones, SBDC program consultant and coordinator. The program was a raging success with 25 participants graduating in early May from the program.



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