



# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

*Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor*

**JANUARY - MARCH 2022**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

*Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor*



So many exciting things have happened at LSUA in our first 100 days of 2022! First and foremost, our spring enrollment continues to break records with 3,538 students - the highest spring enrollment in history! This achievement results from dedicated and targeted recruiting and retention efforts

by everyone on campus. Our campus culture has significantly contributed to our enrollment success and the record 94% occupancy rate for The Oaks - our campus residential complex.

Our provost, Dr. John Rowan, and I were honored to join the Central LA Chamber of Commerce delegation to federal lawmakers in Washington D.C. Our visit included meetings with Louisiana Congressional Delegation and an LSU Board briefing with Governor John Bel Edwards. These visits provided opportunities for us to inform officials on LSUA federal and state priorities and critical initiatives towards student success.

Thanks to the leadership of US Congresswoman Julia Letlow, the LSUA SPERO program, an educational program for students with developmental disabilities, will receive a \$120,000 federal Community Project Grant. This incredible LSUA program is the only of its kind in the LSU system or north of Interstate 10. SPERO, which translates to "I Hope" in Latin, will launch in the Fall of 2022. LSUA is very grateful to Congresswoman Letlow and all of the private donors who made this program a reality.

The LSUA Foundation received a gift of \$100,000 for an endowed scholarship thanks to Mr. Darrel Ryland, an LSUA alumnus and Avoyelles Parish attorney. During the check presentation, Mr. Ryland expressed the influence LSUA had on his career and how it allowed him to earn a degree from LSU Law School and become a successful lawyer in Avoyelles Parish. We thank Mr. Ryland for his generosity and for paying it forward!

Our LSUA Robotics Program team has been hard at work leading the way for many area middle and high school students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM areas). Dr. Tanya Lueder and LSUA Robotics hosted over 125 student teams from across the state in the State VEX Competition earlier in March at the State Mega Shelter. Additionally, LSUA will be hosting the first central LA REC Aerial Drone Competition in a few weeks! Stay tuned for more exciting student technology innovation news!

Thanks to a grant from The Rapides Foundation and the hard work of Caleb Funderburk, our Coordinator of Recreation and Wellness, LSUA opened the newest disc golf course in Alexandria. The course is a fantastic addition to our student activities and complements the public disc golf course recently opened in Kees Park in Pineville, LA. The LSUA course is open to the public and available free of charge. Come out to campus and check it out!

LSUA held a summit on campus that welcomed many healthcare professionals and local business leaders to address the nursing and allied health workforce shortages. These conversations included short-term and long-term actions we can take together to address the need for more healthcare professionals across the region. Stay tuned for the implementation of these actions in the months and years ahead.

We are making progress towards our much-needed Drainage and Infrastructure Project. Depending on the weather, project completion should be this summer. Upon completing the drainage project, we hope to begin planning for another historic groundbreaking ceremony for our soon-to-be-constructed LSUA Student Success Center! With the legislature's final approval of state matching funds, this addition is quickly becoming a reality and a giant step forward for LSUA's continued growth. Stay tuned for legislative updates in the months ahead.

The Mulder Scholar receives the most prestigious, comprehensive, and competitive full-ride scholarship awarded on our campus. One of the best days at LSUA includes welcoming the Mulder Scholar finalists and their families to campus. On March 5th, we hosted five highly qualified finalists chosen from over 30 applicants. After a day of multiple interviews, we celebrated the finalists with their families in a celebratory dinner at the Alexandria Museum of Art. The winner will be announced in the coming days!

LSUA will continue to work hard and make progress on many fronts, emphasizing student success. As a reminder, I have an open-door policy and welcome your visits and input, so please stop by and join me for coffee anytime. Thank you for your continued support and contributions to make every day a great day at LSUA!

Paul Coreil, PhD  
LSUA Chancellor

# FEATURED CONTRIBUTIONS

## Endowed Scholarships



LSU of Alexandria is fortunate to have many generous donors that provide funds that contribute to student success. Endowed scholarships are scholarships where the disbursements are based on earnings from the invested donations. Thanks to generous supporters, more students will have the opportunity to attend LSUA with financial assistance.

### Mary Jane Brown Endowed Scholarship

**TOTAL SUPPORT: \$60,000**

This \$100,000 endowed scholarship is benefiting first generation students at LSUA. Mark Brown was born and raised in Alexandria and earned his associate degree from LSUA in 1990. While at LSUA, he served as Student Government President. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting from Louisiana College in 1993. Mark is a health care executive as well as an unlicensed certified public accountant. He currently serves in a variety of executive roles for numerous local companies. Mark is an active and engaged member of the LSUA Foundation Board of Directors. He and his wife have two children.



### David & Nicole Holcombe Endowed Scholarships

**TOTAL SUPPORT: \$162,510**

"Health and education are so intimately intertwined. If you improve education, you increase economic and social status, and miraculously health improves, too" said Dr. David Holcombe, medical director for the state Office of Public Health Region 6. The Virginia Harvey Holcombe Endowed Nursing Scholarship honors David's mother, who served as a Navy nurse in the Pacific during World War II. The Holcombe Pre-Dental/Allied Health Endowed Scholarship honors David's grandfather and father who were dentists in California. Lastly, the David and Nicole Holcombe Creative Arts and Languages Endowed Scholarship Fund is for first-generation students in the Creative Arts and Languages curriculum at LSUA. Holcombe hopes the scholarships will help Cenla students overcome barriers, whether they be income or tradition, to earn a college degree.



# CAMPUS UPDATES

## LSUA Spero Program To Receive \$120k In Federal Funding

LSUA'S SPERO program will receive \$120,000 in federal funding made possible by US Congresswoman Julia Letlow, from Louisiana's 5th Congressional District. The program, which launches in Fall 2022, aims to bring hope to the lives of young people with developmental disabilities—by providing them with the resources and opportunities that will help them lead more independent lives and take up meaningful and rewarding employment in their communities. The outpouring of interest the program has attracted since the announcement of its Fall 2022 launch indicates the need in central Louisiana for postsecondary inclusive educational options for students with developmental disabilities.



## Darrel Ryland Gives LSUA \$100,000 For An Endowed Scholarship

LSUA alumnus and Avoyelles Parish attorney, Darrel Ryland, gives \$100,000 to LSUA to establish an endowed scholarship for local students. The generous gift to create an endowed scholarship was initiated through conversations Ryland had with Dr. Mary Boone Treuting, Dean of LSUA's College of Social Sciences and long-time friend. Ryland credits his determination to make something of himself to the care, concern, and encouragement of LSUA's faculty and staff. The scholarship will be focused on providing funding to students from central Louisiana who show grit and determination to improve themselves and their future, much like Ryland.



## LSUA Announces Mulder Scholar Finalists

On March 5th, LSUA celebrated the finalists for the Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Scholarship with a dinner held on campus. The five finalists were selected from over thirty applicants and sat for a series of interviews with the chancellor, a representative from their respective academic department, and the scholarship committee. Of the finalists, one student will be awarded a full-ride scholarship and be known as a Mulder Scholar. This scholarship was made possible by the generous donation made to LSUA from the Mulder estate. The finalists include Emily Atwood (undeclared major from Bolton High School), Ashlyn Dugan (psychology major from Grant High School), Ji'Bril Harris (psychology major from Country Day University Academy), Camorie Lewis (psychology major from Helen Cox High School in Gretna, LA), and Makenzie Mulberry (pre-vet major from Tioga High School). The winner will be announced in the coming weeks.



## LSUA Hosts Healthcare Workforce Summit

On February 4th, the LSUA administration held a Healthcare Workforce Summit with community leaders from Rapides Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini, RoyOMartin, Rapides Parish School Board, and other community leaders. Those in attendance discussed radical ways to address the critical nursing shortage in central Louisiana and beyond.

## LSUA Legislative Luncheon Held with LA State Representatives and LSU Leadership

On January 20th, LSUA hosted a luncheon at the Alexandria Museum of Art to discuss upcoming campus initiatives and the bright future of the university ahead. The event was attended by Louisiana state legislators, LSU President William F. Tate IV, and LSUA Foundation board members.



## LSUA Joins Chamber Of Commerce Delegation To Washington, D.C.

Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor, and Dr. John Rowan, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, joined a delegation headed by the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce to Washington, D.C. to hold a series of meetings with Louisiana Congressional leaders and Governor John Bel Edwards. The trip to the nation's capital provided the opportunity for the LSUA administration to directly update the delegation on LSUA initiatives and priorities as well as meet new congressional staff members to foster deeper communication. LSUA is grateful to Governor John Bel Edwards, Cedric Richmond, Bill Cassidy, Julie Letlow, Garret Graves, Steve Scalise, Clay Higgins, and Bubba Gesser for the opportunity to share in the great work of public service in central Louisiana.



## LSUA Opens New Disc Golf Course

The Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce visited LSUA on March 9th to celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony for LSUA's Disc Golf Course, the newest course in central Louisiana. Dr. Abbey Bain, LSUA's Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement, spoke to a crowd of more than fifty students, staff, and faculty on the importance of health and wellness on campus. The disc golf course is another step in providing LSUA students with healthy opportunities to relax and have fun. The LSUA Disc Golf Course was funded in part by a Healthy Living grant from The Rapides Foundation and with direction from Caleb Funderburk, LSUA's Coordinator of Recreation and Wellness and former ranked disc golf player. LSUA is excited to welcome players from campus and across the disc golf community to use the course. Directions to the course and access to a full layout for gameplay can be found on the UDisc website or app.

## LSUA SPRING ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO BREAK RECORDS

LSUA has posted record enrollment six semesters in a row! Spring 2022 enrollment stands at 3,538, the largest enrollment in the second semester LSUA has seen to date. Enrollment across on-campus, online, and dual enrollment students increased 6.1% over the spring of 2021. LSUA now boasts students from 26 countries, 45 states, and 63 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. On-campus enrollment remains steady, while students in 100% online programs increased by 21%. Perhaps the most telling data that affirms the work being done across campus to recruit and retain students is the fall-to-spring retention of first-time freshmen. The retention rate in spring 2022 increased 2.1% over 2021 to a rate of 84.6%. Additionally, LSUA's on-campus housing occupancy at The Oaks stands at 94%, a record occupancy for any spring semester.



## LSUA Robotics Hosts Louisiana State VEX Robotics VRC & IQ Championships

On March 8th, LSUA Robotics hosted the Louisiana State VEX Robotics VRC and IQ Championships at the Alexandria Mega Shelter. Students, teachers, and supporters from over 125 junior high and high school teams traveled from all over the state to compete in the two event tournaments. LSUA was represented by its growing team that included nineteen students from seven local schools.

## LSUA to Host First REC Aerial Drone Competition

Robotics Education & Competition Foundation in partnership with FTW Robotics introduced the new REC Aerial Drone Competition (RADC). Schools from across Louisiana have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to provide drone equipment, training, and stipends for teachers to add drone operation to their STEM curriculum. Louann Cormier and Diana Fultz, both with the REC Foundation, presented training in-person at LSUA and via zoom to teachers across the state. The first RADC tournament in central Louisiana will take place later this year at LSUA.



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