

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Paul Coreil - LSUA Chancellor



FEBRUARY
2021

DR. PAUL COREIL

LSUA Chancellor



Greetings from LSUA!

All of us on campus are excited to see the beginnings of warmer spring weather filtering in after such a record polar winter storm in mid-February. The thick ice kept us from being on campus for almost a week due to the closing of all incoming roads. Additionally, as everyone knows, this past year we have all had to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Our campus obtained approval from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to be a closed Point of Dispensing (POD), meaning we could distribute vaccines to all of our faculty, staff, and students in an attempt to protect everyone from the threat of the virus. A significant number of our employees and students have now received their first or both vaccine boosters. This has significantly improved the possibility of the implementation of our plans to reopen the LSUA campus to all face-to-face classes and more normal, expanded activities for the Fall 2021 semester beginning in August. We will continue to monitor CDC guidelines and state recommendations, but we are very encouraged by the Governor's recent decision to move to Phase 3 of the state reopening plan. As we proceed with plans for full reopening this fall semester, everyone should be assured that we will always keep the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff as our top priority.

With this positive news and the economy opening up more and more, we encourage all students that have hesitated to start or return to college due to the pandemic, to strongly consider enrolling now that we are expanding campus operations. LSUA is committed to each and every student, providing a high quality education at a very affordable price. I encourage everyone to take the time to come visit our beautiful campus and see the friendliness and family atmosphere that we experience on a daily basis.

As I write this message, the LSUA Generals are again getting ready to enter the Regional NAIA National Basketball Tournament held in the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, LA. Good Luck Generals!

We are a campus on the move and we want every student - recent high school graduate or adult learner seeking to begin or complete an unfinished degree - to give us a closer look. LSUA wants to be the University of Choice for Central Louisiana!

I urge any interested student or family (parent or grandparent) to give me a call (225-281-6443) or send me an email (pcoreil@lsua.edu) if you want to learn more about our degree programs, visit, or simply take a campus tour. We are anxious to hear from you and look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

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

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Paul Coreil".

Paul Coreil
LSUA Chancellor



COVID-19

Vaccine Distribution

LSUA is one of few universities in the state that has been approved as a Point of Dispensing (POD). The Moderna vaccine has been made available to all LSUA employees and students which will enhance progress of a normal, face-to-face return in the Fall.

Testing on Campus

LSUA was able to get multiple rapid COVID-19 tests that are now being administered free of charge to all students, faculty, and staff as needed. All are encouraged to get tested weekly, if at all possible. LSUA also continues to provide a COVID-19 testing POD on campus for two days per month during the spring semester.

Fall 2020 Commencement

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, LSUA conducted a "Drive Thru" Commencement for Fall, Spring, and Summer 2020 graduates. This innovative event was held in the state MEGA Shelter and allowed each graduate to drive up with their families, exit their vehicle, walk across the stage to get their diploma and a photo, all while their family members could take photos of the event from their cars. This allowed everyone to be COVID-19 compliant. The event was a raging success and may be repeated for the Spring 2021 Commencement. In addition, the LSUA Department of Nursing conducted another Parking Lot Pinning and Commencement on campus in celebration of the new nursing graduates that completed their training.

LSUA FOUNDATION

Fierce for LSUA

The LSUA Foundation led capital campaign called Fierce for LSUA has been on hold since COVID-19 restrictions were mandated by the Governor. Our goal to raise funding for a new Student Success Center and additional space for our Downtown Allied Health programs is still a priority. Almost \$2.6 million has been pledged to date, however, with the support and recommendation of the Foundation Board, active donor visits and outreach efforts are still on hold due to the pandemic. We do hope to revitalize the campaign during the spring of 2021 with a new campus infrastructure improvement video that will delineate all of the campus capital improvement 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. This includes demolition of the abandoned building, landscaping and signage, and eventually an additional building needed to house Allied Health student enrollment growth.

LSUA/LSU AgCenter Property Market Study

We are currently in discussion and hope to get a proposal from a private firm soon on a planned market study for the property owned by LSUA and the LSU AgCenter on the corner where the Y-Not is located (U.S. 71 and the Marksville Highway). The firm we are working with is the same firm that developed the market study for the LSU Nicholson Gateway development in Baton Rouge. We are hopeful that this study will reveal similar positive market potential for retail establishments that can provide both campus and community amenities and services that will make LSUA more attractive to students as well as beneficial to the larger residential and commuter community around the campus.

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SCAN TO GIVE NOW TO
THE LSUA FOUNDATION



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LSUA Enrollment Task Force

The LSUA Enrollment Task Force is continuing to meet and work diligently on the development of an enrollment growth plan. The Task Force is led by Dr. Abbey Bain, Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement and Enrollment. The priority is an overall enrollment goal of 5,000 by 2025 and will specifically target on-campus growth which has declined over the past four years. Online enrollment, however, continues to grow significantly every semester. Progress also continues on the transition to the LSU Online Initiatives.

LSUA Infrastructure Project 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 continues to be underway. Project bids have been received, and a project contractor has tentatively been selected to construct the project. We expect groundbreaking in April or early May 2021.

New Risk Management Position

A new risk management position has been developed and is being advertised. This will allow for a more focused risk management effort on campus including COVID-19 restrictions/safety, weather-related safety, and overall hurricane response and recovery planning. Mr. Daniel Manuel will continue to focus on Title IX and ADA compliance, in addition to enhanced efforts in the Division of Student Engagement under Dr. Abbey Bain.

LSUA Childcare Center Revitalization Plan

The implementation of the Childcare Center Revitalization Plan is making significant progress. This includes a new business plan and the recent hiring of a new Childcare Center Director (Ms. Sarah Corley). All to help the Center move to a sustainable operations plan. This major initiative is supported by Foundation funds earmarked for the Center. This will be a two-year initiative and includes a marketing plan and direct administrative oversight. Mr. Raphael Romero (Business) and Dr. Rob Wright (Psychology) are currently serving as Chancellor Fellows and leading this effort as co-principle investigators.

LSUA Developing New SPERO Program

LSUA is currently developing a program for students needing special educational opportunities. The program is called Special Program for the Enhancement of Resources and Opportunities (SPERO). The program will be open to young people between the ages of 18 and 28 who have an identified developmental disability, have completed high school with a HS diploma, career diploma (or equivalent), and are ineligible for regular college admission. Students will audit some college level classes, take special program classes designed to improve their life, interpersonal and employment skills, and be able to participate in on-campus events and activities. Vocational training will also be provided either on campus or approved off-campus venues or internships. Grants and donations continue to be accepted (approximately \$46K raised to date), however, with at least \$150K needed to kick off the program, serious consideration is being given to delay until Fall 2022 to allow for additional fundraising to take place.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Small Business Development Center

LSUA, in partnership with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC), recently opened a Small Business Development Center regional office in downtown Alexandria to support small businesses in CENLA. This initiative is being led by Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean of the LSUA College of Business. Mrs. Evelyn Jones is the program consultant and coordinator, and she will maintain an office at the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce office. We thank the Chamber and Deborah Randolph for supporting this partnership.

CENLA Economic Dashboard

Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean of the LSUA College of Business continues to publish a monthly CENLA Economic Dashboard in an effort to support businesses. This vital information has assisted many local business leaders as they deal with the impact of COVID-19 on the Central Louisiana economy. This information has been well received by the business community as it filled a major void during a time of crisis.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LSUA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Position

We are currently searching for a new director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This director will work with administration and the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee and lead efforts 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, working with the advisory committee, will help develop an LSUA Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap, which will be a primary deliverable of the Advisory Committee over the next year. We would like the roadmap to be finalized by December 2021 with implementation beginning January 1, 2022, if not sooner.

New LSUA Academic Recognitions 2020-2021

- LSUA ranked as the lowest in-state tuition in Louisiana by University HQ
- LSUA ranked as Best Online College in Louisiana by Best Value Schools
- LSUA named Best College in Louisiana by Best Value Schools.

Back-to-Back Record Enrollment

LSUA reaches record enrollment for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021:

- 3,500 students in Fall 2020 (6.3% increase from Fall 2019).
- 3,335 students for Spring 2021 (11.8% increase from Spring 2020)
- 52.2% increase in online students from Fall 2019
- First-to-second year retention rates increased by 2.4 percentage points to 61%, the highest in five years

CLTCC Partnership

LSUA/CLTCC created a transfer scholarship program for students inadmissible to LSUA. Students can begin studies at CLTCC and then, with financial assistance, transfer to LSUA to complete a bachelor's degree.

ACDS Partnership

LSUA and Alexandria Country Day School (ACDS) announced a new Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) delineating a new partnership recognizing the recent merger of ACDS with University Academy (UA) - the high school located on the LSUA Campus. This merger will enhance educational opportunities for students at ACDS interested in dual enrollment at LSUA.

LSUE Partnership

LSUA/LSUE signed a 2+2 agreement allowing two-year associate degree completing business students to seamlessly transfer from LSUE to LSUA (with 60 credit hours) for the completion of a four-year business degree.

Secondary Logo Released

In January 2021, LSUA released a new secondary logo that utilizes the campus fountain located in the center of The Quad - one of the most iconic elements on campus.

Undergraduate Journal of Teaching & Research

In late January 2021, LSUA released its first edition of the Undergraduate Journal of Teaching & Research. The annual publication is in a digital, open-access format and is comprised of various peer-reviewed articles.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

LSUA/COA Create Launchpad Business Startup Training

The City of Alexandria is partnering with the LSUA College of Business to create a 10-week online business training program for local entrepreneurs. It is designed to help individuals interested in starting a business develop an effective business plan and sustainable business model.

Community Outreach

Our goal is to build partnerships and market LSUA as a major educational asset to the region, addressing workforce development and quality of life. To accomplish this, we will continue to use multi-media opportunities to bring positive messages about LSUA to the community at large and to interact virtually with community leaders, civic organizations, parish school boards, parish superintendents of education, parish police juries, mayors, and city councils.

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