



From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

Pope John XXIII

Timeless words that inspire hope-the ultimate indicator of potential. As we send the 2016 graduating class off to fulfill their potential our staff has been busy working on tools, techniques and partnerships to provide even greater opportunities to the students we serve. Here’s what’s happening in our shop:

Unlock My Future Goes Live www.unlockmyfuture.org



LOSFA partnered with AMS Pictures to develop a tool to facilitate the LOSFA 5-Point Match. We consider college to be any education program experience beyond high school-whether that involves attaining a certificate, credential, or a 2

or 4 year degree and beyond. We believe some form of college is critical but matching the potential of the student to the type of program and the college that is the best fit is the most important task of all.

Unlock My Future helps students to first discover themselves and then discern the institution that best fits their career aspirations and personal strengths and preferences. Our goal for the website is to help each student discover that special talent or attribute which allows them to do something better than anyone else. Our mission is to help them target that talent toward a career choice which in turn leads to the college choice that provides the best fit for them. The tool addresses 5 critical points:



What am I good at?

The first Match Point assists students in identifying their aptitude, skills and interests.

Can I get in?

The second Match Point is the Academic Match which allows the student to identify postsecondary programs that will fulfill their post-high school educational requirements for the career they choose and gives them the eligibility requirements they will have to meet in order to qualify for program admission.

continued on page 2

In this edition. . .

<i>From the Executive Director's Desk</i>	<i>1 -2</i>	<i>College and Career Readiness Initiative</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>UnlockMyFutre.org</i>	<i>3-4</i>	<i>College and Career Lessons at WJHS</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant</i>	<i>4-5</i>	<i>College Acceptance Days</i>	<i>8-9</i>

From the Desk of the Executive Director *(continued)*



Can I afford it?

The third Match Point is the Cost of Choice Match. This section will make students aware of the costs associated with each postsecondary option that offers the training necessary for their chosen career.

Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by high school students in East Baton Rouge Parish public schools during the 2016-17 academic year.

College Access organizations in 118 cities across America were invited to submit grant applications. Only 22 cities were awarded nationwide. The grant challenges awarded cities to increase FAFSA completion rates by a minimum of 5 percent for the high school graduating class of 2017. Partnering with LOSFA in the Baton Rouge FAFSA Completion Challenge are the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), The East Baton Rouge Parish School System, the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA), and Career Compass of Louisiana.

Who gets me?

The fourth Match Point is the Social and Emotional Match. It asks the student to consider the environment in which he or she will be most comfortable and most likely to succeed, and to factor those answers into their postsecondary education destination decision.

LOSFA is dedicated to ensuring equity of access. This involves informing all students of the opportunities available and actively assisting students with all facets of the college application and access process. The FAFSA is one of the most important college access opportunities available to students and families since completion of this one form allows students access to both federal and state aid based upon need as well as merit.

Will I stay or will I go?

The fifth and final Match point is the Retention Match. This factor asks the student to consider which program has the greatest success rate with graduating students in their selected field of study and in retaining students from similar backgrounds.

LOSFA has long been a proponent of FAFSA completion by all graduating high school seniors, having partnered with the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) to sponsor College Goal Sunday FAFSA completion events for the past nine years. LOSFA representatives also routinely assist students and parents one-on-one with FAFSA completion in their respective high schools, as well as providing assistance via LOSFA's customer service hotline (800-259-5626) and with Email help at custserv@la.gov.

We don't want them to just apply to college, we want them to apply to a college that is the best match and fit for them. The Unlock My Future website is designed to facilitate those discoveries and decisions.

See story on page 3 for more details.

We delight in the possibilities these projects bring!

FAFSA Challenge Grant Announcement

A critical part of the LOSFA 5-Point Match is Cost of Choice. Our goal is to assist students with identifying various sources of financial aid in a manner that allows them to maximize gift aid and minimize loan debt. We continue to look for ways to deliver this service in the most effective manner. To that end LOSFA is proud to announce receipt of a \$54,000.00 Grant from the National College Access Network (NCAN) and The Kresge Foundation to increase completion of the Free

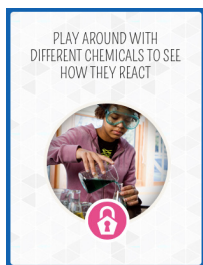
Best,
S.

UnlockMyFuture.org: New LOSFA College Match and Fit Website Launched

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) has announced the launch of its new “Match and Fit” College Access and Career Planning website: <http://www.unlockmyfuture.org>.

The Website utilizes LOSFA’s “Five Point Match” approach to career and postsecondary education provider selection.

What am I good at?



Several career preference quizzes are included to assist the student in identifying a career that will pay them to do something they love to do. The section also includes informational videos about hundreds of career options. Finally, the Louisiana Workforce Commission’s STAR JOB rating for selected careers is displayed along with links to the STAR JOBS site where salary ranges and demand status may also be determined.

Can I get in?

Depending on the career chosen, options may include 4-year university degree programs, 2-year community/technical certificate programs, skill and occupational training programs, etc. The section also includes easy to access direct links to all in-state postsecondary admissions applications.

Can I afford it?

This will allow the student and his or her family to choose the right institution and program of study that will result in completion with the best income to loan ratio. This section also provides direct links to information on all available forms of student financial aid along



with instructions on how to apply for federal, state, institutional, and private scholarships, grants, student loans, and on-campus work-study programs.

Who gets me?

Students from a small town might not be comfortable on a large campus with tens of thousands of students in a major city. Students from a small high school where they knew all the teachers and other students may not thrive in amphitheater classroom settings with hundreds of students and minimal interaction with instructors. Some students might prefer being within an hour or two of home, while others might wish to start a new adventure further away from home. All of these considerations are important to the student’s ability to succeed.

Will I stay or will I go?

Students are encouraged to visit the schools/programs on their “short list” of postsecondary options. When doing so, they should talk to other students and get their input on things of concern. They are also urged to determine the retention rate for other students from similar backgrounds and fields of study who have attended the schools under consideration.

“In summary”, Dr. Boutté said, “we define college as any education beyond high school and we encourage students to discover themselves before they decide to discover a school. In other words,” she added, “we don’t want them to just apply to college, we want them to apply to a college that is the best match and fit for them. The Unlock My Future website is designed to facilitate those discoveries and decisions.”

College and Career Readiness Initiative

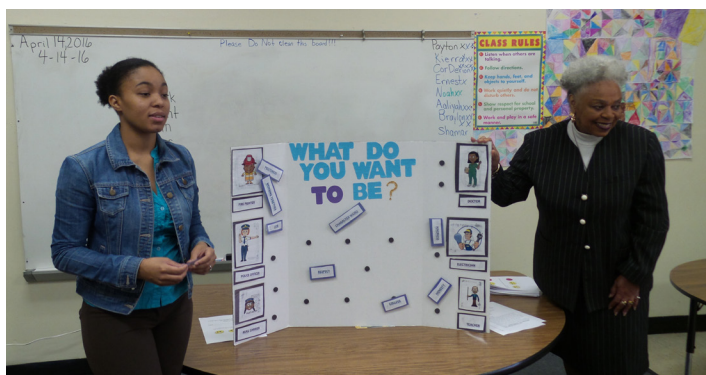
Through LOSFA's partnership with Grambling State University, the agency and the university incorporated a college and career readiness initiative into an existing education program.

Some of the university's education students were able to teach kindergarten and fourth grade students at Grambling Elementary School about post-secondary education and careers.

The goal of this initiative is to introduce these concepts in order for the students to begin thinking about careers and their futures, according to Dr. Loretta Walton-Jaggers, Professor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Grambling State University.

"College and career readiness should be addressed as early as possible so that the children can think about the kinds of things that they would like to do and the kinds of experiences they need to have to effectively do it," Jaggers said.

Savanna Gannaway, a Grambling State University senior majoring in education, taught one of the college and career readiness lessons to a kindergarten class.



Savanna Gannaway, a Grambling State University senior education major teaches a college and career readiness lesson to a kindergarten class. Dr. Loretta Walton-Jaggers assists Savanna during the lesson.

"It's important to start teaching them about college and careers at a young age so that they have an idea of what they want to do," Gannaway said. "Even if they don't go through with their first idea, they will always have something to work toward. It's a goal for them."

A fourth grade class received a similar class from Breonna Ward, a Grambling State University junior majoring in education.

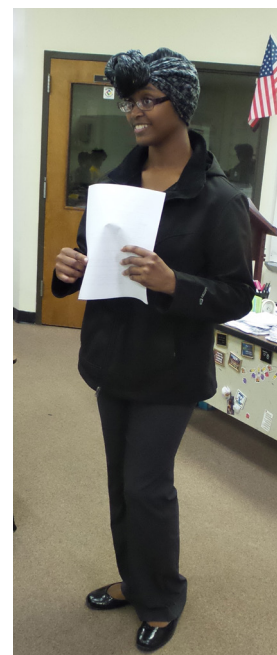
"It's important to teach the kids that you can aspire to be more, you can reach higher and go as far as you want to go, but you have to go to college first," Ward said.

Ward embodies the spirit of LOSFA's goals by wanting to ensure that students obtain some type of post-secondary education, in which LOSFA explains that going to "college" or postsecondary education is any education beyond high school.

"It's important to spread the word and reach as many people as we can," Ward said. "I believe everybody should have some type of higher education after high school. I think that's the path that will allow you to be better off in life."

LOSFA will continue assisting with these lessons at Grambling Lab School in the future.

"We are partnering with LOSFA who has similar goals and similar directions that we would like to go in as educators," Jaggers said. "We are excited about continuing our collaboration with LOSFA."



Breonna Ward, a Grambling State University junior education major also taught a college and career readiness lesson to a fourth grade class.

West Jefferson High School Freshmen Receive Lessons on College and Career Readiness

Over the course of four days, LOSFA taught college and career readiness lessons to West Jefferson High School freshmen.

From creating monthly budgets to exploring LOSFA's new website – Unlock My Future – for possible careers, the students took an active part in learning about life beyond high school.

Terrylceda Perkins, a West Jefferson High School counselor, asked LOSFA to provide this information to the freshman class.

“Our freshman need to have a good idea of what it means to be prepared for college and careers,” Perkins said. “I found that working with our current seniors that they were unaware of a lot of things that they needed to know as they were preparing to transition from high school to college.”

Perkins described the classes as “phenomenal” and observed that the students were participating and involved.

“LOSFA Field Outreach Services Coordinators Khristopher Hobbs and Juterh Nmah have a really good understanding of college and career readiness

preparation,” Perkins said. “The kids received a good understanding of the concepts, the lessons were very engaging and it was applicable to the real world.”

One of the students who was impacted by the classes was Christian Felix. He learned the importance of being financially responsible and how important it is to be prepared for the future.

“As you get older, life comes fast,” Felix said. “It’s important to have a plan to be successful in life. That’s why I think these classes are important, because they taught us about planning for college and careers. The classes made me look more deeply into my career and what I want to do in life.”

Felix wants to go to college, play football for a university and major in business. He dreams of owning his own business one day.

By the end of the week, Perkins was inspired to continue to do similar activities with the students.

“The kids got a good vision of what decisions they need to be making and what options they have for their future so they can take charge and be empowered to make good decisions,” Perkins said.



Juterh Nmah (pictured left) and Khristopher Hobbs (pictured above) teach college and career readiness lessons to freshmen at West Jefferson High School.



West Jefferson High School freshman Christian Felix, who aspires to own a business one day, is pictured with Juterh Nmah and Khristopher Hobbs.

LOSFA College Acceptance Days



Converse High School



Bunkie High School



Marksville High School



Negreet High School



Bastrop High School



Westgate High School

LOSFA College Acceptance Days



Converse High School



Rayville High School



Ouachita Parish High School



West St. John High School



LaGrange High School



West St. John High School



St. Mary's High School

LOSFA's Social Media Sites



<http://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>



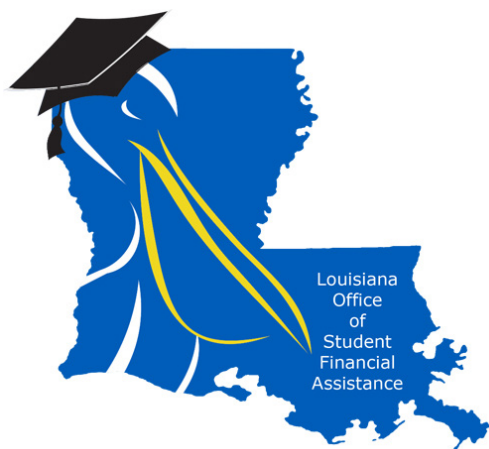
<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



<http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>



For more information, contact the
Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance:

By Phone: 800-259-5626

By E-mail: custserv@la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

Web Address: www.osfa.la.gov

For submissions, opinions, or comments for the LOSFA LOOP,
please contact Gus Wales at Gus.Wales@la.gov.