

Over 3,000 Louisiana Students Attend College and Career Readiness Initiatives during February and March

Skylar Edwards, a Louisiana GEAR UP student from West St. John Elementary School, was one of those 3,000 Louisiana students to attend two of LOSFA’s largest initiatives, the FLY Tour and the 2018 Louisiana GEAR UP Conference. While attending the FLY Tour at Dillard University, Skylar sent the following Instagram message expressing her excitement about attending the 2018 Louisiana GEAR UP Conference for Louisiana GEAR UP students.



She concluded her message by saying, “Y’all [have] me excited for college.” Skylar’s excitement is part of why LOSFA administers college and career readiness programs and initiatives year-round, but it’s also to prepare Louisiana students for successful matriculation into postsecondary education and entry into careers. Initiatives such as the FLY Tour and Louisiana GEAR UP Conference provide students like Skylar with the resources, knowledge, and tools to not only be excited for college but to also be ready for college and career.

Financial Literacy for You (FLY) Tour
 The FLY Tour, which recently featured both a spring and fall tour, is a theatrical presentation designed to provide students with information and resources related to financial awareness, academic performance, and college preparation. This year, the FLY Tour was held at the following postsecondary institutions: Nunez Community College, Louisiana State University, SOWELA Technical Community College, Southern University and A&M College, Central Louisiana Technical Community College in Alexandria, Northwestern State University, Southern University at Shreveport, Grambling State University, and Dillard University. 2,751 students from 39 schools across the State of Louisiana were in attendance at the Spring FLY Tour. Here are some of

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the students' comments and social media posts about the FLY Tour this year:

Here are more pictures from the FLY Tour:



**Autumn Spears,
Scotlandville Magnet
High School**

"I learned that you can really be and do anything you want in life. He [LSU Representative] spoke about doing what you want to do in life, and it was really inspiring. It sparked something inside of me to go out and be hungry for what I want to do in my life. I'd like to study Marine Biology, and I'd like to go to LSU."



**Andrea Skipper,
LaGrange High
School**

"I learned that I can visit www.unlockmyfuture.org to help me figure out what I want to do and match me with potential careers."



**Samuel Taylor,
Scotlandville Magnet
High School**

"I learned that you should never stop or give up on what you want. Stay focused in school because you'll learn more and get what you need when you are focused."



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College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)



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College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)



College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)

Louisiana GEAR UP Conference

From March 9 to March 11, 2018, LOSFA hosted the 2018 Louisiana GEAR UP Conference for Louisiana GEAR UP students. The conference was a weekend-long event focused on leadership and college and career readiness. During the Louisiana GEAR UP Conference, 351 Louisiana GEAR UP students from 49 schools across the state participated in activities and sessions focused on academic preparation and college and career readiness. Some of the sessions and activities included Rip the Career Runway, the World of Dentistry, Chopped: Louisiana GEAR UP Edition, and Career Speed Networking.

See what Louisiana GEAR UP students and administrators had to say about the Louisiana GEAR UP Conference:



Ja'Marion Bonner, Delta Junior High School

"I like the conference because the LOSFA program gets us closer and closer to college, and I love it very much."

Destiny Watkins, Rougon Elementary

"I thought the [Fabulous Financial Literacy for You] session was great because we talked about ACT preparation."



Chloe Woods, McKinley Middle Magnet School (below left)

"The conference is very informational. It has a very good balance, so you can learn a lot about each aspect of moving forward into your future. There were things that we learned about regarding the financial aspects of college. We could also learn about things regarding our careers. We were able to see the world in a different light by learning about our futures."

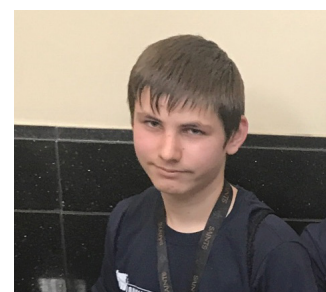


Genesis Stewart, McKinley Middle Magnet School (above right)

"My favorite session was the "From Start to Finish: Your Future to Success" session because we did an activity that helped us determine the annual income we would need to afford everything we want and need."

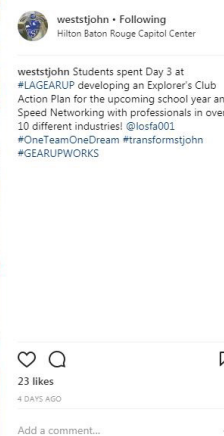
Dustin Duckworth, Rougon Elementary

"I thought the [Fabulous Financial Literacy for You (FLY) Tour] session was pretty neat because we got to act out what we might do in the future."



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College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)



LaRhonda George, Explorers' Club Sponsor at East Feliciana Middle School

"I just wanted to write to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful conference that my students had the opportunity to participate in this past weekend. They have not stopped talking about it since we returned. They really enjoyed the hands on activities like "Chopped." They also liked how they were able to interact during the rehab visit. I thought it was important that they saw and got to explore the many facets of the jobs with the hands-on activities. Last but not least, they raved about the new things they learned about dental care during the dental sessions. Activities like this not only help them learn about the job, but they also help them learn from the professionals as well. I am excited about what future LA GEAR UP conferences hold for my students. Keep up the good work and thanks for all you do to prepare our students for college and career. "

Leslie Nunnery, On-Site School Coordinator at Emily C. Watkins Elementary School

"I would like to take the time to express my first experience with the LA GEAR UP Conference, which was held in Baton Rouge. The conference was a success for my students. My students were engaged and involved in all the activities. They truly enjoyed the hands-on activities. I felt that my students learned a lot, and it made them more open to what future college plans they are looking forward to. Not only was the conference beneficial to my students but it was also beneficial to me. I would like to thank you [Khristopher Hobbs] and your staff for the support that was shown to us. I would also like to thank you for making my job easier. I'm truly grateful to have such a wonderful Regional Coordinator."

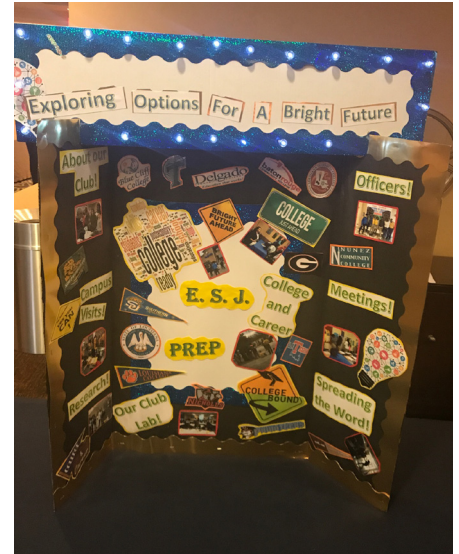
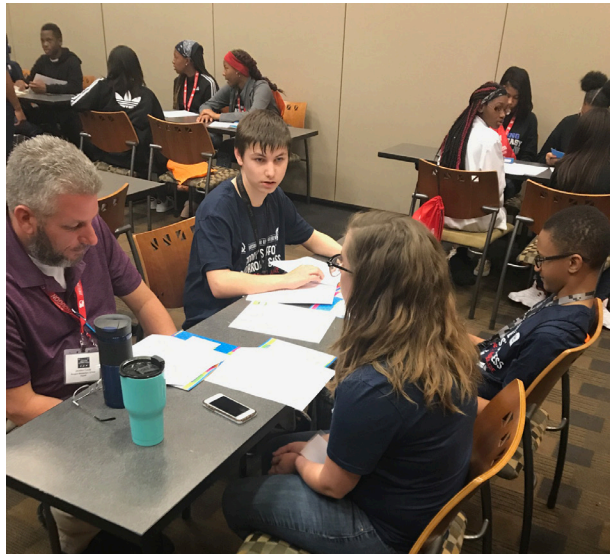
Kirstie Carter, On-Site School Coordinator, Garyville/Mt. Airy Math and Science Magnet School

"I believe the most recent LA Gear UP Conference in Baton Rouge had a profound impact on the students of Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet School. They were able to relate to the guest speakers who ranged from a high school entrepreneur to a father/coach who inspired the students to dream big and put forth the effort to obtain their dreams. Our students enjoyed interacting with like-minded peers from other schools around the state as well as dancing to the tunes of the house DJ. Mr. Khristopher Hobbs, aka lil Woo, has stolen the hearts of our middle school students at GMMS. Instead of inciting intimidation, his large stature and genuine smile immediately puts the most introverted student at ease. They love him! Overall, our students had an unforgettable weekend in Baton Rouge and they are already [getting competitive] for next year! "

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Here are pictures of the 2018 Louisiana GEAR UP Conference:



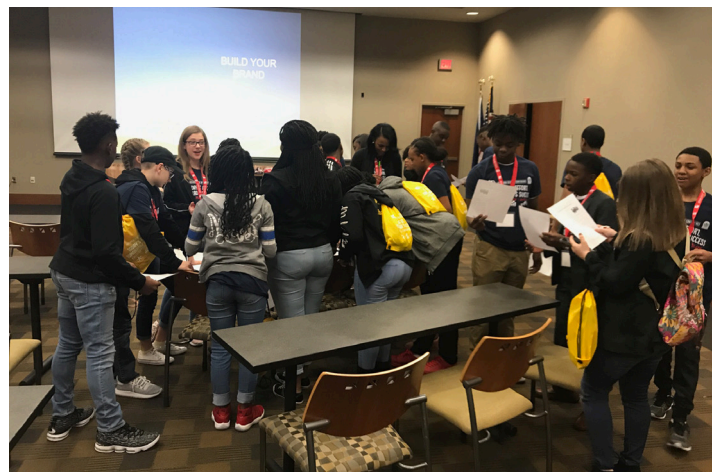
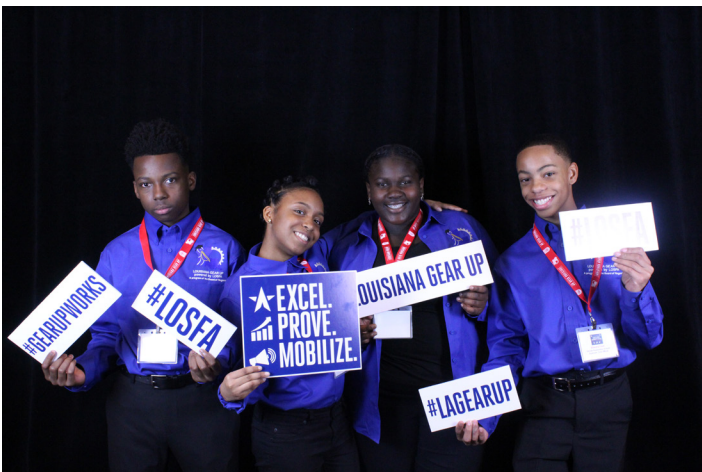
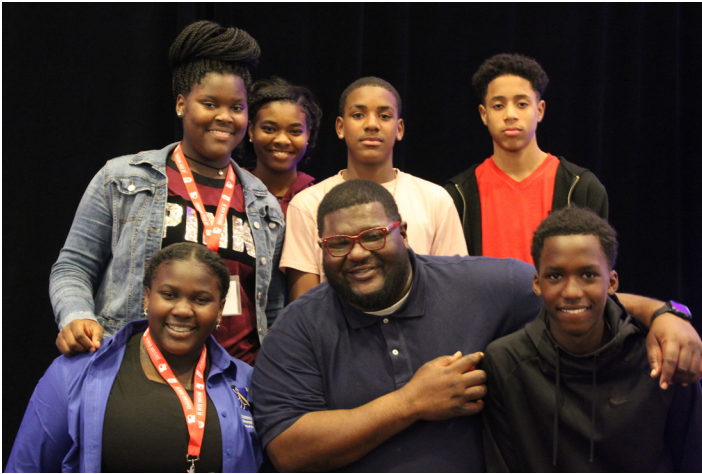
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College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)



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College and Career Readiness Initiatives (continued)



Louisiana is ranked 4th in the nation with overall FAFSA completions



#FormYourFuture FAFSA Tracker

Through March 16, what percent of your state's seniors had completed a FAFSA? What is your state's change year-over-year?



% of Seniors Completing FAFSA

	Rank as of Mar. 16, 2018	% of Class Completed FAFSA	'18-'19 Completers	'17-'18 12th Grade Enrollment	% of HS with No Data to Date
TENNESSEE	1	72.8%	53,197	73,081	8.0%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2	62.2%	3,049	4,900	6.6%
MASSACHUSETTS	3	59.4%	45,453	76,458	9.0%
KENTUCKY	4	59.1%	28,054	47,465	12.1%
ILLINOIS	5	58.3%	90,404	155,038	6.4%
LOUISIANA	6	57.9%	28,398	49,088	7.2%
MAINE	7	57.2%	8,105	14,162	7.3%
CONNECTICUT	8	57.2%	25,003	43,703	7.3%
NEW JERSEY	9	56.9%	59,616	104,814	7.7%
RHODE ISLAND	10	56.6%	6,360	11,244	6.9%
DELAWARE	11	55.8%	5,658	10,137	10.1%
MARYLAND	12	53.9%	35,065	65,054	7.5%
OHIO	13	53.9%	66,961	124,332	9.2%
WEST VIRGINIA	14	53.4%	9,993	18,708	4.8%
NEW YORK	15	53.3%	115,798	217,090	9.6%
HAWAII	16	51.4%	7,168	13,945	8.5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	17	50.5%	8,025	15,877	3.4%
CALIFORNIA	18	50.1%	256,700	512,204	16.9%
MICHIGAN	19	49.8%	59,074	118,554	13.2%
IOWA	20	48.8%	19,211	39,338	5.1%



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Through March 16, what percent of your state's seniors had completed a FAFSA? What is your state's change year-over-year?



% Change in Completions Year-Over-Year

	Rank as of March 16, 2018	Year-Over-Year % Change	'18-'19 Completers	'17-'18 12th Grade Enrollment	% of HS with N to Date
LOUISIANA	1	36.8%	28,398	49,088	7.2%
NEVADA	2	10.0%	13,253	33,068	11.7%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	3	9.6%	3,049	4,900	6.6%
ARIZONA	4	8.9%	30,687	88,070	23.8%
ALABAMA	5	7.8%	23,877	54,502	7.5%
SOUTH CAROLINA	6	7.3%	22,029	49,932	11.1%
IDAHO	7	6.6%	5,799	22,354	11.2%
GEORGIA	8	6.6%	47,236	115,630	13.9%
UTAH	9	6.2%	13,882	47,997	13.9%
MISSISSIPPI	10	6.0%	15,124	32,906	8.0%
RHODE ISLAND	11	5.9%	6,360	11,244	6.9%
NORTH CAROLINA	12	5.5%	51,941	106,788	10.8%
FLORIDA	13	4.8%	83,933	205,451	23.0%
VIRGINIA	14	4.8%	46,763	96,773	9.0%
MARYLAND	15	4.3%	35,065	65,054	7.5%
IOWA	16	4.0%	19,211	39,338	5.1%
CALIFORNIA	17	3.7%	256,700	512,204	16.9%
NEBRASKA	18	3.5%	12,922	26,689	5.8%
TEXAS	19	3.3%	154,278	349,078	13.0%
DELAWARE	20	3.2%	5,658	10,137	10.1%

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
A program under The Board of Regents

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.