

LOSFA LOOP

November 2015

Volume 8-11

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Unknown

“A picture is worth a thousand words. An interface is worth a thousand pictures.”

Ben Shneiderman

These quotes make the perfect segue for our update on Louisiana College Application Month. Here is one picture from Avoyelles High and 1,000 words from the students themselves:



“Louisiana College Application Month actually gave me a chance to sit down and fill out a College application to a college of my choice. I wanted to do it but never really had the

time and my school and LOSFA actually set time aside to help me and give me the opportunity to fill out the application.”

“My experience helped me fill out my very first college application and it is the next step to me getting into college.”

“I like that you all take the time out to help our students at Landry Walker because a lot of schools don’t really

get these opportunities to get this kind of experience.”

“I enjoyed having help with applying for college and having the fee waived. Also, I liked talking to representatives about the college I am interested in.”

“This was a fun free way to sign up for college and I feel it was a fun informative process.”

“I love the program and I am very thankful for you guys taking time out to come to our school.”

“I really liked the help given by the people who’re going to pay for our applications. Also, the support was nice because I didn’t think this would be possible.”

“The people that came from the colleges were very helpful and if you had questions they would answer with a definite answer.”

“This event was good because many people don’t see Glen Oaks as a good school but Ms. Charlie Lewis came to spend time with us. This was a good thing for me.”

“It was a good experience. I would like to experience many more things. Thanks to ya’ll I have applied to my college of choice.”

“I was able to sit down and take the time to fill out applications instead of procrastinating.”

“I really enjoyed it because it helped me decide which college I’m attending.”

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LOSFA/GEAR UP Alumni
Trailblazer Amber Peltier

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From the Desk of the Executive Director (continued)

"It was the most thoughtful experience because to help out the seniors with filling out college applications helped me out a lot with wondering about which college I would like to go to and what I want to major in."

"I'm ready for the next level!"

"I got a lot of help :)"

"I'm really happy you guys came to help my school because if you all didn't I know that most of us would not have even thought twice about college or its prep. Thank you all!"

"It was a great experience. I was able to gain some interest in colleges I haven't heard of before."

"TRUELY READY!"

"This was a great program to help students plan their future."

"It was cool, learned a lot about applying and what it takes. Now I do realize how important and big of a task it is to apply to colleges."

"The chance to actually receive information about college and fees was really appreciated and lovely. I feel a little more prepared now."

"Overall the experience was great! I got the help I needed when applying for colleges and it was very much needed. They helped clear up any confusion of mine and now I have filled out college applications for multiple colleges and I am very proud of myself."

"This is a great idea for seniors. If it wasn't for this, I probably would have waited last minute to apply for a college."

"It really helped me realize what I need to accomplish in order to be prepared for college."

"My experience was great it really showed what having an "enough to get by attitude" will get you in life and if you want more you have to strive to get more out of life."

"The people who helped us apply to college were polite and helped us."

"They took time out of their day to help us and they helped me to understand more about the process."

"It was pretty amazing. They made me take the courage to sign up for a college, because I would always get confused where to sign up for college."

"I appreciate everyone who is helping us apply for college and planting their seeds in our success."

"At first I never knew how to apply for a college until they showed me the steps."

"Great job, you deserve a pat on the back."

"It was exceptionally helpful and glad to know that other people aside from my family want to see me succeed."

"The LOSFA reps are friendly and actually make you want to go to college!"

"I learned very helpful information about the college application process."

"It's a really great program for high school students to participate in!"

"It is awesome!"

"It was fun and very helpful. I gained a lot of information."

"I am proud to be applying for college."

"It was really helpful to me, especially since I did not really know where to start."

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From the Desk of the Executive Director (continued)

"It was informative, motivating and helpful."

"I was very happy and excited about filling out college applications with Louisiana College Application Month."

"The experience was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget."

"It was great! So thankful they came and assisted me in applying for colleges!"

"It was very helpful and thank you all for the great experience and showing me that you all actually care about furthering my education."

"My experience of Louisiana College Application Month is that people help you with your application."

"It was fun to see other people care."

"It's a very appreciated program!"

"Thank you for all the help that was given me."

"It was well organized, happy they took the time out to let us fill out applications for colleges."

"It was fun and I had a great time and this program should be used for other seniors at other schools."

"I was able to receive more information about certain colleges."

"The one on one communication made the process much easier."

"I appreciate you guys for giving us the opportunity to apply for college for free, not many people give us that chance!"

Best,
S.

LOSFA/GEAR Up Alumnus Develops Skills Needed for College Success

Since sixth grade, LOSFA/GEAR UP equipped South Central Louisiana Technical College freshman Kenneil Tassin with the knowledge and necessary skills needed to not only get to college, but the tools he needed to be successful while pursuing his degree and beyond.

Tassin's involvement with LOSFA/GEAR UP began after a representative came to his middle school to talk about summer camps, which he attended annually leading up to his senior year of high school.

"The summer camps' objectives were to make us feel more comfortable with the idea of going to college and to make the transition to college easier," Tassin said. "For example, living on campus for one to two weeks made it easier to be away from home."

The 2015 East St. John High School graduate said that, because of LOSFA's/GEAR UP's programs, college became possible not only for him, but also for his peers. "Handing us the idea of college at such a young age was important for all of us," Tassin said.

Tassin has participated in countless seminars, trips, programs and camps sponsored and provided by LOSFA/GEAR UP.

"All in all, my experience with LOSFA gave me a sense of independence," Tassin said. "You feel better about yourself. You feel like you can do it."

Tassin is majoring in business office administration. He said he is pleased so far with his choice because he is

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LOSFA/GEAR Up Alumni Develops Skills Needed for College Success

taking classes he is interested in and the institution fits his needs.

“My experience is turning out to be what I expected,” Tassin said. “A lot of people have schools in mind, but you need to find the school that is the best for you.” Tassin advises high school seniors to pay close attention to the information that LOSFA presents.

“A lot of the little things that were said, were the most important,” Tassin said. “You will no longer be confined to just what you know, and then you will be able to do so much more.”

LOSFA program coordinator and mentor Khristopher Hobbs has seen Tassin grow into a leader and a gifted individual.

“Kenneil has overcome a lot of obstacles and never lets anything hold him back,” Hobbs said. “Kenneil is and has been a great example for all young men in Louisiana. Since I first met him and began mentoring him, he has never ceased to amaze me. I am very proud of him.”



Kenneil Tassin pictured at the 2015 Louisiana GEAR UP Annual Explorers' Club Statewide Conference and Leadership Summit.

Trailblazer Leading the Way at H.L. Bourgeois High School

LOSFA's Trailblazer Program was revamped this summer to attract student leaders who are involved in their schools and communities and who have the desire to help their peers succeed in their postsecondary endeavors.

Trailblazers need to be passionate individuals who serve their peers, faculty members and members of neighboring schools as necessary. Trailblazers receive

training in financial aid and college access from LOSFA and are then able to directly support their peers in a unique way.

Amber Peltier, a senior at H.L. Bourgeois High School, has gone above and beyond as her high school's Trailblazer. She has created a College Access page where she can update seniors on different deadlines and college information. Amber has also worked closely with LOSFA to make sure that her peers benefit

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Trailblazer Leading the Way at H.L. Bourgeois High School



Amber Peltier, left, pictured with her fellow student Sasha Patterson, right.

from the information this agency has to offer. She reached out to LOSFA's Field Outreach Services team so her classmates could participate in College Kickoff and Louisiana College Application Month events.

Amber coordinated her high school's College Application Month event. She read the site coordinator manual, secured LOSFA representatives to be on site to assist her peers and worked with various staff members to ensure that the event would go smoothly. Ms. Martha Gilley, Technology Coordinator at H.L. Bourgeois, said Amber is the type of student who always gets her work done efficiently and always follows through in a timely manner.

Amber was passionate about making sure that her classmates had the opportunity to apply for college and that they took advantage of the services LOSFA was providing. Amber said that LCAM was beneficial for students because it made them realize that schools have deadlines and made the students accountable for meeting them. She refused to let her peers put

off applying and, without LOSFA, she feels that many students would have missed priority deadlines.

Amber's hard work has not gone unnoticed by her fellow students. "Amber is absolutely amazing. She has been completely positive and understanding throughout this experience," Sasha Patterson, H.L. Bourgeois senior said. "I appreciate all of the time and help she has offered each and every senior. She is so well prepared; she is a true leader."

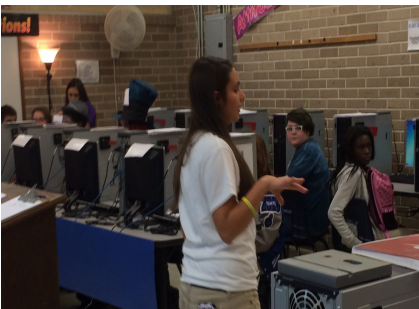
Amber's favorite part of being a Trailblazer has been getting to know her senior class. Being a Trailblazer has allowed her to get to know students on a personal level and to form relationships with her peers from all social circles.

In addition to serving as H.L. Bourgeois' Trailblazer, Amber is also the LOSFA Trailblazer Senate President, the band chaplain and president of Insight for Christ. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Amber also gives back by providing tutoring services in math, Civics and English.

Amber has reached out to other schools in her region to try to help their students. She also assisted South Terrebonne High School seniors with an LCAM event.

"Amber exemplifies everything that a Trailblazer should be," Ebony Holmes, LOSFA Public Information supervisor said. "She is a direct reflection that the Trailblazer changes are working well."

Amber has applied to Nicholls State University and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and plans to major in secondary education. Her major correlates perfectly with her caring personality and her desire to give back and help others.



Amber Peltier helps her fellow classmates during Louisiana College Application Month event held at H.L. Bourgeois High School.

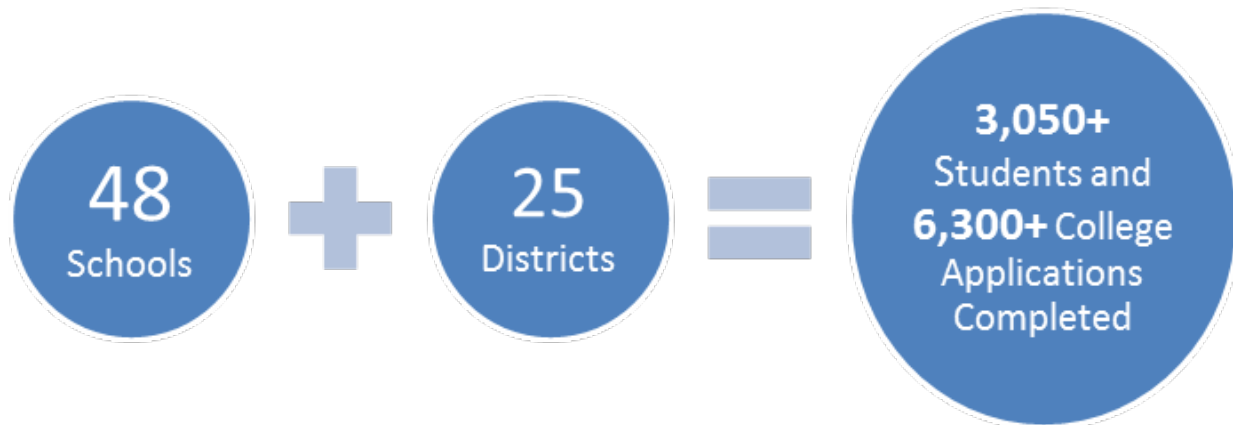
Louisiana College Application Month (LCAM) Events

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance has collaborated with key education partners in the State of Louisiana to develop and implement Louisiana College Application Month for high school seniors in October 2015 as part of the American College Application Campaign.

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC), an effort of the American Council on Education (ACE), is a national initiative to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students to pursue a postsecondary education. The purpose is to help high school seniors navigate the college admissions process and to ensure that each participating student submits at least one admissions application.



In 2013, the Louisiana GEAR UP program, in conjunction with the Lafayette GEAR UP program, launched its Louisiana College Application Week pilot program in 25 high schools. In 2014, more high schools participated in LCAM with a total of 54 high schools hosting college application events. Due to the success of the Louisiana College Application Week pilot, during this year, LOSFA expanded this initiative from the entire month of October to the first week of November, along with inviting all the interested Louisiana high schools to participate. Some of the students were also able to create their FSA ID.



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Louisiana College Application Month (LCAM) Social Media Coverage

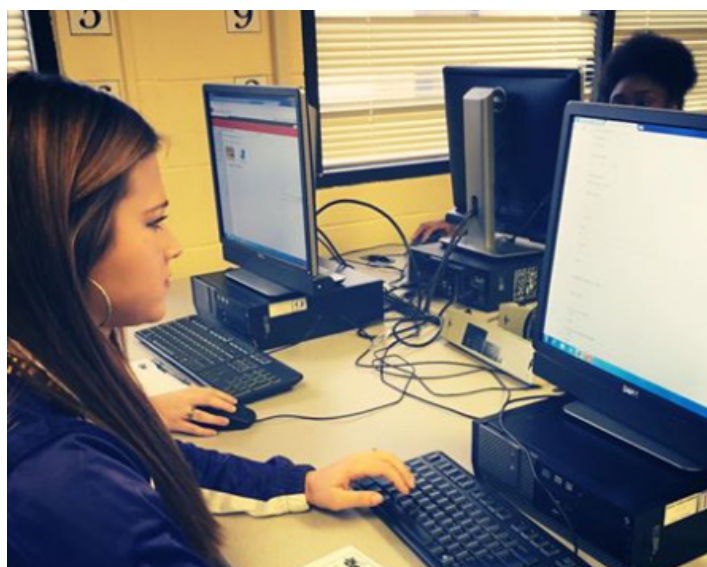
#ApplyToCollege and #GeauxApply are trending on social media. Here is an excerpt of the buzz being generated by some of the recent LCAM events throughout the state through our live on-site social media campaigns.



Here are a few quotes from students, faculty and members of local communities about the LCAM events and LOSFA's partnership with Louisiana high schools.

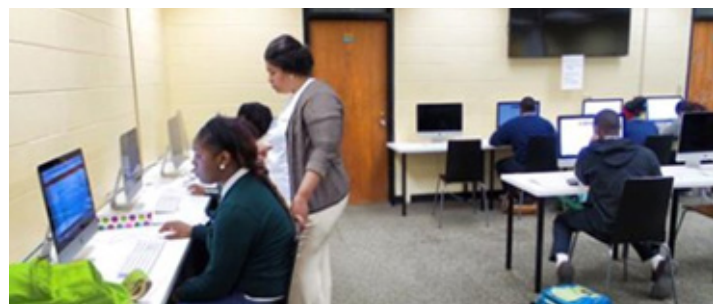
 **LOSFA at Jeanerette Senior High School**
November 3 at 11:00am · 🌐

“Without the lady’s help today, I would not have been able to do it myself,” said Jeanerette Senior High School senior Macy Broussard about LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application Month event. “They showed me step by step exactly what to do. They made applying for college so much faster and easier. They answered every question I had.” #GeauxApply#ApplyToCollege

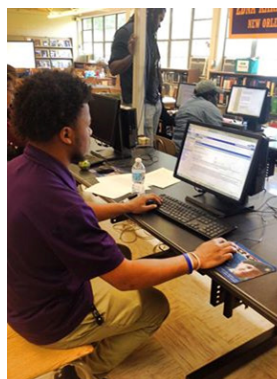


 **LOSFA added 2 new photos — at Southern University Laboratory School.**
October 23 at 2:30pm · Baton Rouge, LA · 🌐

LOSFA Field Outreach Services Director, Dr. Tireka Cobb, and program coordinator, Juterh Nmah, helping Southern University Laboratory School seniors apply to college as part of LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application Month event.



 **LOSFA at Edna Karr High School**
October 22 at 11:00am · 🌐



“Ms. Juterh Nmah helped me a lot with applying,” said Edna Karr High School senior Ahsari Cadres about LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application Month event. “She made sure I did everything correct, and she read my admissions essay. Also when she was assisting other students, other supervisors came to help me. Dr. Cobb helped me a lot with my essay.”

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Louisiana College Application Month (LCAM) Social Media Coverage (continued)



LOSFA at East Saint John High School

October 21 at 1:00pm · 🌐

District Coordinator Shannon Smith thinks the partnership East and West St. John High Schools have with LOSFA is beneficial.

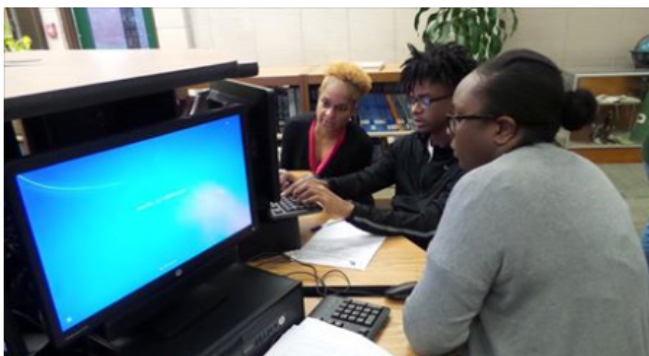
“I think it’s important because it gives the students an opportunity to see an outside resource assist with college,” Smith said. “Teachers tell the students that it’s important to go to college, but when they see that outside resource, that third person, that’s when it clicks for them.



LOSFA at Ponchatoula High School

October 21 at 11:00am · 🌐

LOSFA program coordinator Juterh Nmah lending a hand to Ponchatoula High School senior Allen Cotton and parent Cassandra Cotton during an event for seniors at Ponchatoula High School.



LOSFA at LaGrange High School (Louisiana)

October 12 at 12:28pm · Edited · 🌐

As part of Louisiana College Application Month, we are at LaGrange High School (Louisiana) helping the class of 2016 complete at least one college application. #ApplyToCollege #GeauxApply



Instagram

Students and staff members from LCAM events discuss the importance and value of completing college applications.

“College Application Month was great, well-organized, well-thought out and effective,” said Jeanerette Senior High School senior Bradley Ardeneaux about LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application Month event. “Thanks for giving me the opportunity to ask for help in applying for college.” #ApplyToCollege #GeauxApply



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Louisiana College Application Month (LCAM) Social Media Coverage (continued)



losfa001
East Saint John High School

“Y’all help us apply to the college that is perfect for us,” said East St John High School senior Victoria Walker about LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application Month event. #GeauxApply #ApplyToCollege



losfa001
Avoyelles High School

“Today gave me in school time to fill out information,” said Avoyelles High School senior Cody Jackson about LOSFA’s Louisiana College Application event. #GeauxApply #ApplyToCollege



losfa001
Ponchatoula High School

“It’s nice to have people that know how to answer questions and assist since senior year is so stressful,” said Ponchatoula High School senior parent Jena Oubre about LOSFA’s assistance during an event for seniors at Ponchatoula High School. #GeauxApply #ApplyToCollege



losfa001
LaGrange High School (Louisiana)



LaGrange High School senior Deasja Freeman applied to multiple colleges yesterday with us as a part of Louisiana College Application Month. “I think it was a really important event because we found out

what schools to go to and what opportunities we could take advantage of that y’all are offering,” Freeman said. “It was really helpful because I know some people don’t really know what they want to do, and y’all help us out a lot by showing us that there are different ways that we can get scholarships and money.” #ApplyToCollege #GeauxApply



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Louisiana College Application Month (LCAM) Social Media Coverage (continued)



losfa001
Tara High School

Tara High School seniors Gaylord Lee (left) and Kedadrien McElwee (right) applied to various colleges this morning during our Louisiana College Application Month event. Both seniors were thankful for the event because they said they would have applied to colleges much later in the school year. "It was an important event because I would have never applied to college this early, so this opened my eyes," McElwee said. "It was a good event because most of us probably would have applied at the last minute."



LOSFA @LOSFA · Oct 22

"With their assistance, I was able to complete four college applications," Calloway said. @EdnaKarrHS



LOSFA @LOSFA · Oct 22

"My experience with LOSFA was amazing," said @EdnaKarrHS senior Kiana Calloway.



LOSFA
@LOSFA

Oct 21

LOSFA reps Juterh Nmah and Charlie Lewis assisting Ponchatoula High seniors and parents @denise_latour #GeauxApply
pic.twitter.com/pb5GaMEHsY



LOSFA
@LOSFA

"I really needed help to apply for college and learn how to do it," said @SULabKittens senior Assata Smith about LOSFA's Louisiana College Application Month event. "It's all very important because everybody needs to go to school to further their education." #GeauxApply

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.