



## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."  
Wayne Dyer

Here's why we are totally on board with Dyer's words:

### October of the **Past**:

- ✓ Find Your College Match and Fit
- ✓ Apply to those schools
- ✓ Wait until January to see if you qualify for Federal aid

### October of the **Present**:

- ✓ Find Your College Match and Fit
- ✓ Apply to those schools
- ✓ Complete Your FAFSA: Apply for Financial Aid using your 2015 Tax Return
- ✓ Get Results and Start Planning Your Postsecondary Future

Most of us in the college access world have talked about the possibility of using prior-prior year as a way to simplify the FAFSA process and make it easier for families to identify available aid much earlier in the college application and continuation process. Many thought that this day wouldn't come anytime in the near future...and now it's here. Policy makers changed the way they looked at things and now the things they are looking at have changed...to benefit students and families.

How have the things we are looking at changed for students?

- Families can transfer tax information directly into the FAFSA using information completed from the previous year
- Students and parents have access to federal aid eligibility information earlier
- Students and parents have the opportunity to use this information to evaluate cost of choice

How have the things we are looking at changed for college access entities?

- College access entities can integrate the application process with the financial aid process
- College access entities are in a better position to encourage 100% completion
- College access entities can assist more students with gaining access to sources of aid awarded on a first come, first served basis

The results are a fast start for students, parents, college access professionals and federal processors. When I asked Dr. Tireka Cobb, Director of Field Outreach Services, which events have been the most effective she replied, "Those events that are taking place at the school level...We have to let students drive this process."

I couldn't agree more. Read on to see what that change looks like!

Best,  
S.

### ***In this edition. . .***

***From the Executive Director's Desk*** 1  
***Louisiana College Application and Access Month***  
***(LCAAM)*** 2-4

***What Students Are Saying*** 5  
***October Compete to Complete Winner*** 6

## 2016 Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM) a Huge Success!

The 2016 Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM) activities were conducted in 86 high schools across the state (up from 48 participating high schools in 2015) during October and early November. As of November 17, 56 schools had reported their results. Thus, with information from 30 additional schools still outstanding the numbers for 2016 are as follows:

Students Participating = 3,802 (up from 3,050 in 2015)

College Applications Completed = 5,369

FSA IDs Obtained = 1,303\*

FAFSAs Initiated/Completed = 446\*\*

Match & Fit Surveys Completed = 443\*\*\*

Final and complete results will be forthcoming in the December issue of the LOSFA LOOP.

\*FSA IDs are required for both the student and the parent in order to electronically sign the online FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

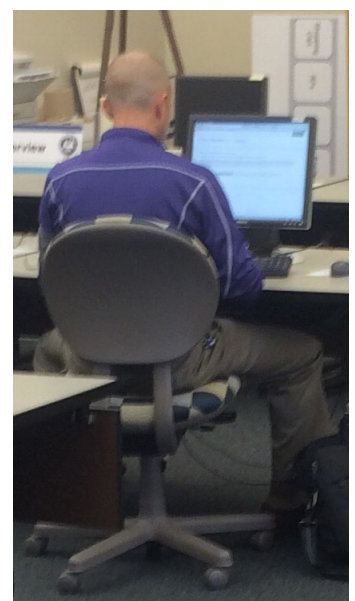
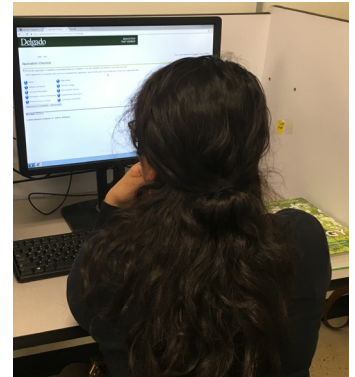
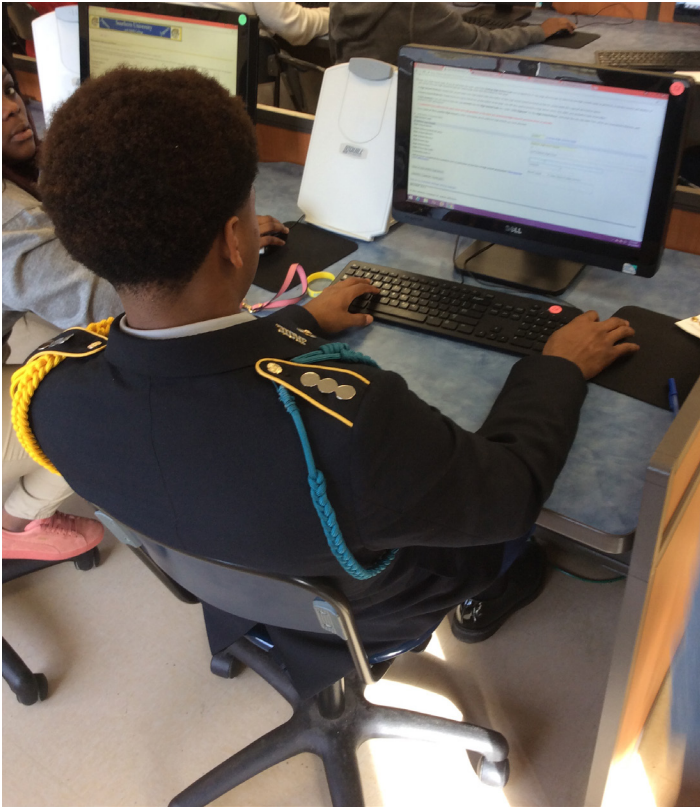
\*\*2016 marks the first year that the FAFSA for the next academic year became available for completion and submission on October 1. FAFSA is the all-in-one application for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship, the Louisiana Go Grant (the state's need-based aid program), Federal Pell Grants, Federal Work Study programs, low interest Federal loans, and many campus-based institutional scholarships. 2016 marks the first year that the FAFSA has been available before January. The earlier submission dates were facilitated by switching to requiring prior-year Federal Income Tax data. Thus, applications for the 2017-18 academic year will use 2015 (NOT 2016) tax data. The earlier applications are completed and submitted, the earlier students can be considered for fall-deadline scholarship opportunities. Also, by determining earlier what (if any) federal aid is available, students can better budget for the funds they will need to come up with from other sources.

And finally, LOSFA can begin to match FAFSA data with ACT test data for TOPS eligibility purposes much earlier, leaving only a core grade match to be done post high school graduation. In the course of matching FAFSA and ACT data, errors that would result in processing delays can be identified and corrected much earlier.

\*\*\*The Match and Fit surveys are based on LOSFA's 5-Point Match system that enables students to find the best postsecondary option for their career goals. The LOSFA 5-Point Match allows students to compare potential schools based on 1) their career aspirations; 2) what postsecondary institutions offer the desired program of study and what the admission requirements are; 3) what the cost is for the programs of study under consideration; 4) the student's comfort level with the physical environment (urban setting vs. rural setting, large student body and class sizes vs. small campus and class sizes, etc.); and 5) success rates of other students like you succeeded in the chosen field of study at the institution being considered.

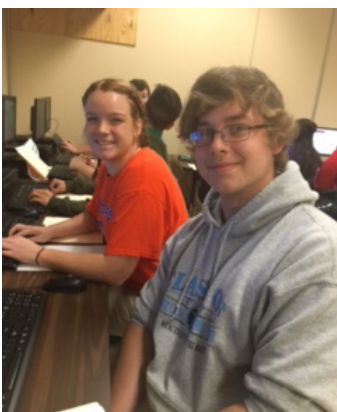
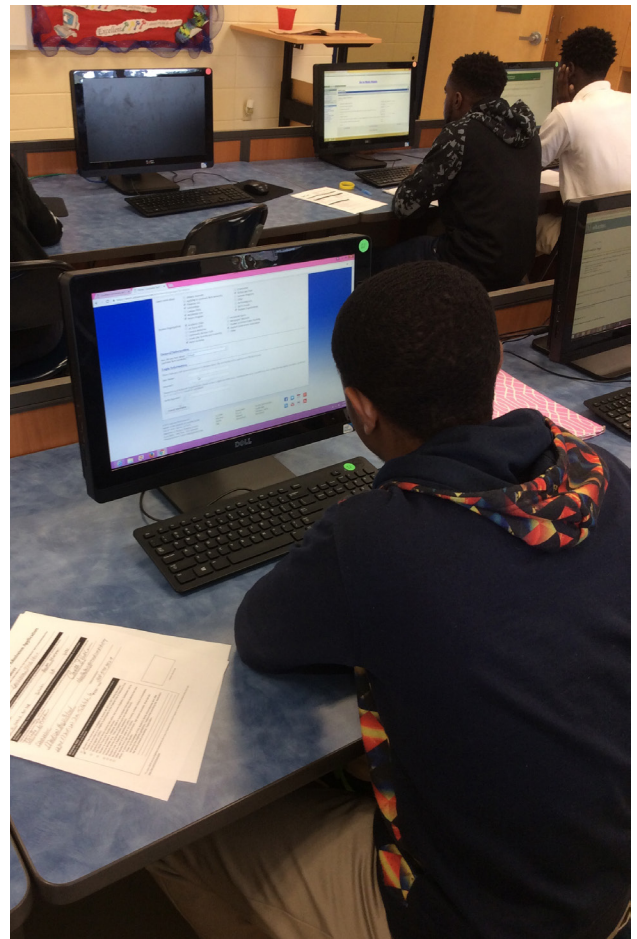
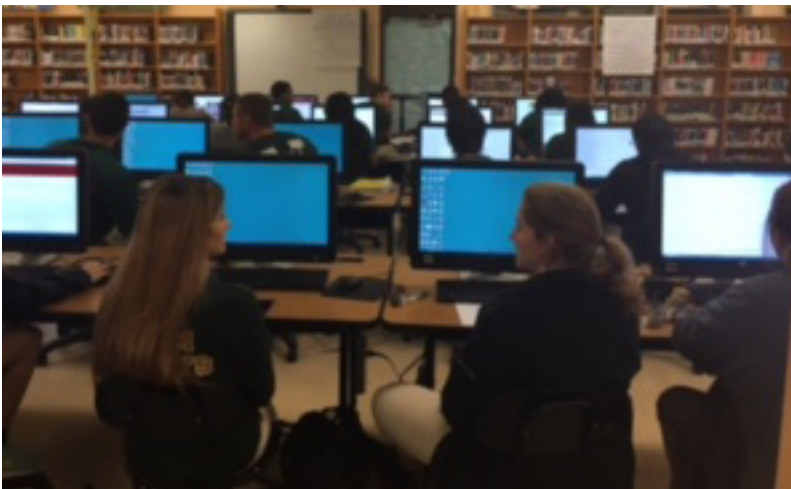
FAFSA completion events are on-going for the remainder of the current academic year. Students and parents are encouraged to complete and submit their FAFSA as soon as possible for the reasons/benefits stated herein. If you, or someone you know, is in need of FAFSA completion assistance, they should text LOSFA at [custserv@la.gov](mailto:custserv@la.gov) and ask about events in their area.

## 2016 Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM) a Huge Success!





## 2016 Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM) a Huge Success!





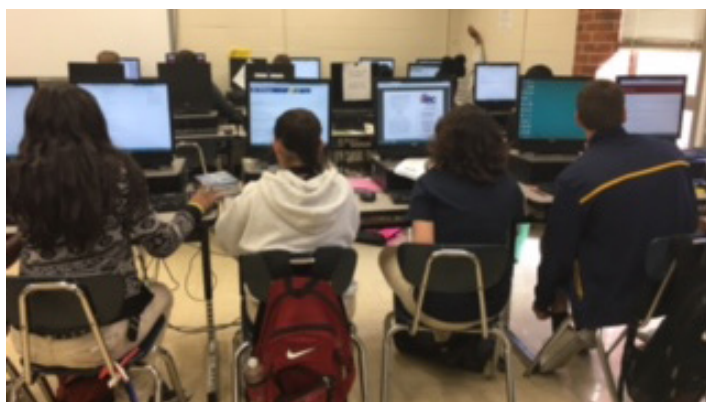
## What Students are saying about LCAAM and FAFSA Completion Events

"I learned a lot in the past two days. Ms. (Timenee) Thomas really is a great helper. She is kind, beautiful, nice, and a funny person. I applied to so many colleges. This experience has helped me get further into my future. I would like to thank Ms. Thomas for all that she has done." **Anquanik Robinson**

"I have learned a lot in the past two days that Ms. Thomas has been here. I applied to many different colleges. This experience has helped me get one step further into getting into the college I want to be in." **Ma'Thea Pope**

"The workshop (FAFSA) was very informative. The representatives were nice and personable and made it easy for me to ask questions. They explained how the system works and helped me to complete the FSA ID application. I would highly recommend this workshop to many individuals." **Wanda Bullon**

"This was a very helpful tool to have. My son and I were able to apply for FAFSA. He was also able to apply to the colleges that interest him. Juterh was most helpful and knowledgeable. We received impeccable service and attention. I would highly recommend this service to continue and will also spread the word to my coworkers to take advantage of this opportunity. My sincerest thanks." **Lisa Spurlock**



## Baton Rouge Magnet High School Wins the First Month of the Compete to Complete Campaign

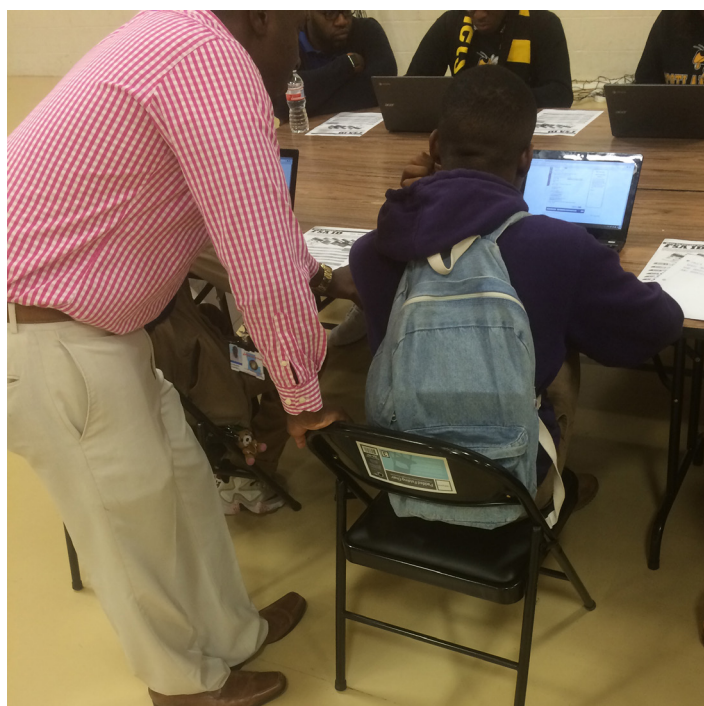
The Compete to Complete campaign started on October 1 with the new opening of the FAFSA. The campaign, which is a competition among all of the public high schools in Baton Rouge, has been underway, and the schools have been getting their applications submitted and completed. For the month of October, several of the local high schools started the campaign off with a bang. Four of the eleven schools had a FAFSA completion rate of at least 10%.

Those schools were Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Northeast High School, Glen Oaks Senior High School, and McKinley Senior High School. Baton Rouge Magnet High School had the highest completion rate for the month at 15.86%, making them the winner of the class pizza party for the month of October.

Northeast High School is close behind with a rate of 11.86%. Glen Oaks Senior High School and McKinley Senior High School are finished the month off with completion rates of 10.34% and 10.14%, respectively.

In addition to the chance to win a class pizza party, individual students with completed applications were entered into school-wide raffles for \$50 vouchers for graduation supplies. Eleven students were winners of those vouchers to Herff Jones and Balfour. Eleven vouchers, 89 pizzas, and 196 completed FAFSA applications mark the success of the first month of the Compete to Complete campaign, and we are geared up to experience even more success for the campaign.

**Students at Scotlandville Magnet High School participate in a FAFSA Completion Workshop as part of the Compete to Complete Campaign. A total of 11 high schools in East Baton Rouge Parish are participating in the competition.**



# 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](mailto:custserv@la.gov)

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

Web Address: [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov)



For submissions, opinions, or comments for the LOSFA LOOP, please  
contact Gus Wales at [Gus.Wales@la.gov](mailto:Gus.Wales@la.gov).