



LOSFA LOOP

April 2014 Edition

Volume 7-4

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

Last month I promised you a tell-all about the GEAR UP Explorers' Club Conference and the FLY Tour. The short version is that both events were Awesome!! Okay, so you are probably thinking of course she will say that since it's the LOSFA team. Duly noted...so I'll tell you the rest of the story and I think you'll be

inclined to agree.

Imagine...

A room filled with high school juniors and seniors working collaboratively with their teammates and sponsors to solve challenge questions at 6:00 pm in the evening. Instead of moaning and groaning, they are singing, dancing and celebrating over the answers to the questions.

A session where LOSFA Scholarship and Grants, College Access Challenge Grant and Public Information staff provide hands-on assistance to students with College Application and FAFSA filing issues.

A panel composed of postsecondary Admissions staff, a local Council of Student Body Presidents leader, and college students demystifying college life and college applications and admissions.

A session where students got test taking tips and advice from a Psychometric expert who specializes in improving achievement rates for underrepresented students.

A keynote speaker who defied the odds, owns his own

company and tells how to get started when you don't know where to start.

Imagine...

The FLY Tour debut at the Explorers' Club Conference. LOSFA staff showing their talent through voice and verse-telling the stories that show their college access struggles and subsequent successes.

A college access remix written by the cast that you just can't get out of your head.

LOSFA staff crossing the state to bring the FLY tour to schools. Some schools have auditoriums that rival university facilities and some don't even have an auditorium so the production is held in the cafeteria. Cafeteria workers so engaged in the play that they stop their work to hear the stories.

Students so engaged in the play that they shout 'Encore' and are compelled to ask questions after the show ends.

Tears in the eyes of a student touched and reached by the spoken word of a cast member who hails from her small town and is now on stage.

Belly laughter from the principal who is touched by the spoken word of a cast member whose car always put her down but whose fight never ceased.

One word: AWESOME!

Until next month-
Best-
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LOSFA's "FLY TOUR 2014: College Quest"

The F.L.Y. Tour is an innovative approach to educating high school students about financial literacy. F.L.Y. stands for Financial Literacy for You and covers topics ranging from student loans and debt management to bridge programs and admission requirements. This year's F.L.Y. Tour also had a College Quest emphasis and focused on the "summer melt" phase that occurs between the time a student graduates from high school and the time they begin college in the Fall.

The College Quest aspect highlighted issues like the consequences of applying late for housing and what options are available for students that fail to meet the new ACT sub-score requirements for Louisiana public universities.

This year's F.L.Y. Team consisted of Ebony Holmes, Kendra Woods, Nyetta Meaux and Britt Kelly. The team once again donned their creative hats to come up with a unique set of skits, poems and a finale that would resonate with high school students while still driving home the importance of financial literacy.

This year's F.L.Y. Tour stopped at 10 schools across the state where the F.L.Y. Team had a chance to perform and afterwards interact with many of the 2,800 students who were impacted by the message that the tour delivered. During an interview with two students from MSA West, the students admitted that prior to seeing the F.L.Y. performance they really didn't know much about the importance of applying for housing early or the fact that ACT sub-scores are available in the Louisiana Connect portal.

The 2014 F.L.Y. Tour ended on a high high note, being well received by not only students, but teachers and administrators as well. The F.L.Y. team's non-traditional delivery of important information is a welcome change from the norm for most students and disseminates information in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, ensuring that LOSFA once again upholds its mission to promote and provide college access.



LOSFA Accepting Applications for John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance is accepting applications for the 2014 John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program until Wednesday, April 30, 2014. The program provides for the payment of eligible educational loans for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens who have been employed full time (at least 30 hours per week) as prosecutors or public defenders for at least one year as of Dec. 31, 2013. Applicants also must have at least \$20,000.00 in remaining eligible loan debt and must not be in default on any federal student loans.

The award recipients will be chosen from the Louisiana Circuit Courts of Appeal Districts. Two prosecutors and one public defender will be awarded from the Louisiana

First, Second, Third and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeal Districts. Four prosecutors and two public defenders will be awarded from the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal District.

The annual award amount for an eligible prosecutor is \$2,450.00, and the annual award amount for an eligible public defender is \$4,900.00. Eligible loans under this program include Federal Stafford Loans (both FFELP and William D. Ford Federal Loan Direct Loans), Federal Graduate PLUS Loans, Federal Consolidation Loans and Federal Perkins Loans.

Eligible applicants who are interested in applying for the award or who would like more information are encouraged to visit the LOSFA website, <http://www.osfa.la.gov>. The application can be accessed through the Louisiana Award System found on the homepage.



GEAR UP Explorers' Club 2014 Annual Leadership Summit



GEAR UP Alumna Makes Good in STEM Career



Tamara A. Alexander
2012 SUBR Graduate,
College of Engineering

Tamara A. Alexander, a 2012 Southern University graduate and Process Control Systems Engineer at IHI E&C International Corporation in Houston, Texas, credits her LA GEAR UP experience, which began at Mansura Middle School, with some of her success.

Tamara continued with LA GEAR UP through her graduation from Avoyelles High School in 2008. Next stop: Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR). It was there that Ms.

Alexander applied her

GEAR UP Rewards for Success (RFS) scholarship award toward a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, an area in which men earn a disproportionately higher number of college degrees than do women.

While at SUBR, Tamara began giving back. She assumed student leadership roles in the College of Engineering's programs for youth interested in the STEM field, the

Engineering Summer Institute, and a week-long technology awareness program for middle and high school students interested in all fields of technology.

Ms. Alexander also worked in several research positions throughout college, positions she says gave her the opportunity to explore various aspects and fields of engineering. The summer of 2010 was especially rewarding; a project Ms. Alexander worked on at the Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Sciences resulted in her recognition as a co-writer of an article that was presented at the 2010 Conference of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Throughout the remainder of her college career, Ms. Alexander worked with SUBR's NextGen C³ Composites Crest Center, where she once again delved into research.

In Houston, Ms. Alexander currently provides a full range of engineering services, including front end engineering design (FEED), conceptual studies, and detailed engineering. She brings an awareness of environmentally-friendly trends to the engineering table, most notably in the implementation of control system technologies designed to help companies increase productivity and safety while reducing cost "in a world that is increasingly becoming more environmentally conscious."

Supporting women STEM students and researchers is not only an essential part of America's strategy to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world; it is also important to women themselves. Women in STEM jobs earn 33 percent more than those in non-STEM occupations and experience a smaller wage gap relative to men. And STEM careers offer women the opportunity to engage in some of the most exciting realms of discovery and technological innovation. Increasing opportunities for women in these fields is an important step toward realizing greater economic success and equality for women across the board.

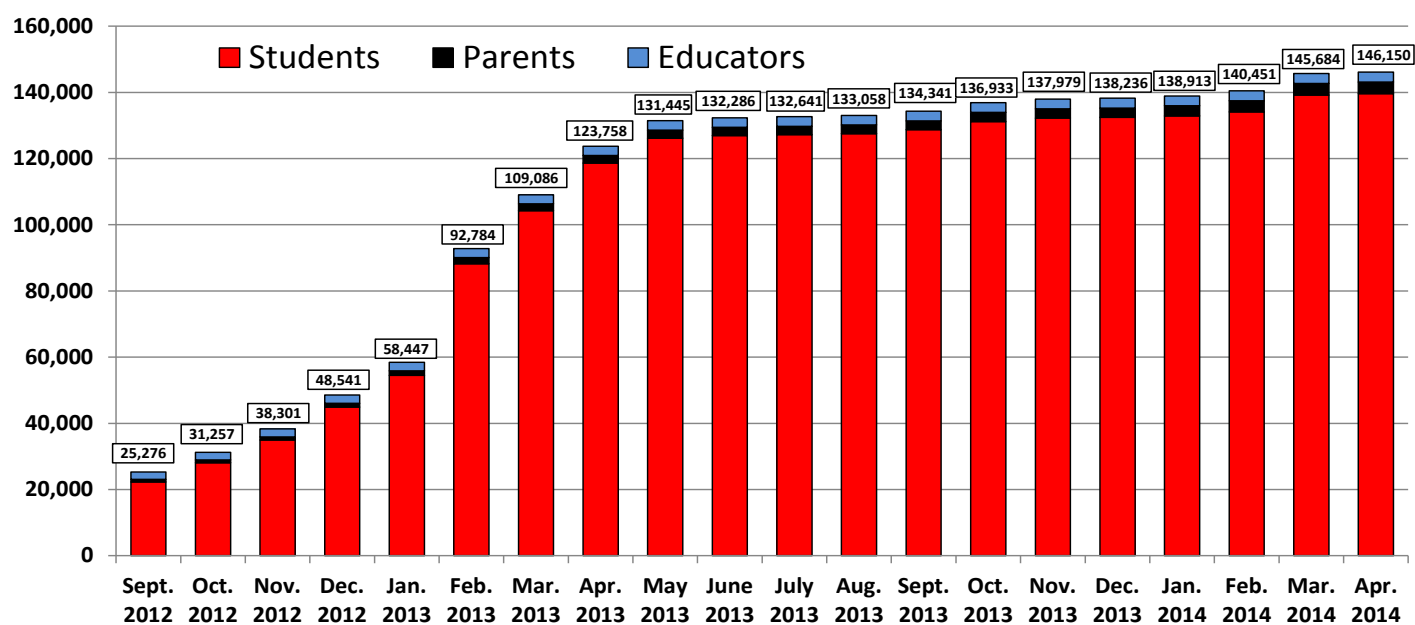
Source: www.whitehouse.gov

LOUISIANA CONNECT

your first choice for college and career access...



Active Users



The April 2014 data is as of 4/2/2014.

The current total of 145,150 Louisiana Connect users is comprised of 139,653 Students, 3,507 Parents, 1,567 Community Administrators, 535 Professional School Counselors, 880 Teachers, and eight Scholarship Managers.

LOSFA's Social Media Sites



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



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



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



www.Flickr.com/LOSFA



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
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