



From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

As we begin this year and contemplate the past year, Dr. King's words affirm the purpose of our work in the field of college access.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Looking back at 2014, I can say with confidence that our staff has worked tirelessly with those of you in the field to fulfill the intent of dedicating our days to helping others. LOSFA staff undertook a major shift as we refocused our efforts on providing direct assistance to students and families. Our effort at 'Taking it to the Seats' yielded dividends by positively affecting the lives of students and families. Here's what our highlight reel looks like:

College Kick Off

Our staff started the year off by getting students excited about college as a possibility. From certificates and credentials to two and four year degrees-our staff turned it up with students by laying out the Senior Game Plan at pep rally like events across the state.

College Application Month

Staff hit the road again to provide hands on assistance to

students with the 5-Point Match method of identifying and applying to colleges that best fit the students. We increased the length of the program from one week to one month; resulting in an exponential increase in students, in college applications and in the number of students who applied to more than one school.

Area Leadership Programs

Staff accelerated efforts to empower students to take ownership of college access at their schools. We invited student leaders and faculty sponsors to plan events they deemed most effective. Students elected statewide officers and the GEAR UP Youth Congress inaugural class was launched. Students are meeting via Google Hang Out and in person to shape activities that influence their futures- which is the power of empowerment!

Signal Vine

Our text messaging campaign to high school seniors and first year TOPS recipients is in full swing. We've received great feedback from the students and we've gotten requests for assistance that we can respond to immediately. This has proven to be the ultimate way of widely disseminating information directly to those affected most.

We've gotten a lot done and we know we still have a lot to do. We are barreling down the home stretch towards college with our students this spring and we are up for the challenge. Here's to a phenomenal 2015!

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March 1 is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

Louisiana's eighth annual College Goal Sunday will be held on March 1, 2015, from 1:30-4 p.m. at fifteen locations around the state. The purpose of College Goal Sunday is to provide students and their families with free professional assistance in completing the primary student financial aid form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Completing the FAFSA is the first step to take in order to receive most forms of federal student aid including Pell Grants, low-interest federal student loans, and the Federal Work Study program. In addition, several state student financial aid programs, including the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship program and the Louisiana Go Grant need-based aid program, require completion of the FAFSA in order to qualify and access funds.

College Goal Sunday is a national program designed to help students navigate the paperwork barriers that stand between them and the money they need to attend college. Completing the form correctly with detailed income, tax and other information can be a difficult task. On College Goal Sunday, financial aid professionals from Louisiana colleges and universities will be on hand to provide free line-by-line assistance.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and will conclude by 4:00 p.m. (this is not a "drop in" event).

Anyone, from a soon-to-be high school graduate to a returning adult student, who is planning to attend any postsecondary institution that participates in the Federal Title IV Aid programs during the 2015-2016 academic year can benefit from attendance. This includes public, private, technical, community, proprietary and career colleges.

Pre-registration for the event is strongly encouraged to ensure that each site has the resources needed

to assist all participants. To do so, log on to <http://www.osfa.la.gov/collegegoalsunday> and click on "Register". The site also provides detailed information including a listing of specific tax and income records and documentation that participants will need to bring to the event and a list of IRS-approved free tax preparation assistance sites for low income families.

College Goal Sunday Louisiana is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), with assistance from the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP), the Louisiana GEAR-UP program, and the Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition with funding from a USA Funds Grant.

For more information, visit www.osfa.la.gov or contact the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at (225) 219-1012 or (800) 259-5626, or by email at custserv@la.us.

2015 Louisiana College Goal Sunday site locations:

Alexandria

Central Louisiana Technical Community College

4311 South MacArthur Drive
Alexandria

Louisiana State University-Alexandria

Brumfield Caffey Ballroom
First Floor Student Center
Alexandria

Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Community College

Magnolia Building
Baton Rouge

Southern University

T.H. Harris Annex
Multi-Purpose Room #118
Baton Rouge

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March 1 is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

Bossier City

Bossier Parish Community College
Building D, Room 215
Bossier City

Hammond

Southeastern Louisiana University
Fayard Hall - Main Lobby
Hammond

Schriever

Fletcher Technical Community College
Main Building
Rooms 213 and 217
Schriever

Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Moody Hall, Room 103
Lafayette

Lake Charles

SOWELA Technical Community College
Arts and Humanities Bldg.
First Floor Multi-Purpose Room
Lake Charles

Monroe

Louisiana Delta Community College
Monroe Campus
7500 Millhaven Road
Louisiana Purchase Building, 3rd Floor, Room 310
Monroe

New Orleans Area

Delgado Community College – West Bank Campus
Building 1, Room 130
2600 General Meyer Avenue

Dillard University

DUICEF HALL, Room 106
New Orleans

Southern University (SUNO)

College of Business and Public Administration Bldg.,
Room 101
New Orleans

Xavier University

Convocation Annex, Room 111
New Orleans

Shreveport

Southern University Shreveport
Jesse Stone Lecture Hall
Shreveport



Trailblazer Volunteers help students register for College Goal Sunday.



Parents and students begin filling out the FAFSA with assistance from financial aid volunteers.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAYSM



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the required application for most federal, state and institutional student financial aid. Filling out this single application gets you considered for the TOPS scholarship program, the Louisiana Go Grant, the federal Pell Grant, student work study programs, low interest federal student loans, and many campus-based scholarship and grant programs.

On March 1, 2015, Louisiana College Goal Sunday will take place at locations around the state. Financial Aid professionals from area postsecondary institutions will be on hand at each site to offer free assistance with completing the FAFSA.

Doors will open at 1:30 and the program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Louisiana College Goal Sunday is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA). Participating partner organizations include Louisiana GEAR UP, the Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition, and the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) with funding from a USA Funds grant.

2015 Louisiana College Goal Sunday Locations:

Baton Rouge Community College
 Bossier Parish Community College
 Central Louisiana Technical Community College
 Delgado Community College – West Bank
 Dillard University
 Fletcher Technical Community College (Schriever)
 Louisiana Delta Community College
 Louisiana State University-Alexandria
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 Southern University Baton Rouge
 Southern University New Orleans
 Southern University Shreveport
 SOWELA Technical Community College
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 Xavier University

For more information:

www.osfa.la.gov/collegegoalsunday

To register:

www.osfa.la.gov/register

2014-2015 GO Grant Billing Update

All Fall Go Grant billing deadlines have passed and the Fall Go Grant billing process is complete.

As of January 1, 2015, Fall and Winter Go Grant payments for 2014-2015 total \$11,593,548 leaving a Go Grant program balance of \$13,061,177.

Schools may begin billing for Spring 2015 after the conclusion of the 14th class day at semester schools and after the conclusion of the 9th class day at term schools.

The scheduled deadlines for Winter and Spring billing are listed at right. As always, if a billing deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next business day. Extended billing deadlines due to weekends or holidays are noted.

Winter Term Billing Deadlines:

January 17 – Billing Deadline (Extended Deadline – Tuesday, January 20)

February 1 – Billing Correction Deadline (Extended Deadline – Monday, February 2)

Spring Semester Billing Deadlines:

March 24 – Billing Deadline

April 11 – Billing Correction Deadline (Extended Deadline – Monday, April 13)

Should you have questions or need assistance with Go Grant, contact Erica Hughes at 225-219-7707 or Erica.Hughes@la.gov.



LOSFA Director of Public Information and Communications, Gus Wales, attended the December Louisiana Jump\$tart Coalition's Partners meeting to bring the group up to speed on the 2015 College Goal Sunday events which will be held at fifteen locations around the state on March 1. Jump\$tart has participated in previous College Goal Sunday events by hosting a table and distributing free financial literacy information and materials at the Baton Rouge Community College site. The group is aiming to expand that participation to four sites in 2015. Pictured from left to right are:

Jessica Oliver, Pelican State Credit Union; Emily Hester, LSU; Cale P. Smith, Student Financial Management Center; Jillian Sergio, Capital Area United Way; Ann Marie Erie, Neighbors Federal Credit Union; David Wilburn, Teacher at Woodlawn High School; President Blaine Grimes, Campus Federal Credit Union; Dr. Fran Lawrence, LSU College of Business, Dept. of Finance; Dr. Jeanette Tucker, Retired, LSU AgCenter; Claire Loup, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, N.O. Branch; Gus Wales, La. Office of Student Financial Assistance; and Daniel Wendt, LSU Student, College of Business.

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.