



## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

"Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit."

**Frank Borman**

Students, teachers and staff at Edna Karr High School in New Orleans were the embodiment of Borman's words when Google Expeditions came to visit their school!

"Imagine visiting the bottom of the sea or the surface of Mars in an afternoon. With Expeditions, teachers can take their classes on immersive virtual journeys to bring their lessons to life."

*Expeditions Pioneer Program Site*

Imagine the joy of watching a room filled with engaged students and a teacher leading the Expedition like a pro after learning how to use the program earlier that day. Imagine school staff thinking creatively about new ways to integrate the technology into their classroom activities in an effort to increase student exposure, engagement, and in so doing achievement and preparation for postsecondary education. It's a glorious site for a college access professional.

Interest piqued? Want to know more? Here's what Google has to say about the Expeditions Program:

### What are expeditions?

An expedition is a virtual reality platform built for the classroom. Google worked with teachers and content partners from around the world to create more than

100 engaging journeys - making it easy to immerse students in entirely new experiences. Expeditions are guided tours of places school buses can't go. They are comprised of virtual reality panoramas and are led by a guide or teacher. In the session I attended the students from Edna Karr explored Ellis Island, the Egyptian Pyramids, Dubai, The Great Wall of China and Auschwitz...within less than 30 minutes.

"The Expeditions Pioneer Program is just one of the ways Google is helping teachers engage students."

*Expeditions Pioneer Program Site*

Using a tablet, teachers can guide up to 50 students wearing virtual reality viewers. Think cardboard device similar to the Viewfinder from your childhood with a panoramic view! Students are literally immersed in the exploration and thereby engaged.

Teachers can guide their class and point out highlights while referring to editable notes. The teacher I observed looked as comfortable as someone who had been using the technology for weeks. The reality of the situation is that she learned about it that morning!

Borman's words were also demonstrated when the Google team member asked the students for input about the technology and the Explorations they would like to see developed. Their suggestions were as broad and unlimited as their potential: "Can it have sound; Why doesn't it have straps; We'd like to go on an

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## From the Desk of the Executive Director *(continued)*

Expedition to: Paris, Outer Space, College Campuses, Martin Luther King's, I Have a Dream Speech, See the dissection of a cadaver...

Speaking of unlimited potential: Special thanks to Claire Caillier, our LOSFA Media Specialist, for her efforts in making this visit a reality for the students at Edna Karr and for being there to capture it so you can get a glimpse too!

Best,  
S.

Check out <https://www.google.com/edu/expeditions/> to learn more about the Google Expeditions Pioneer Program.

To see the concept in action check out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlYJdZeA9w4>

## Student Quotes from Google Expedition at Edna Karr High School



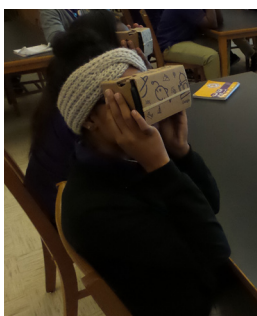
*Why did you have fun?*

"Very fun experience. I felt that I could go places without actually having to go there. I could actually look around and see a monument."

*Why is technology important to your learning?*

"I think it's important because it improves our everyday lives."

**Jaleel Blanchard – senior at Edna Karr High School**



*What did you think about Google Expeditions?*

"I thought it was really cool because it was able to take you to places that you will only be able to experience once in a life time."

*Why do you think this technology is important to your learning?*

"Being that I'm a visual learner, I feel that it helps me go beyond just hands-on. It helps you to interact with your experience and it makes you connect your lessons with what you actually see."

**Ashlee Villavaso – senior at Edna Karr High School**

*Why do you think today was a good experience for the students?*

"I think going through the experience was really good for our kids, because it's a novelty. It's such a new technology. It's something they've never seen. Being able to experience technology first but then travel to so many different places in the world or places that they've been studying that they wouldn't get to experience and actually feel like they've been there is a really special experience."

*What do you think of Google Expeditions as a whole?*

"I think it's a fantastic project. I think it will really open up opportunities for teachers and students in the classroom. It will allow students to almost touch and feel while they are learning."

*How do you feel that Edna Karr had this opportunity?*

"I think it's so special. It's a tribute to how our teachers and our students work really hard. Being able to allow our students to have extra special experiences – we attribute it to the hard work that our teachers and students put in everyday and the recognition that comes from that."

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## Student Quotes from Google Expedition at Edna Karr High School (continued)

*How do you think the partnership your school has with LOSFA is valuable?*

"Partnerships with LOSFA and other organizations are really valuable because we can't do it all here. We have really talented people that work in this building, but we only have so many resources. So the fact you all are able to bring your resources to us and other organizations help us to meet our mission and to meet our goal in making sure that students get the opportunities and exposure they need before they graduate from Karr."

*What did you think when you put those glasses on?*

"I really felt like I was standing on top of the Washington monument. I really felt like I was there and I definitely got engrossed in it just like the kids."

*How did you feel when you saw how engaged the kids were?*

"When you talk to a lot of teachers about 'what do you like about teaching,' you always hear about the moment the lightbulb goes off. This was an example of when the lightbulb goes off. It was fun to see them react to it. They were begging for more."

*Anything else you'd like to add*

"We are really thankful to LOSFA and to Google for bringing this opportunity to our students."

**Emily Ferris – Assistant Vice Principal of Edna Karr High School**

*What do you think about Google Expedition?*

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for all students. It's very affordable and it can bring them to places that very few people get to see in a lifetime and a lot more than the average person gets to see in a lifetime too. It's a good way to tie-in any type of lesson with a visual of actually where it happened, especially history classes, English classes, Spanish classes, etc."

**Students at Edna Karr High School participate in the Google Expedition. Students explored Ellis Island, the Egyptian Pyramids, Dubai, The Great Wall of China and Auschwitz.**

*What did you think about it when you first heard about it versus now after you've seen it in action?*

"I had a brief experience with it before on a personal side, but seeing how it works when they bring it in with the teacher control and the lessons that you can draft from it and read off of and really direct students, blew my mind."

*How did it make you feel when the students reacted?*

"Every time it happened, it was so great. It really lets you know that the students are genuinely interested which is another way to grab their attention and keep them engaged in any lesson to ensure they are learning."

*What do you think about the partnership with LOSFA?*

"It's phenomenal. I'm so grateful to have that resource and being able to utilize LOSFA for opportunities like this. Because now it means that our school can look into purchasing this in the next year and utilizing this in classes. So anything that helps the students is a good opportunity and I'm thankful."

*How do you think today went as a whole?*

"It went well. All the teachers jumped right into it with only 15 minutes of training and they look like they've been doing it for weeks and weeks. I'm very excited. It's been an awesome experience."

**Sean Johnstone – College Advisor at Edna Karr High School**



# Louisiana College Goal Sunday

**February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> are College Goal Sundays in Louisiana**

Louisiana's ninth annual College Goal Sunday events will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1, 2016 at postsecondary school locations around the state. 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). 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, major state student financial aid programs, such as 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.

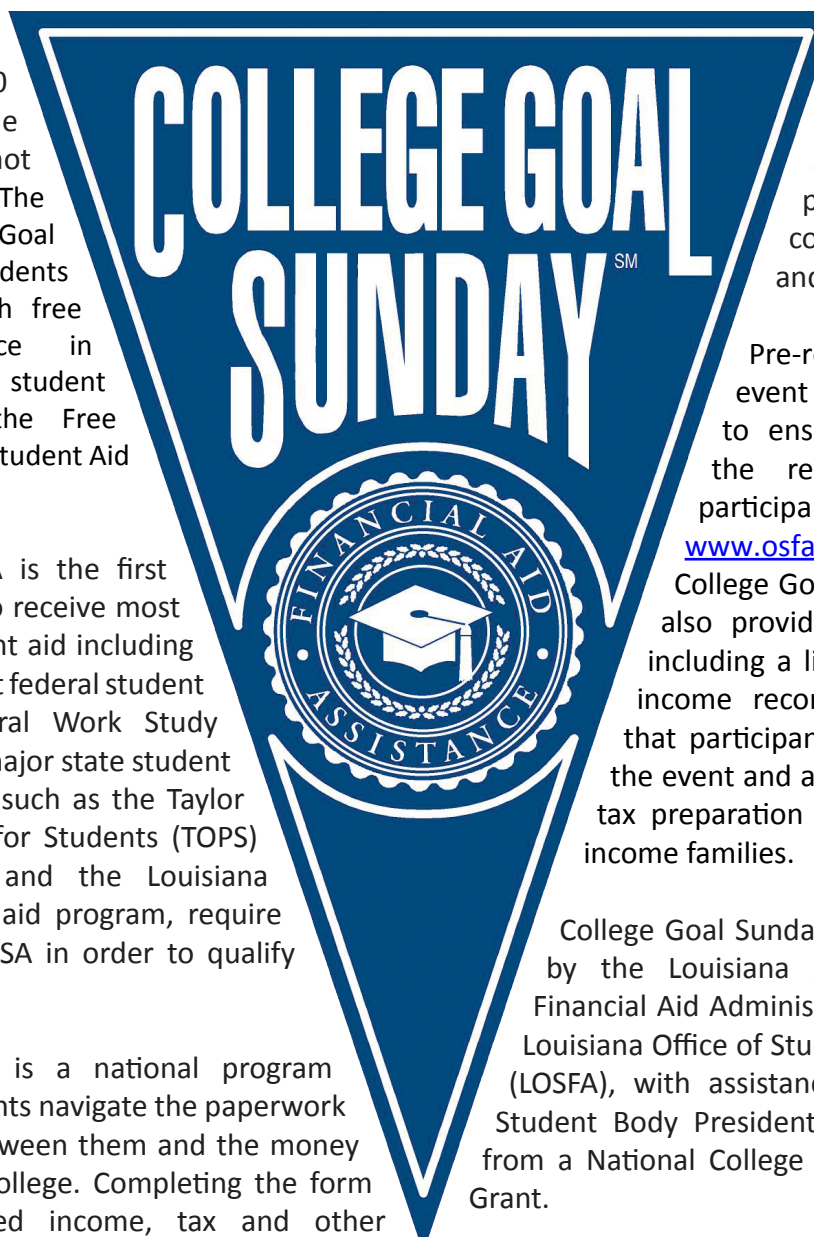
Anyone, from a soon-to-be high school graduate to a returning adult student, who is planning to attend any postsecondary institution that participates in the

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 to assist all participants. To do so, log on to [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov) and click on the College Goal Sunday logo. 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) with funding from a National College Access Network (NCAN) Grant.

For more information, visit [www.osfa.la.gov](http://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](mailto:custserv@la.us).





## 2016 Louisiana College Goal Sunday Locations

### **Sunday, February 28**

#### **Baton Rouge Community College**

Louisiana Board Room  
Room 108  
Baton Rouge

#### **Bossier Parish Community College**

Building D, Room 215  
Bossier City

#### **Delgado Community College West Bank**

Student Life Center  
Westbank Campus  
Algiers

#### **Dillard University**

DUICEF Hall, Room 106  
New Orleans

#### **Fletcher Technical Community College**

##### **Schriever Campus**

Main Building, Rooms 213 and 217  
Schriever

#### **Louisiana Delta Community College**

Monroe Campus – 7500 Millhaven Road  
Louisiana Purchase Building  
Third Floor, Room 310  
Monroe

#### **Louisiana State University – Alexandria**

Brumfield Caffey Ballroom  
First Floor, Student Center  
Alexandria

#### **Southeastern Louisiana University**

Fayard Hall, Main Lobby  
Hammond

#### **SOWELA Technical Community College**

Arts and Humanities Building  
First Floor Multi-Purpose Room  
Lake Charles

#### **Xavier University**

University Center Ballroom  
Room 308  
New Orleans

### **Sunday, March 6**

#### **Central Louisiana Technical Community College**

Student Services, Building A,  
4311 South MacArthur Drive  
Alexandria

#### **Louisiana State University – Shreveport**

University Center Ballroom  
(Second Floor)  
Shreveport

#### **Louisiana Tech University**

Davison Hall Auditorium  
(Rm 113)  
Ruston

#### **River Parishes Community College**

Main Campus  
925 W. Edenborne Parkway  
Room 120  
Gonzales

#### **South Central Louisiana Technical College**

900 Youngs Road  
Young Memorial Main Building  
Morgan City

#### **Southern University – Baton Rouge**

Multipurpose Room  
T.H. Harris Annex Building  
Room 118  
Baton Rouge

#### **Southern University – New Orleans**

College of Business and Public Administration Building  
Room 101  
New Orleans

#### **Southern University – Shreveport**

Jesse Stone Lecture Hall  
Shreveport

#### **University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

Moody Hall  
Room 103  
Lafayette

## John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program Application Period

### ***Application Period is January 1- April 30, 2016***

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is accepting applications for the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program until Saturday, April 30, 2016, for eligible prosecutors and public defenders across the state.

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program in Louisiana provides for the repayment of eligible educational loans (both Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP] and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans) for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors employed in Louisiana who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years.

In order to apply, applicants must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens who have been employed full time

(working at least 30 hours per week) as public defenders or assistant district attorneys for at least one year as of December 31, 2015. Applicants must also have at least \$20,000 in remaining eligible student loan debt and cannot be in default on any federal student loans.

Under the program, 10 eligible prosecutors will be awarded \$1,650.00 each, and five eligible public defenders will be awarded \$3,300.00 each. Two prosecutors and one public defender will be selected from each of the Louisiana Circuit Courts of Appeal.

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 under the Louisiana Award System tab.

## LOSFA Go Alliance Academy

The Go Alliance Academy is a special online college access training program sponsored by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). It gives counselors, teachers and college access professionals the additional knowledge and skills that will assist them in getting more students on a path to college. Go Alliance is a professional multistate network that works in concert with school counselors to increase high school graduation rates, as well as access to post-secondary education and degree completion, particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. LOSFA is the state administrator for the LOSFA Go Alliance Academy.

The Go Alliance Academy provides access to Strategies in College and Career Counseling, a series of online training modules that can improve effectiveness in preparing all students for college — especially

those from low-income families who would be first-generation college students. The original college and career counseling program launched in 2009 and was quickly adopted by 16 states, including Louisiana, to train counselors and college access professionals. The Go Alliance Academy college and career counseling training program offers the most comprehensive program of courses, designed by experts in the field, on the topics counselors want and need most.

A 2014 survey of more than 500 trainees in seven states found that 92 percent of counselors changed their practice as a result of the training; 93 percent started to implement the action plans they developed at the conclusion of the program; and 95 percent would recommend the training to colleagues. Listed

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## LOSFA Go Alliance Academy

below is an excerpt from a LOSFA Go Alliance Academy discussion in the online portal, which demonstrates how participants of the course are provided with resources (in this case, they are using data from the Louisiana Workforce Commission and comparing it to the national data of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics along with other research articles) to enhance their college access support to their students,

“Louisiana’s workforce landscape looks to be different from the national landscape, which isn’t a huge surprise due to its unique location that allows for increased need for employment in trade and energy. What was surprising is that trade, transportation and utilities jobs are declining. Thinking back to the other readings, this is most likely due to the baby boomers now of the age of retirement, which means that the job outlook for that industry will be quickly rising soon. Because of this, I think that it is an opportunity to afford our students the opportunity to attain a high-wage job without necessarily attaining a bachelor’s degree, something that the Georgetown study showed as a very rare thing. I think in that respect, Louisiana’s workforce is different than the national workforce. We afford more employees non-bachelors opportunities to get a high-wage job.”

Go Alliance Academy materials were designed and developed by a team of leading counseling faculty from postsecondary institutions, practicing middle grades and high school counselors (including the 2009 ASCA National Counselor of the Year), curriculum specialists and other content experts. SREB partnered with

national leaders in online education and professional development for the Instructional design, courseware engineering and content maintenance.

Curriculum experts designed the Go Alliance Academy with practical input from some of the nation’s leading school counselors. Counselors participate in the courses as a cohort, which allows for structured online discussions with peers and a trained counselor/instructor. Counselors will see best practices in action, and gain knowledge and resources they can incorporate in their work with students immediately. Through live discussion sessions, they will also gain valuable information on specific state provisions related to financial aid and other programs.

LOSFA has several Go Alliance Academy initiatives currently underway, targeting both pre-service and in-service teachers and counselors. Specifically, LOSFA has a partnerships with several postsecondary institutions and LOSFA is working with those institutions to train pre-service counselors and teachers using the Go Alliance Academy program embedded with current programs. Edna Karr High School in New Orleans is currently hosting a hybrid Go Alliance Academy Program as professional development for in-service practitioners, which is being administered both online and face-to-face to 15 professional school counselors and career and technical education teachers in the New Orleans metropolitan area. While the majority of the coursework is delivered online in the hybrid course, the face-to-face sessions include college access related guest speakers and hands-on activities. To learn more about the LOSFA Go Alliance Academy, please contact Juterh Nmah, LOSFA program coordinator and professional school counselor at [Juterh.nmah@la.gov](mailto:Juterh.nmah@la.gov). To sign up for an upcoming Go Alliance Academy course, please [click here](#).

# 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](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).