



From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

resolve

[ri-zolv]

verb (used with object), resolved, resolving.

1. to come to a definite or earnest decision about; determine (to do something):

What if we spent the beginning of the year setting a specific intention on how as opposed to what... That is the message that was clear to me when I received the angel below as a Christmas gift from a valued team member.



The giver said it made them think of me because it says what I advocate. It is not only a personal and family practice but the belief that there is something each of us does better than anyone else and that our mission is to find that and use it as our purpose is the foundation of much dialogue and the basis of the LOSFA 5-Point Match. This affirmation of message was a bigger compliment than the giver will ever know. It

made me stop and think about the words of wisdom I would need to continue to accomplish this resolve in the upcoming year and the years to come. Here are my Top 10...starting with the one that is most special to me as it is the quote attributed to St. Jerome that became the mantra my late-father raised us to adhere to.

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." *St. Jerome*

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose." *Bishop T.D. Jakes*

Don't spend time beating on a wall, hoping to transform it into a door." *Coco Chanel*

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." *Arthur Ashe*

"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." *Albert Einstein*

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you can never see the shadow." *Helen Keller*

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From the Desk of the Executive Director (continued)

"The size of your success is measured by the strength of your desire; the size of your dream; and how you handle disappointment along the way." *Robert Kiyosaki*

Chances of Success:

"I won't"-	0%
"I can't"-	10%
"I don't know how"-	20%
"I wish I could"-	30%
"I want to"-	40%
"I think I might"-	50%
"I might"-	60%
"I think I can"-	70%
"I can"-	80%
"I am"-	90%
"I did"-	100%

Unknown

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma-which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

Steve Jobs, 1955-2011

Best,
S.

Belaire High School Wins the Compete to Complete Campaign for December



With the New Year came a new Champion for the Compete to Complete FAFSA Campaign for the city of Baton Rouge: Belaire High School. For the month of December, the Bengal Tigers experienced a growth rate of 100%, and their reward will be a pizza party for the senior class. Congratulations Belaire High School!

In addition to having monthly Champions for the campaign, there will also be an overall campaign winner based upon the highest completion rate for the entire competition. The overall campaign winner will be awarded with a grand prize. Currently, Northeast High School leads the way with a completion rate of 44.07%. Next, Baton Rouge Magnet High School follows closely behind with a completion rate of 41.64%. Lastly, Lee

Magnet High School has a completion rate of 30.17%. In spite of the close competition amongst the top three schools, all public high schools in East Baton Rouge Parish have a chance at the title of Compete to Complete Campaign Champion. All the students have to do is keep completing their FAFSAs and increase their completion rates to win. Ultimately, increasing completion rates amongst all of the public high schools in East Baton Rouge Parish will also make the city a winner, as the city was chosen as one of 22 other cities to receive the FAFSA Challenge Grant from NCAN. The grant, which is funded by the Kresge Foundation, is intended to raise the FAFSA completion rates of the chosen cities by at least five percent. For the city of Baton Rouge, our goal is to reach an increase of ten percent.

To keep up with the competition, visit www.competetocompletela.org.

Louisiana GEAR UP Presents 21st Century Scholars Certificates

On January 12, 2017, the Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) presented 21st Century Scholars Certificates to students at McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School. Students in all grade levels received certificates.

The guest speaker was Louisiana's First Lady, Mrs. Donna H. Edwards. During her speech, Mrs. Edwards stated that it was important that the students began preparing for college while in middle school and she believed that one day each one of them would be a college graduate.

As a Louisiana GEAR UP school, students at McKinley will have access to services including tutoring, mentoring, college visits, job shadowing, workshops, counseling and other activities designed to help prepare them for enrollment and success in postsecondary education.



Louisiana's First Lady, Donna H. Edwards, recently spoke to students, who are participating in Louisiana GEAR UP, at McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School.

Louisiana's First Lady, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools Superintendent, Warren Drake and McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School Principal Sean Joffrion listen while Mary Cobb-Marshall introduces the students to Louisiana GEAR UP services that will be provided to them.



Right: McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School student Ayman Azad displays the certificate he received during the ceremony.



Left: McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School student looks over her 21st Century Scholars certificate.



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Louisiana GEAR UP Presents 21st Century Scholars Certificates



Left: East Baton Rouge Parish Schools Superintendent Warren Drake addresses the students during the ceremony. Above: Mr. Sean Joffrion speaks to the students about their certificates. Below: Students are presented certificates at McKinley Middle Academic Magnet School while On-site School Coordinator Monica Hardy, Ms. LaTasha Cristophe, Mr., Sean Joffrion, Superintendent Warren Drake, Ms. Mary Cobb-Marshall, Dr. Sujuan Boutté and Dr. Tireka Cobb congratulate the students.



FAFSA Completion Offered During the Bob Pettit Coca Cola Boys' Basketball Tournament

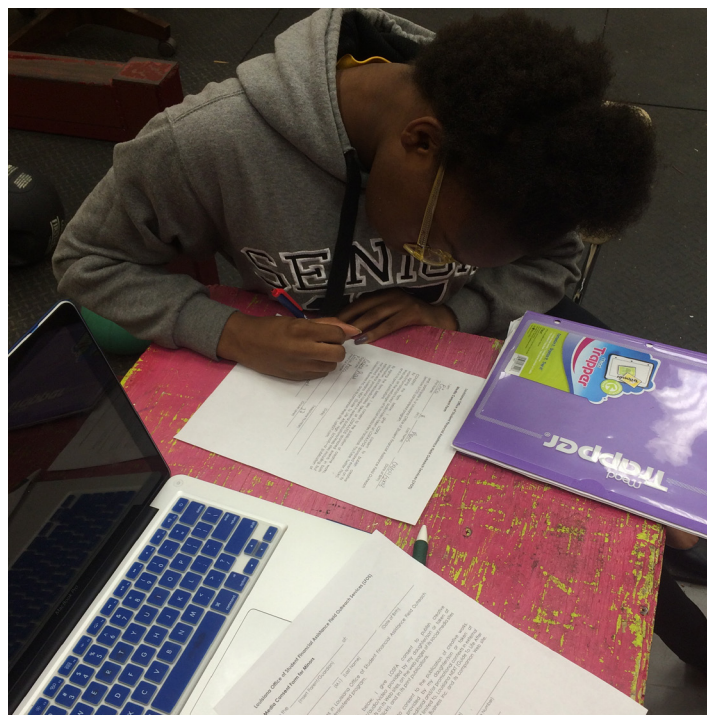
Spectacular guarding, crowd-raising three-pointers, quick rebounding, fierce shot precision, great offense, and magnificent slam dunks all go into the creation of a basketball champion. To become a FAFSA champion, it simply requires awareness of the FAFSA, creation of FSA IDs, and completion or renewal of the FAFSA. From December 26th to December 29th, an All-Star Team of staff from LOSFA, LDOE, and CCTC-BRCC helped create FAFSA champions as they watched their favorite basketball champions compete at the Bob Pettit Coca Cola Boys' Basketball Tournament.



Lynn Williamson: “LOSFA provided our students with a wonderful opportunity to apply for financial aid during the East Baton Rouge Parish Boys' Basketball Tournament. This is a valuable resource for our students to receive money towards college tuition. Thank you to the LOSFA staff for working tirelessly during these four days.”

During the tournament, students were encouraged to visit our team to learn about college access, get information on the FAFSA, create FSA IDs, and complete their applications. Over 50 students, parents, and coaches from 11 high schools and four postsecondary institutions such as Aveda Institute and

Alcorn State University were represented at the 'FAFSA Tournament.' Approximately 40% of them actually completed or renewed their FAFSAs, earning the titles of FAFSA Champions. After completion of the FAFSA, these FAFSA Champions left the room with free food vouchers, a cool t-shirt, and LOSFA gear.



Erica Ross, pictured above: “They were very helpful and helped me get a step closer to earning money for college.

The rewards, however, do not end there. In addition to the tangible gratification of completing the FAFSA, many left with feelings of accomplishment as completion of the FAFSA means potentially qualifying for financial aid for college. In fact, completing the FAFSA may qualify students for more than federal student aid as the name, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, suggests. The FAFSA may also qualify students for state and institutional aid for college including need-based aid and merit-based scholarships.

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FAFSA Completion Offered During the Bob Pettit Coca Cola Boys' Basketball Tournament (continued)

During the tournament, the All-Star Team led many parents and students to winning a victory in completing the FAFSA. One student, Erica Ross, thanked the staff for "helping her get one step closer to earning money for college." The All-Star staff did just that at the Bob Pettit Coca Cola Boys' Basketball Tournament, and the staff looks forward to helping more students "slam dunk the FAFSA" at next year's tournament.

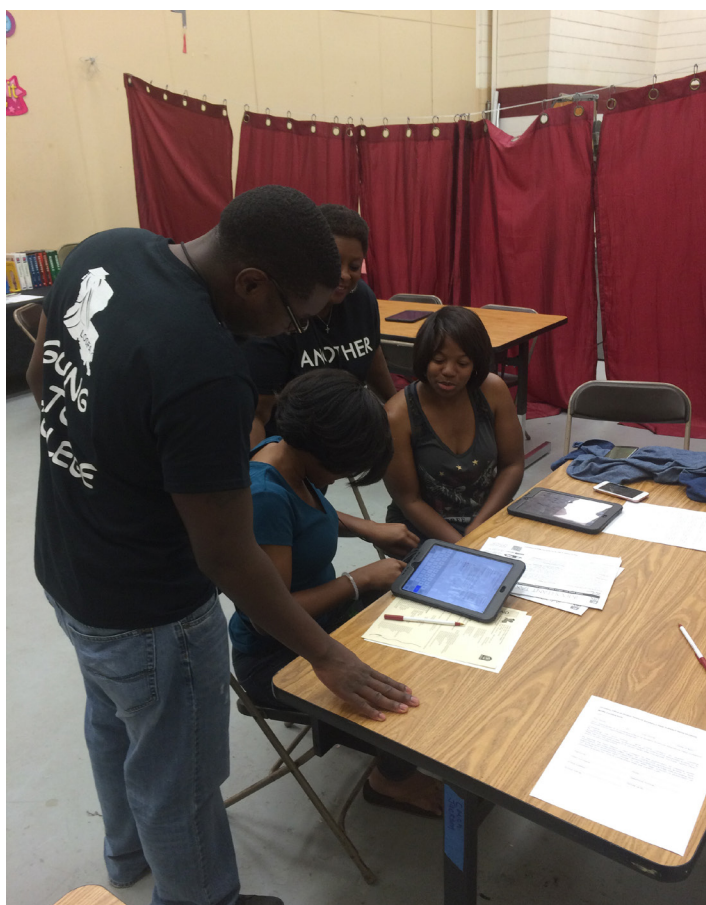
Shalonda Simoneaux, Director of High Schools for East Baton Rouge Parish Schools commented "It's awesome to be able to blend athletics and college readiness in one event, the EBRP Boys' Basketball Tournament. We want our students and parents to have every opportunity to receive assistance preparing for college. LOSFA has made that possible by participating at this event."



Above: Karen Triche: "Our goal is to serve students! With that in mind, any and every opportunity we have should be used to make post-secondary options available and LOSFA does that. It was and is our pleasure to continually support their efforts! Together we do!"

Left: LOSFA staff members Cordero Campbell and Mary Cobb-Marshall help Ariel Green and her parent complete the FAFSA.

Left: LOSFA staff members Breanna Paul, Oscar McClain, Mary Cobb-Marshall, Tiera LeBlanc and Cordero Campbell pose in t-shirts that were given to students who completed a FAFSA during the tournament.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

FLY TOUR

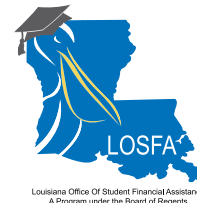
FEB. 13	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	SOUTH	9:00 AM
FEB. 14	NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SOUTH	9:00 AM
FEB. 15	DILLARD UNIVERSITY	SOUTH	9:00 AM
FEB. 16	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY	SOUTH	9:00 AM
FEB. 17	SOWELA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 20	CENTRAL LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE – CLTCC (FERRIDAY)	NORTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 21	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-SHREVEPORT	NORTH	9:00 AM
FEB. 22	CENTRAL LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE – CLTCC (ALEXANDRIA)	NORTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 23	GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY	NORTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 24	NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	NORTH	9:30 AM
MAR. 2	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY – BATON ROUGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM

THE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR YOU (FLY) TOUR provides services and resources to guide students toward a future of informed decisions and financial freedom. Through song, poetry, and Wordplay, the FLY Tour educates students about financial literacy and financial responsibility as well as a variety of LOSFA-administered student financial assistance programs.

The FLY Tour is a dynamic theatrical presentation that uses poetry, music, and drama to communicate the importance of financial literacy and fiscal responsibility. The intent is to make students aware of how financial aid decisions made early in their lives can have a lasting impact on their futures. The production will also present information about support services available to students on college campuses and pre-college tasks that must be completed prior to the student's first day of classes.

The response to the FLY Tour has been so overwhelmingly positive that it is now an annual LOSFA event held on post-secondary education campuses across the state.

FOR MORE COLLEGE MATCH & FIT INFORMATION, VISIT
unlockmyfuture.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOSFA, VISIT OSFA.LA.GOV

February 12th is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

Louisiana's tenth annual College Goal Sunday events will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017, from 1:30-4:00 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 to participate in 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 for and access funds. Many campus-based institutional scholarships also require completion of the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday is a national initiative designed to help students and parents 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 daunting 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 2017-2018 academic year can benefit from attendance.

This includes public, private, technical, community, proprietary and career colleges.

Pre-registration for the event is 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> and click on the College Goal Sunday link. The website also contains detailed information including the specific records and documentation that participants will need to bring to the event including their 2015 Federal Income Tax information.

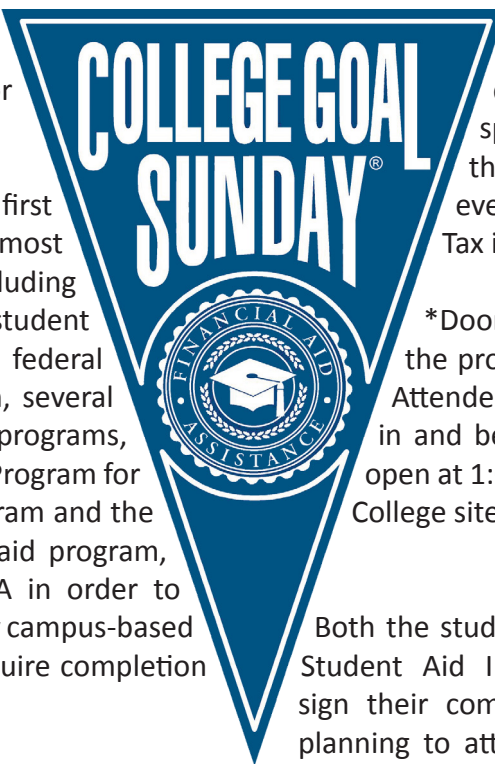
*Doors will open at each site at 1:30 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Attendees are advised to arrive in time to sign in and be seated prior to 2:00 p.m. Doors will open at 1:00 p.m. at the Baton Rouge Community College site ONLY.

IMPORTANT

Both the student and a parent must have a Federal Student Aid ID (FSAID) in order to electronically sign their completed FAFSA. Students and parents planning to attend a College Goal Sunday event, or to file a FAFSA later this spring, should apply for an FSAID now at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> as it can take from 3 to 5 days to receive the ID after applying. Students and parents who previously had a FAFSA Personal Identification Number (PIN) must also apply for and receive an FSAID as the PIN numbers are no longer a valid means of signing your FAFSA. For assistance in completing the FSAID request, contact LOSFA at custserv@la.gov or 800-259-5626.

College Goal Sunday Louisiana is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

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February 12th is College Goal Sunday in Louisiana

College Goal Sunday is a registered trademark of the National College Access Network (NCAN).

In addition to FAFSA completion assistance and information on federal and state aid programs, College Goal Sunday attendees will have the opportunity to learn about several related topics:

LOSFA staff will be in attendance at all sites to explain the TOPS processing cycle and to answer any questions relating to TOPS and other state aid programs

The fifteen 2017 College Goal Sunday site locations in Louisiana are:

Alexandria

LSU Alexandria
Barbara Brumfield Caffey Annex Ballroom

Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge Community College*
Mid-City Campus, Louisiana Building

*Doors open for registration at 1:00 p.m. at the Baton Rouge Community College site only

Southern University Baton Rouge
Multipurpose room - T.H. Harris Annex Building,
Room 118

Bossier City

Bossier Parish Community College
Building D, Room 215

Hammond

Southeastern Louisiana University
Fayard Hall- Main Lobby

Lafayette

University of Louisiana Lafayette
Moody Hall

Lake Charles

SOWELA Technical Community College
Regional Training Center Auditorium

Monroe

Louisiana Delta Community College
7500 Millhaven Road
Louisiana Purchase Building (LPB) Room 310

New Orleans

Delgado Community College – Mid City Campus
Building 10

Dillard University
DUICEF Hall Room 106

Southern University New Orleans
College of Business, Room 100

Xavier University
University Center (Building 17) Room 205

Schriever

Fletcher Technical Community College
Main Campus - 1407 Highway 311
Rooms 104 & 129

Shreveport

Louisiana State University - Shreveport
TBD

Southern University - Shreveport
Jesse Stone Lecture Hall

Don't Leave Money on the Table!

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY®



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 February 12, 2017, 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.

For more information:

www.osfa.la.gov/collegegoalsunday

To register:

www.osfa.la.gov/register

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Louisiana College Goal Sunday®

Locations:

Baton Rouge Community College*
 Bossier Parish Community College
 Delgado Community College – Mid City Campus
 Dillard University
 Fletcher Technical Community College
 Louisiana Delta Community College
 Louisiana State University at Alexandria
 Louisiana State University at Shreveport
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 Southern University Baton Rouge
 Southern University New Orleans
 Southern University Shreveport
 SOWELA Technical Community College
 University of Louisiana Lafayette
 Xavier University

*Doors open at 1pm at Baton Rouge Community College location only.



Louisiana College Goal Sunday® is sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA). College Goal Sunday® is a registered trademark of the National College Access Network (NCAN)

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

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.