



# LOSFA LOOP

September 2014 Edition

Volume 7-9

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dr. Sujuan Boutté

September...fall is in the atmosphere...not the air (it's still way too hot); school buses are rolling, college campuses are bustling and football is back! Football is what came to mind as we examined the concerns our seniors voiced.

Thoughts of distance, deadlines and decisions that must be made this year in order to arrive on a college campus next year reminded us of the motivation, game plan and coaching necessary to go the distance down the football field and score!

It occurred to us that even those of us who don't understand the game of football can't help but get caught up in the excitement and energy that surrounds the event. We paired that thought with where our seniors are and what they still have left to do to actually be in a 'seat' at an institution that best fits them this time next year. We subsequently looked to folks who really are football experts for motivation as we designed our interventions. The following quote sums up the challenge we know students face:

“You can learn more character on the two-yard line than anywhere else in life.”  
*Paul Dietzel / LSU (1960)*

The comments from students that we shared with you last month invoke that feeling. The pressure is on and the task seems monumental to many of our students. Staying focused and going the distance this year will test their resolve and prove their mettle. That's where we come in.

College Kick Off is our first LOSFA event of the year. It is part of our new suite of services designed to Motivate, Instruct and Follow Through with our students. In other words, we are rolling out to the schools to help students develop and execute their college game plan without dropping the ball.

In the words of Lou Holtz,

“The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it.”

*Lou Holtz / William & Mary, NC State, NY Jets, Arkansas, Minnesota, Notre Dame, and South Carolina*

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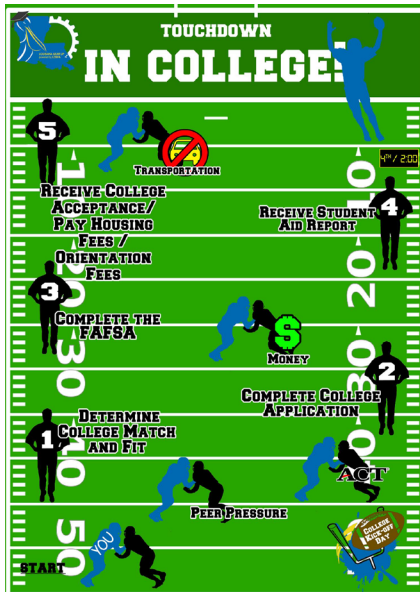
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## From the Desk of the Executive Director *continued*

College Kick-Off is the opening drive that leads up to the other LOSFA sponsored events in our playbook: National GEAR UP Week, Louisiana College Application

Month, College Goal Sunday and Louisiana College Acceptance Week. What will our staff have to say to those students who have jitters before the first snap?



“Always remember... Goliath was a 40 point favorite over David.”  
*Shug Jordan/Auburn*

Best-  
S.

### Louisiana College Application Month

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and education stakeholders in the State of Louisiana, have collaborated to develop and implement Louisiana College Application Month for high school seniors in October 2014 as part of the American College Application Campaign.

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC), an effort of the American Council on Education (ACE), is a national initiative to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students who pursue a postsecondary education. The purpose is to help high school seniors navigate the college admissions process and to ensure that each participating student submits at least one admission application. This initiative began in 2005 in one high school in North Carolina and has since

expanded to all states and the District of Columbia. In the 2013 ACAC Program, 2,513 high schools and 153,114 students nationwide participated in this endeavor. As a result, 219,855 college applications were submitted.

In 2013, the Louisiana GEAR UP program, in conjunction with the Lafayette GEAR UP program, launched its Louisiana College Application Week pilot program. The program was conducted in 12 Louisiana parishes at 18 different high schools and a total of 1,049 students from the two participating Louisiana GEAR UP programs completed at least one application for college admission.

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## Louisiana College Application Month *continued*

Due to the success of the Louisiana College Application Week pilot, LOSFA is expanding this initiative from one week to the entire month of October. This will allow more schools to participate in the activities, which will lead to more students being assisted. LOSFA is also expanding the program beyond the GEAR UP schools and is inviting all interested Louisiana high schools to participate.

Participating schools should host a day event to excite students about applying to college. These day events benefit all students, not only seniors, by encouraging them to develop an early interest in getting involved in the college admissions process.

Recent college enrollment data obtained by the Louisiana Department of Education shows that only 56 percent of Louisiana high school seniors who graduated in May 2012 enrolled in college for the Fall 2012 semester. Only 66 percent of those May 2012 graduates were enrolled by Fall 2013. Thus, 34 percent of May 2012 graduates hadn't enrolled at a postsecondary institution within a year of graduation, which decreases the likelihood of their future enrollment. Initiatives like College Application Month are designed to promote a college-going culture in schools. This initiative also encourages students to find and apply to a college that's the best match for them, which increases their rate of success in postsecondary endeavors.

According to federal estimates, nearly 8 in 10 new jobs will require some postsecondary education or training after high school. In the current economy, a high school diploma is no longer enough to earn a

sustainable wage. Graduating from college is vital to students' success in the present and the future, and college graduates earn an average of 77 percent more than high school graduates.

LOSFA encourages all high schools that are interested in participating in Louisiana College Application Month

to fill out a registration form and return it by September 10, 2014. GEAR UP schools who have questions should contact Timenee Thomas, LA GEAR UP Program Coordinator, at Timenee.



Thomas@la.gov. Non-GEAR UP schools who wish to participate should contact Kristen O'Neil, LOSFA Public Information and Communications Supervisor, at Kristen.O'Neil@la.gov. Interested schools can email Ms. O'Neil or custserv@la.gov for a copy of the registration form. Louisiana College Application Month participants are encouraged to connect with LOSFA on its social media sites (LOSFA on Facebook, @LOSFA on Twitter and @LOSFA001 on Instagram). Students and schools are encouraged to use the hashtag #ApplyToCollege to participate in the College Application Month conversation and to share their experiences.

LOSFA has partnered with the following organizations to launch College Application Month: LACRAO, LA GEAR UP, Lafayette GEAR UP, TRIO, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), LBOR, LELA, COSBP and the University of Louisiana (UL) System.

## LOSFA News Briefs

### TOPS BULLETIN 2014-3

As of September 1, 2014, LOSFA has removed the display of social security numbers from the Louisiana Award System screens, reports and all outgoing file transmissions. LOSFA has modified many of its file formats to make these changes. In an effort to assist the colleges, LOSFA will continue to receive social security numbers in the import files, and the SSNs will automatically be encrypted once the files are received in our system. LOSFA will only download files containing SSNs when an encrypted FTP process is used. These file formats have been modified to include the LOSFA ID and the SSN. Data downloads retrieved through the Award System's "Reports" tab will no longer include SSNs. Instead, this data can be retrieved through the LOSFA ID, student's name and date of birth.

### TOPS Bulletin 2014-4

In order to determine a student's TOPS payment eligibility, institutions should review the TOPS Award Level, Disposition (Status) and Eligible Term Not Paid (Only Term Eligible) for all awarded students on either the TOPS Master Roster or the TOPS Student Roster on the Louisiana Award System. If a student is not listed as eligible for TOPS, then a payment request cannot be sent. TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors and Tech award level recipients are eligible for TOPS funding if they're enrolled full-time on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of class during the semester.

TOPS Tech recipients must be enrolled in a technical program to receive funding. For TOPS Tech recipients, payment requests for an academic program type will be rejected. The program types for billing and grades must be the same for each semester. If they are not, there will be a substantial delay in processing students' TOPS eligibility for subsequent semesters. TOPS Payment

Error Reports are available for each institution on the Louisiana Award System. Each institution is responsible for reviewing the error roster, making the appropriate corrections and resubmitting corrected payment requests for eligible students.

You may view the complete contents of both bulletins at [www.osfa.la.gov](http://www.osfa.la.gov). Click on "Information Center," then click on "LOSFA Publications," then click on "Scholarship and Grant (TOPS) Bulletins."

### LOSFA Publications

LOSFA recently updated its TOPS online information resources. Here is a list of current updates and where they can be found on the Web Site:

TOPS Core Curriculum Flyer for 2014 through 2017 Graduates - [https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/Core\\_Curriculum\\_14.pdf](https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/Core_Curriculum_14.pdf)

TOPS Core Curriculum Flyer for 2018 Graduates and thereafter - <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSCoreCurriculum2018.pdf>

TOPS Core Courses Calculated on 5.0 Scale - <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSCoursesApproved5Scale.pdf>

TOPS Tech Core Curriculum Flyer for 2014 Graduates and thereafter - <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/TOPSTechCoreCurriculum.pdf>

Don't Blow Your TOPS Poster - <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/topsposter.pdf>

Don't Blow Your TOPS Renewal Poster - <https://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/topsrenewalposter.pdf>



## GEARING UP: LA GEAR UP Staff Additions and Changes

LA GEAR UP is pleased to announce a series of staff additions and changes in support of its No-cost Extension Year 2014-15 and mission to increase the number of low-income students who graduate from high school and attend postsecondary institutions. It's going to be a great year!



**Christopher Hobbs,  
Program Coordinator**

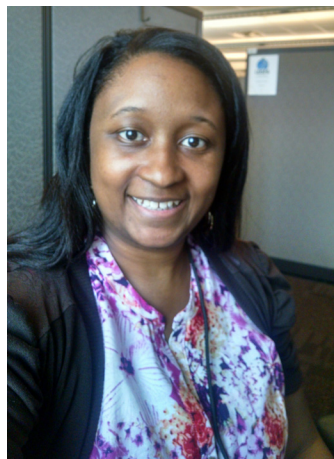
After serving as counselor and lead counselor at LA GEAR UP summer programs on Grambling, Nicholls, and La Tech campuses, Khristopher Hobbs has joined LA GEAR UP as a Program Coordinator. Khris was born and raised in Ferris, Texas. After earning an Associate's Degree from Trinity Valley Community College in Texas, Khris relocated to Louisiana, where he obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees in history at Grambling State University.

Timenee Thomas, a GEAR UP student during the 2002-2008 grant cycle, has accepted a position as Program Coordinator with LA GEAR UP. After graduating from Bunkie High School, Ms. Thomas obtained a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from Louisiana Tech University. In 2013, Ms. Thomas was selected from a nationwide pool of candidates to participate in the inaugural GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy, a 12-month leadership development pro-



**Timenee Thomas,  
Program Coordinator**

gram for 30 alumni of the federal GEAR UP program. Ms. Thomas believes that GEAR UP played a major role in determining her career path and motivating her to work with low-income schools and students in an effort to help them become more successful.



**Sabrina Johnson,  
Graduate Assistant**

Graduate Assistant Sabrina Johnson joined the GEAR UP staff in early August 2014. Sabrina was born in San Francisco, California, and was raised in Kentwood and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sabrina's undergraduate degree in Business Management and graduate work in Higher Education make her a great resource both administratively in the office and with students as she interacts with schools.

Kendra Williams, who joined GEAR UP as a graduate assistant/researcher in October 2013, has been promoted to the Executive Assistant position in which her BA in Mass Communications and coursework in Public Relations serve her well. Ms. Williams is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration at Louisiana State University. In her spare time she enjoys decorating, crafting and sewing.



**Kendra Williams,  
Executive Assistant**

# 2014 LA GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program Participants

Congratulations to 2014 LA GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program participants at Grambling State University! Bridges to Achievement college success scholars crossed bridges leading to academic achievement and college success.



**Rainey Gaines**  
High School: Glen Oaks  
University: Grambling



**Shylyric Pierre**  
High School: Rayville  
University: Grambling



**Donovan Griffin, Jr.**  
High School: Plaquemine  
University: Grambling



**Jamell Campbell**  
High School: Bunkie  
University: Grambling



**Anthonica Johnson**  
High School: Plaquemine  
University: Southern



**Kayla Davenport**  
High School: MSA West  
University: ULL



**D'Anna Williams**  
High School: MSA West  
University: Southeastern



**Antonea Buggs**  
High School: Union Parish  
University: Grambling



**Derryle Sparks**  
High School: Tara  
University: Grambling



**Milan Collins**  
High School: Scotlandville  
University: Southern



**Kerrionte Broussard**  
High School: Westgate  
University: Grambling

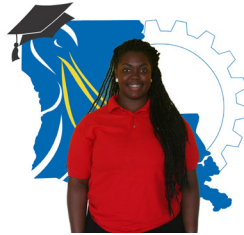


**Jameshaulyn Fernandez**  
High School: Plaquemine  
University: Xavier

# 2014 LA GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program Participants *continued*



**Pamelor Morgan**  
**High School: East St. John**  
**University: Houston**



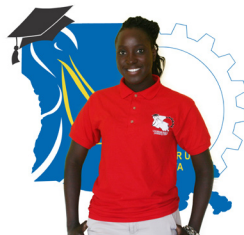
**A'Shayla Woolfolk**  
**High School: MSA West**  
**University: Dillard**



**Ricky Marzett**  
**High School: Rayville**  
**University: McNeese**



**Kirneshia Alex**  
**High School: Scotlandville**  
**University: ULM**



**Timyra Holland**  
**High School: Scotlandville**  
**University: Grambling**



**Taraneshia Gray**  
**High School: Bunkie**  
**University: LSU-A**



**Azrian Watkins**  
**High School: East St. John**  
**University: Grambling**



**Decia Landrum**  
**High School: Rayville**  
**University: Nicholls**



**Janisha Young**  
**High School: MSA West**  
**University: Grambling**



**Quineshia Charles**  
**High School: Scotlandville**  
**University: Grambling**



**JaBryson Jones**  
**High School: Westgate**  
**University: ULL**



**Ashley Jackson**  
**High School: Rayville**  
**University: McNeese & Grambling**



# 2014 LA GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program Participants *continued*



**My'ria Fluker**  
**High School: East St. John**  
**University: ULL**



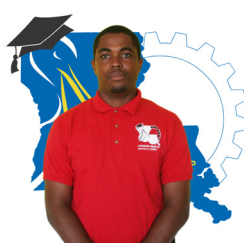
**Zia Gordon (counselor)**  
**High School: Neville**  
**University: Grambling**



**Alexandra Fervory (counselor)**  
**High School: Forney**  
**University: Grambling**



**Keidrick Johnson (counselor)**  
**High School: Franklin**  
**University: Grambling**



**Dileon Saint-Jackson (counselor)**  
**High School: Dominica Grammar**  
**University: Grambling School**



**David Turner (counselor)**  
**High School: Ferriday**  
**University: Grambling**



**Justin White (counselor)**  
**High School: Merrillville**  
**University: Grambling**



**Te'sia Thomas (counselor)**  
**High School: Pell City**  
**University: Grambling**



**Raneshia Wimberly (counselor)**  
**High School: Jonesboro-Hodge**  
**University: Grambling**



**Erika Hill (counselor)**  
**High School: Jonesboro-Hodge**  
**University: Grambling**



**Khristopher Hobbs (counselor)**  
**High School: Ferris**  
**University: Grambling**



## 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).