



PRESS RELEASE

From the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance
A Program of The Board of Regents

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA GEAR UP Conference Set for March 9-11

BATON ROUGE – More than 350 Louisiana GEAR UP students, who will be representing 48 schools and 16 school districts across the state of Louisiana, will converge at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Downtown Hotel from March 9-11 for the Louisiana GEAR UP Conference.

During the conference, the students will rotate through sessions focused on academic preparation and college and career readiness including sessions such as “Medical Magic” and “Chopped.” In the “Medical Magic” session, students will visit the Baton Rouge Rehabilitation Hospital to learn about opportunities offered in the medical field from real medical professionals including an Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Registered Nurse, and a Physical Therapist Assistant. During “Chopped,” the students will be able to put their culinary skills to the test in a friendly cooking competition while learning about all of the career opportunities offered in the culinary industry.

Conference Highlights

Friday Evening (March 9)

Friday's events will include a welcoming introduction for all attendees. The students will attend a College and Career Fair and participate in activities that test their college and career knowledge during the College and Career Bonanza.

Saturday Morning and Afternoon (March 10)

Saturday's events will include sessions focused on academic preparation and college and career readiness. Students will spend approximately 45 minutes in each session, which will include a variety of off-site and on-site sessions.

Saturday Evening (March 10)

Saturday evening's highlight will be Rip the Career Runway. During Rip the Career Runway, the students will wear clothing related to their career aspirations and walk the runway to showcase their future careers for their fellow Louisiana GEAR UP students to see.

Sunday Morning (March 11)

Sunday morning events will provide students with the opportunity to go more in-depth into college and career readiness by granting them access to career professionals during the Career Speed Networking and postsecondary organizations during the Auxiliary Group Presentations.

One Sunday morning highlight will be the Career Speed Networking Event. The objective is to provide students with career knowledge to promote educated college and career planning. Professionals working

in fields related to their degrees—from cosmetology to law enforcement to engineering—have been recruited to interact with students. Volunteers will staff round tables as small groups of students travel from career table to career table modeled around the speed dating concept.

LA GEAR UP (Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and supported by the U.S. Department of Education, which gives grants to states or institutions of higher learning to create partnerships with high-poverty middle or high schools. In partnership with 12 Louisiana parishes, LA GEAR UP aims to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Participating High Schools include:

1. Anderson Middle School
2. Andrew H. Wilson Charter School
3. Bastrop High School
4. Carroll Junior High School
5. Converse High School
6. Delta Jr. High School
7. Dwight D. Eisenhower Academy of Global Studies
8. East Feliciana Middle School
9. East St. John Elementary School
10. Ebarb High School
11. Emily C. Watkins Elementary
12. F. K. White Middle School
13. Florien High School
14. Garyville/Mt. Airy Math & Science Magnet School
15. Iberia Middle School
16. Jeanerette Senior High School
17. John L. Ory Communications Magnet Elementary
18. Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School
19. LaPlace Elementary School
20. Lincoln Preparatory School
21. Livonia High School
22. Madison Middle School
23. Many High School
24. Many Junior High School
25. Martin Behrman Charter Academy of Creative Arts & Science
26. Martin Luther King Junior High School
27. McDonogh #32 Literacy Charter School
28. McKinley Middle Magnet School
29. Morehouse Junior High School
30. Negreet High School
31. Oak Park Middle School
32. Park Forest Middle School
33. Pleasant Hill High School
34. Ray D. Molo Middle Magnet School
35. Red River Junior High School
36. ReNEW Accelerated High School
37. ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary
38. ReNEW SciTech Academy at Laurel
39. Robert E. Lee Junior High School
40. Rougon Elementary School

41. Scotlandville Middle Pre-Engineering Academy
42. Southeast Middle School
43. St. Helena College and Career Academy
44. Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School
45. West St. John Elementary School
46. West St. John High School
47. William J. Fischer Accelerated Academy
48. Zwolle High School

Participating Parishes Include:

1. Calcasieu Parish
2. City of Monroe School District
3. East Baton Rouge Parish
4. East Feliciana Parish
5. Iberia Parish
6. Inspire NOLA
7. Lincoln Preparatory School: A TMCF Collegiate Academy
8. Madison Parish
9. Morehouse Parish
10. Pointe Coupee Parish
11. Red River Parish
12. Recovery School District-Algiers Charter School Association
13. Recovery School District-ReNEW-Reinventing Education, Inc.
14. Sabine Parish
15. St. Helena Parish
16. St. John the Baptist Parish

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