

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Changing Lives,
Creating Futures

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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President

THROUGH: Dr. René Cintrón
Chief Academic Affairs Officer

FROM: Melissa LaCour
Director of New Markets

SUBJECT: Strategic Sustainability and Growth Initiative 1A- Initiative to Lessen
Financial Burden for Students

DATE: 08/24/2018

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APPROVED

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9/12/18
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Background: Initiative 1A of the LCTCS Strategic Sustainability and Growth plan calls
on leadership and staff to develop initiatives to lessen the financial burden of the total
cost of attendance for students. In June 2017, the board approved the LCTCS goal of
reducing the system-wide annual textbook cost to save students \$5,000,000 annually.

During the 2017-18 academic year, LCTCS faculty and staff focused efforts on reducing
the cost of attendance for our students. One aspect of these efforts involves the cost of
educational resources (textbooks) by developing and using affordable learning and/or
open educational resources (OER), where appropriate. In the first year of this targeted
focus (2017-2018), it is estimated that students collectively saved \$3,000,000 by
enrolling in courses that were redesigned with affordable learning and/or OER course
materials.

Various strategies were used by faculty and staff in order to lessen the financial burden
of the total cost of attendance for students:

- e-Learning Innovation Fund - inspired colleges to leverage open education
resources (OER) or related ebook technologies to reduce student expense. Eight
proposals were received totaling \$194,236 with five funded proposals using
\$75,000. Deliverables of this effort were:
o Best Practice Conference - January 2018, hosted by Northshore Technical
Community College
o 25 OER courses developed:
CBIO 2211 Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab
CBIO 2213 Human Anatomy and Physiology I
CBIO 2223 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
CBUS 1003 General/Introduction to Business Administration
CCEM 1123 Chemistry I (Science Majors)
CCRJ 1013 Intro to Criminal Justice
CCRJ 2313 Intro to Policing
CECN 2213 Macroeconomics
CENL 1013 English Composition I

CENL 1023 English Composition II
CENL 2103 British Literature I
CENL 2303 Introduction to Fiction
CHIS 1023 Western Civilization II
CHIS 2013 American History I
CMAT 1213 College Algebra
CMAT 1303 Introductory Statistics
CMUS 1013 Music Appreciation
CPHY 1023 Physical Science I
CPSY 2013 Introduction to Psychology
CPSY 2113 Developmental Psychology
CSOC 2013 Introduction to Sociology
College Success - 1 credit
Student Success, Finance and Information Literacy
Fundamentals of Drafting
Forensic Psychology

- Awareness campaign – LCTCS partnered with LOUIS to deliver 7 presentations at various LCTCS colleges to increase awareness of the rising costs of textbooks and the impact on student success.

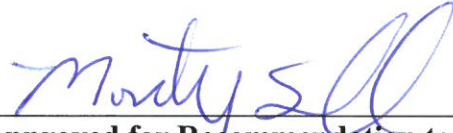
Additional strategies are scheduled for the 2018-2019 year to continue lessening the cost of attendance for our students:

- OpenStax Institutional Partner Program – LCTCS is a 2018-19 cohort member of this program which provides advice and guidance to increase the use of OER across our colleges. LCTCS convened a *System-wide OER Taskforce*, with two representatives from each college, dedicating the necessary time and resources in an effort to motivate faculty to utilize OER to drive student success, retention, and completion.
- Professional Development – On September 26, 2018 LCTCS will host an all-day workshop during the LCTCS Conference to inspire, demonstrate, and curate resources for faculty to adopt for use in their course(s). A follow-up Best Practices Conference will be held in January 2019 at Northwest Louisiana Technical College to share LCTCS system and national best practices for use of OER.
- Course Content – In 2017-2018, the focus was placed in courses with higher enrollment common across our colleges. In 2018-2019, the focus will be on course materials in career and technical education subjects where significant impact is possible.

History of Prior Actions: The Board approved the LCTCS Strategic Sustainability and Growth plan at the March 2017 meeting, which includes Initiative 1A- Initiative to Lessen Financial Burden for Students. Subsequently, in June 2017, the board approved the LCTCS goal of reducing the system-wide annual textbook cost to save students \$5,000,000 annually.

Fiscal Impact: Reduced student cost for textbooks by \$3,000,000.00 in academic year 2017-18. \$75,000 in E-Learning Innovation Funds were spent to create 25 OER courses that are shared with all LCTCS colleges.

Benefits to the System: Decreasing the overall costs of attending will result in savings for students and likely increase enrollment and completion.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan

9-12-18

Date