



LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

APPROVED Received 8/14/19 LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan LCTCS President

THROUGH: Dr. René Cintrón Chief Education and Training Officer

Dr. Emily Campbell Chief Enrollment Management Officer

FROM: Melissa LaCour Director of New Markets

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

DATE: 07/25/2019

FOR BOARD INFORMATION:

Background: In March 2017, the Board approved the Strategic Sustainability and Growth Plan aimed at ensuring the sustainability and growth of colleges.

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. This has resulted in two broad initiatives- one focused on employing strategic institutional aid initiatives to reduce tuition and fees for certain populations of students and efforts to reduce the cost of educational resources (textbooks) where appropriate.

Over the course of academic year 2017-2018, LCTCS colleges conducted institutional aid pilots in which each college strategically utilized institutional aid to discount the cost of tuition for certain populations of students. The success of those pilots led to the development of a system-wide Institutional Aid Policy (LCTCS Policy #5.025), approved by the Board at the June 2019 meeting. In addition to various college-level institutional aid programs, LCTCS has also, over the course of the past five years, instituted several statewide programs, including: 5 for 6 scholarships to fund the dual enrollment of adult basic education students in college courses; scholarships for recent high school graduates who are members of Future Farmers of America, SkillsUSA-Secondary, and Jobs for America's Graduates; the LCTCS Ready, Tech, Go scholarship (a "TOPS Tech like" program for adults); and a Go Grant for Non-Credit pilot. Combined, these initiatives have reduced the cost of attending college for approximately 1,000 students statewide.

In June 2017, the board approved the LCTCS goal of reducing the system-wide annual textbook cost to save students \$5,000,000 annually. In the first year of this targeted focus (2017-2018), it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$3,000,000 by enrolling

in courses that were redesigned with affordable learning and/or OER course materials. The LCTCS e-Learning Innovation Fund invested \$75,000 to support strategies that would ensure the sustainability of this initiative. The 2017-18 strategies:

- Developed 25 OER courses, shared with all LCTCS colleges – making it possible for a student to complete the general education requirements for the Louisiana Transfer Associate of Arts without a financial burden.
- Convened faculty for a Best Practice Conference – January 2018, hosted by Northshore Technical Community College.
- Increased Awareness on the rising costs of textbooks and the impact on student success with a campaign where LCTCS partnered with The Louisiana Library Network (LOUIS) to deliver 7 presentations at various LCTCS colleges.

During the 2018-19 academic year, it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$6,000,000 by enrolling in courses that were redesigned with affordable learning and/or OER course materials. LCTCS faculty and staff accomplished this work through:

- OpenStax Institutional Partner Program – LCTCS was 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 help drive student success, retention, and completion.
- Professional Development – On September 26, 2018 LCTCS hosted an all-day workshop during the LCTCS Conference to inspire, demonstrate, and curate resources for faculty to adopt for use in their course(s) – 55 attendees. A follow-up Best Practices Conference was held January 10, 2019 at Northwest Louisiana Technical College to share LCTCS system and national best practices for use of OER – 52 attendees.
- Course Content –to focus on course materials in career and technical education subjects we obtained a 90% discount on a license for use of 180 Skills - the largest library of skills assets in the country. This effort provides LCTCS colleges with access to over 700 online course modules encompassing 34 topics in areas to include baseline/employability skills, safety skills, continuous improvement skills and technical skills. The agreement is a two-year commitment.
- E-Learning Innovation Funds (\$55,000 investment) - This year's awards were focused on: (1) Developing OER materials in career and technical education courses and (2) Establishing an Associate Degree program with 100% OER courses:
 1. Each LCTCS college received \$2,500 for the performance of duties and processes required to expand the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER). This funding was made possible by the LCTCS to inspire colleges to leverage OER or related technologies to reduce student expense.

2. A faculty professional development course was especially designed for those individuals interested in transforming courses to OER. Grow Your Own Instructional Designer was developed by Delgado.
 3. 11 more OER courses were developed by RPCC (5 courses) and Fletcher (6 courses) adding to the existing 25 OER courses shared the previous with all LCTCS colleges.
- **LOUIS OER Transformation Projects** – The Louisiana Library Network, a program of the Louisiana Board of Regents, solicited proposals to lower the cost of post-secondary education for students. Project funds supported faculty in replacing their existing textbook and/or course materials in a specific course(s) with no cost, open materials. 4 LCTCS colleges (Delgado, Fletcher, Northshore, and River Parishes) received 7 awards totaling \$45,000 to transform 14 courses.

Additional strategies are scheduled for 2019-20:

- Students will be able to search for FREE or affordable courses with the addition of a new tag in Banner courses. CONO for no cost = Zero cost for required text book and COLO for low cost = Under \$29 for required textbook. This will occur to promote OER and Affordable Educational Resources (AER) to students and comply with Louisiana Senate Bill 117. AER represents a single or collection of required educational resources that may be offered to students at pre-sales tax cost that does not exceed an amount equal to four times the federal minimum wage.
- The LCTCS OpenStax Task Force will become a work group focused on tactics to sustain these efforts.
- 3rd Annual OER Best Practice Conference will be hosted by SLCC in the Spring 2020.
- E-Learning Innovation Funds – a \$48,120 investment to fund 4 OER and innovative proposals:
 - Delgado Community College – Academic Literacy; to develop content for a large scale pedagogical and curricular reform; to implement an accelerated path to college readiness for developmental reading and English.
 - Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) – OER (English as Second Language) ESL Instruction through Open Campus Mobile;
 - South Louisiana Community College – Ship2Shore; to develop mobile – online/offline - Coast Guard training
 - Delgado CC, BPCC, Northshore TCC – Turning Students into Learners: Proposed collaboratively to create a student success OER course focusing on metacognition.
- LCTCS colleges submitted 9 of the 12 proposals received for the LOUIS OER Transformation funds.

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. In the first year of this targeted focus (2017-2018), it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$3,000,000 by enrolling in courses that were redesigned with affordable learning and/or OER course materials. This update was provided at the September 2018 meeting.

Fiscal Impact: Reduced student cost for textbooks by \$6,000,000 in academic year 2018-19. Since the first year of this targeted focus (2017-2018), there have been over 70,000 enrollments and it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$9,000,000 by enrolling in courses that were redesigned with affordable learning and/or OER course materials. See summary table attached.

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

8-14-19
 Date

Report on Strategic Sustainability and Growth Initiative 1A
 Initiative to Lessen Financial Burden for Students

Summary Table of Savings

Semester	Enrollments	Savings
Fall 2017	8,331	\$1,294,939
Spring 2018	8,597	\$1,496,047
Summer 2018	2,814	\$340,132
Fall 2018	19,265	\$2,639,426
Spring 2019	24,975	\$3,058,776
Summer 2019	6,358	\$664,812
Total	70,340	\$9,494,132