



# LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

**Changing Lives,  
Creating Futures**

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**TO:** Dr. Monty Sullivan  
LCTCS President

**THROUGH:** Dr. René Cintrón <sup>RC</sup><sub>RC</sub>  
Chief Education and Training Officer

**FROM:** Melissa LaCour <sup>ML</sup><sub>ML</sub>  
Director of New Markets

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

**DATE:** 11/09/2020

Received  
**APPROVED**  
*[Signature]* 12/9/20  
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**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. One aspect of these efforts involves lowering the cost of educational resources (textbooks) by developing and using affordable learning and/or open educational resources (OER), where appropriate. In June 2017, the board approved the LCTCS goal of reducing the system-wide annual textbook cost to save students \$5,000,000 annually. Since the inception of the initiative, it is estimated that Affordable Learning courses have saved students over \$12,000,000 in course materials.

In 2019-20, the LCTCS colleges implemented a Banner flag to identify courses that are free to students (CONO) and low cost (COLO). These designations were chosen to comply with [Louisiana SB 117](#). Students are now able to search for FREE or affordable courses with the addition of the tag on Banner courses. CONO for no cost = Zero cost for required textbook 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 2019-20 savings to students is estimated at \$3,000,000 calculated only by courses with enrollments using the free course material.

**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. During the 2018-19 academic year, it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$6,000,000.

**Fiscal Impact:** Reduced student cost for textbooks by \$3,000,000 in academic year 2019-20. Since the first year of this targeted focus (2017-2018), there have been over 100,000 enrollments and it is estimated that students collectively saved over \$12,500,000 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.



12-9-20

**Approved for Recommendation to the Board**  
**Dr. Monty Sullivan**

**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
Fall 2019*	15,654	\$1,565,400
Spring 2020*	12,061	\$1,206,100
Summer 2020*	3,028	\$302,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,083</b>	<b>\$12,568,432</b>

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# H.6.Report on Strategic Sustainability and Growth Initiative 1A

Final Audit Report

2020-12-01

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