



A Transfer Articulation Agreement

By and between the

Louisiana Community and Technical College System and Operation Spark

This Agreement shall be effective as of the date of the last signature hereto (the "Effective Date") by and between OPERATION SPARK whose address is 514 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117 and the LOUISIANA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (LCTCS), whose address is 265 S Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Background

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) is composed of 12 public technical and community colleges across Louisiana. LCTCS colleges collectively serve over 130,000 students in traditional credit instruction, workforce training, and adult education. Eighty percent of its over 25,000 annual graduates earned credentials in high-demand, high-income fields as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Each year, over 15,000 students transfer from an LCTCS institution to a 4-year university.

Operation Spark is a non-profit proprietary school providing high-skills software training for Louisiana students from all backgrounds to quickly train for and obtain high-wage employment in the high-demand field of software engineering. Using a targeted immersive training strategy that emphasizes practical skills and deep understanding of application development and deployment, Operation Spark's rapid workforce training program provides Louisiana's tech industry with agile, motivated employees who are job-ready and able to provide immediate value to a team or company. Since 2016, Operation Spark has graduated over 200 skilled software professionals who now work with 62 companies worldwide.

The Parties have determined that it is desirable to provide to high school students college level, remedial, or workforce development courses that may be counted towards college graduation requirements as well as to provide adult students a pathway to a college degree.

General Requirements

LCTCS and Operation Spark enter into this Agreement for the express purpose of ensuring acceptance of Operation Spark coursework by LCTCS institutions and further facilitate the transfer of Operation Spark students who satisfy either of the following criteria:

1. For Adult Learners: the attainment of an Advanced Industry Based Credential in *the Fundamentals of JavaScript, Web Development and Functional Programming* awarded by Operation Spark. This certificate is designed to provide a clear pathway to employment and represents strong preparation for upper division coursework in a range of information technology programs;
2. For High School Students: required completion of *the Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript* and *Advanced JavaScript, Functional Programming and Web Development* with one or more additional electives (1) *Professional Web and Mobile Development*, (2) *Fundamentals of Video Game Programming*, (3) *Advanced Video Game Programming*, and (4) *The Internet of Things*.

When determined by LCTCS, to its reasonable satisfaction, that a student has satisfied the conditions set forth above, Operation Spark transfer students will be afforded the following opportunities:

Guaranteed Admission

Operation Spark transfer students awarded a certificate, as identified above, will be guaranteed admission at an appropriate standing. Students will be made aware that additional prerequisites, and graduation requirements may be required for certain majors.

Only students who are in good standing at their last transfer institution will be considered.

Transferability of Credit

Completed coursework includes transferable courses outlined on the Operation Spark/LCTCS Articulation Matrix, which is an adapted version of the State's Board of Regents' Course Articulation Matrix.

Student Advising

LCTCS will provide pre-transfer advising to Operation Spark students through online, onsite, and/or telephone advising. Further advising by discipline will be available to future transfer students prior to and once enrolled. Informational materials for potential transfer students will be available at Operation Spark to facilitate the transfer process.

Activities may include the following:

- a. Participation in transfer conferences, transfer fairs, professional conferences and visits to community colleges to educate administrators, counselors, faculty, staff, and students about University admissions requirements, costs, etc.;
- b. Provision of onsite admissions to eligible Operation Spark students at transfer conferences, transfer fairs, and during college visits; and,
- c. Work with the LCTCS campus transfer centers to provide outreach to all students.

For students without an Operation Spark certificate, LCTCS and Operation Spark will collaborate in communication and advice for students to have the opportunity to complete the certificate while at their transfer institution, when applicable.

If an institution modifies the degree requirements or prerequisites after admission, transfer students will be accommodated with equivalent coursework credit and not penalized in total units required for their degree. Admitted transfer students will be required to follow the degree requirements as outlined in the catalog that was in effect at the time of application.

Program Evaluation

Once every two academic years, LCTCS faculty and staff will meet with Operation Spark faculty and staff to review current curriculum and course offerings and present any changes to the curriculum as outlined in the exhibits included herein prior to implementing the proposed changes. Additional ad hoc reviews can be requested at any time from either party.

Scholarship Opportunities

Transfer scholarship opportunities for incoming students based on grade point average/performance and meeting all other applicable criteria will be developed, based on available funding.

Data Sharing

For the purposes of this Agreement, parties agree to share student information that assists with the furtherance of the activities outlined herein. Both parties agree to keep student information confidential and to use such information only for the activities outlined in this agreement. All information about students obtained from any of the Parties shall be held confidential pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.A. 1232g) ("FERPA") and of La. R.S. 17:3914.

Marketing & Communication

The LCTCS will work with Operation Spark to develop an internal and external marketing plan to communicate and publicize the President's support of this Agreement to all LCTCS campuses. Dissemination may include print media, news releases, email, webinars, and social media distribution channels. The system office will assist in promoting this opportunity to each LCTC and ensure that Transfer Center Directors understand the benefits of the program for students. Professional organizations and initiatives will be encouraged to disseminate information about the agreement.

Terms of Agreement and Severability

The term of this Agreement shall be ongoing commencing on the date first set forth above, provided that either party may terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon written notice, with the termination effective at the start of the following academic year. If the Agreement is terminated, all students identified on or before the date of termination will retain their transfer guarantee and all other terms stated in the Agreement.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof and may not be amended, unless in writing and signed by both parties.

This Agreement shall not be construed to create any rights in favor of any non-party hereto, including as third-party beneficiaries.

All notices (including, without limitation, approvals consents and exercises of rights or options) required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed served, if by personal delivery or by facsimile, on the date the same is actually received by the addressee thereof or, if by mail, two business days after the same is deposited with the United States Postal Service (or its successors) for mailing by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, postage fully prepaid, addressed as hereinafter set forth, or, if by overnight messenger service (e.g., Federal Express) on the date of delivery by such overnight

messenger service to the address as hereinafter set forth. All notices shall be addressed as follows or to such other address as the party entitled to receive such notice may, from time to time hereinafter, designate by giving written notice pursuant hereto:

If to Operation Spark:

Operation Spark
John Fraboni
514 Franklin Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70117

If to LCTCS:

Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Attn: President
265 S Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT

In witness whereof, the undersigned signifies their intent to execute this Agreement and agrees to comply with the stated terms and conditions.



John Fraboni, CEO
Operation Spark

JUNE 4, 2021
Date



Monty Sullivan, President
Louisiana Community and Technical College System

June 3, 2021
Date