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## LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

**TO:** Dr. Monty Sullivan  
President

**THROUGH:** Joseph F. Marin   
Chief Operations Officer

**FROM:** Dr. René Cintrón  
Interim Chief Academic Affairs Officer

**DATE:** November 30, 2017

**RE:** Professional Services Contract between LCTCS and Ellucian Support,  
Inc. for Degree Works Implementation

### FOR BOARD ACTION

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Board authorize the System President to execute a professional services contract between the LCTCS and Ellucian Support, Inc. for the implementation of Degree Works, effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

**Background:** Students have the ability to self-register for classes using the LoLA (Log on Louisiana) website. This website allows students to enter a password-protected environment to access their student records and conduct various actions including register for classes, review unofficial transcripts, and accept financial aid. However, students face many challenges. Many do not understand college systems, procedures and require assistance in determining goals and degree choices. It is critical that students enroll in courses directly related to their program of study.

A problem faced by our institutions is the limited number of advisors per students. During peak times, there is an increase in student visits to receive real time advisement in preparing for the next semester. Due to the availability of staff and critical time constraints at the end of a semester, this results in a lag time in advising students for registration and processing graduation applications. When advising and applying for graduation, a degree audit must be conducted to properly advise the student or graduate the student.


To avoid this cycle, an electronic degree auditing and advising system can alleviate the manual processes involved in advising students and graduation verifications. With an electronic degree auditing system, students, faculty, and staff are able to monitor progress toward timely degree completion, utilize planning tools involving degree maps of students' academic journey to keep students on track for on-time graduation, and the advisor can engage in customer management capabilities to enable real-time counseling between advisor and student.

An electronic degree auditing and advising system has the ability to create a degree plan and audits to assist students in mapping what and when they will take courses and assist staff in verifying graduation requirements. The professional services agreement encompasses Ellucian assisting with the implementation and launch of Degree Works.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,046,245 from a combination of Enterprise Resource Platform (ERP) fee revenues paid by students and college operating budgets.

**History of Prior Actions:** There are no prior actions directly related to this service agreement; however, precedence exists with these types of actions with Ellucian and other service providers.

**Benefits to the System:** Execution of this contract and subsequent implementation of Degree Works will provide a system-wide electronic advising and degree auditing tool with access by students and staff of all member colleges.



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

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**Date**