FY2024-2025 Higher Education Budget Request
$272.8M State General Fund Request

<u>Prioritize Success through Talent Development and Student Support ($197.9M)</u>

- **Competitive Advantage Funding - $184.9M**
  - Compared to regional peers Louisiana's two- and four-year institutions rank 15th out of 16 states in state support, at $244.97 per capita. On a per capita basis, Louisiana lags the average of $319.75 by $74.77 per resident. To be funded at the average of its regional peers, Louisiana would need $347.8M in new state support.
  - This phased-in funding enhancement over the next two fiscal years would address Louisiana's higher education competitive disadvantage, allowing Louisiana institutions to compete with their Southern state counterparts, and especially with border states, for talent development to meet future workforce needs.
    - $40M for workforce training for high-demand short-term training/credentials and support student success services at two-year community and technical colleges (LCTCS colleges, LSU Eunice, and Southern University Shreveport) to be allocated through a formula developed by Regents in collaboration with the systems.
    - $40M for career funding to support student success services and create/expand programs preparing students for high-demand fields (nursing, education, STEM, etc.) across all four-year institutions, as well as at the health sciences centers.
    - $39M to provide an increase in faculty salaries. Louisiana's institutions trail their Southern peers in faculty pay; for four-year institutions, Louisiana ranks 14th out of 15, and for two-year institutions Louisiana ranks 14th out of 16 (SREB).
    - $65.9M to the outcomes-based higher education funding formula to drive innovation and reward institutional success while meeting the mandates pursuant to Act 462 of 2014. The formula allocations would allow institutions to target funding increases to areas of need to accelerate and improve student outcomes.
- **Support Specialized Institutions - $13M**
  - Additional funding will increase research and public service productivity at the LSU and SU Agricultural Centers and SU Law Center, as well as enhance instructional and research capacity at the UL-Monroe Pharmacy School, LSU Health Sciences Centers, and Pennington Biomedical Research Center. This request represents a 4% base increase of $13M and includes the annual federal funding match requirement for the SU Agricultural Center.

Focus on Affordability ($59M)
- **Dual Enrollment - $35M LOSFA (One course for 11th- and 12th-graders)**
  - Research shows that students who start college in high school are more likely to enroll in and complete postsecondary education. In the previous academic year about 25% of all public school students (approximately 29,000 students) took at least one academic or career/technical dual enrollment class. If 80% of all public school students, or 87,320 students, took a dual enrollment class the total cost would be $32.7M. It is anticipated that, of these students, 75% would enroll in a GenED course at a cost of $300 each and a total cost of $19.6M; and 25% would enroll in a CTE course at a cost of $600 each and a total cost of $13.1M.
  - The additional funding would be used for dual enrollment initiatives including dual enrollment teacher credentialing grants to expand the number of high school teachers qualified to teach dual enrollment, further development of the LaDualEnrollment.com one-stop website, development of a statewide standard application process, and convenings to support program rigor.
  - As LOSFA would disseminate the funds to institutions using a similar structure to other scholarship programs, any related administrative costs are included.
- **Increased Funding of GO Grants - $15M**
  - Expanding access to financial aid for both part- and full-time students is critical to increasing educational opportunity in Louisiana. Today GO Grants serve 32,102 students, only 53% of those eligible for the program.
  - Currently GO Grants range from a minimum of $300 to a maximum of $3,000 per student.
  - To fully fund all 60,562 eligible students with the current financial aid packaging policy, an additional $50.5M would be required. To fully fund all 60,562 eligible students at the maximum GO Grant award amount of $3,000 per student, an additional $109.2M would be needed for this fiscal year (FY 2023-2024).
- **TOPS Increases - $6.5M (Projected)**
  - Early LOSFA analysis projects an increase of approximately 1,200 students.
- **Increase Textbook Affordability - $2.5M**
  - The average full-time, in-state undergraduate student at a four-year public university pays $1,226 for books and supplies in one academic year. Studies show that the impacts of high textbook costs include students taking fewer classes, not registering for a specific course, earning a poor grade due to an inability to afford the textbook, and dropping a course. Improving textbook affordability is an important factor in increasing both overall affordability and student preparedness. This funding enables the statewide library network (LOUIS) to provide institutions with open-source documents and eTextbooks, as we strive to reduce the cost of attendance for students.

Targeted Request Package ($15.9M)

- **Cybersecurity Data Protection - $6.3M**
  - Securing data in higher education institutions is essential, and investments are vital to our efforts to protect data and avoid additional cyberattacks.
  - Recurring funding of $3.8M is needed for cybersecurity software subscriptions as part of the state's cyber assurance plan for all institutions of higher education.
  - Firewall monitoring software ($2.5M) for the LONI network is included as a component of the Security Operations Centers at campuses across the state.

- **Cybersecurity Education Grants - $3M**
  - Building Louisiana's cyber workforce and cyber awareness is critical. These funds will be targeted to faculty's development of rigorous shared cyber course materials that will increase students' cyber fluency across disciplines statewide.

- **Adult Basic Education - $2.5M**
  - Adult basic education was transferred from the Department of Education to LCTCS in 2010; since then, funding has been reduced but the need has continued to increase. Louisiana ranks 13th out of 14 Southern states in state allocation per adult student (National Reporting System for Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education).
  - The $2.5M request would improve Louisiana's ranking to 10th with a request for continued increases in future years to ultimately reach the Southern average with the goal to incorporate workforce training, basic health and digital literacy programs corresponding to the state's investment in broadband delivery.

- **Meauxmentum Implementation - $2M**
  - As part of Regents' Master Plan goal, the Meauxmentum Framework was created to assist institutions in implementing proven programs that increase student success to achieve the attainment goal of 60% of working-age adults holding a credential by 2030. The framework engages institution teams in developing transformational campus strategies that are fully integrated across each institution. These funds will allow Regents to support every Louisiana public college and university as they fully implement their Meauxmentum strategies.

- **LOSFA Fiscal Oversight and Outreach - $1.5M**
  - LOSFA now administers 11 different scholarship and grant award programs. With programs newly created and/or expanded over the last two years, LOSFA will require additional auditors and technical assistance staff to ensure fiscal oversight and program compliance. They will also strengthen outreach staff to support program expansion.

- **Focus on Coastal Marine Consortium (LUMCON) - $0.6M**
  - LUMCON was selected by CPRA as the managing entity for Louisiana's National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). This Federal program will require a 25% state match ($400,000). Additional funds are included for operating costs associated with four physical locations as well as vessel operations.