

2025 YEAR SIX REVIEW



ACCELERATING ME AUX MENTUM



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE of LOUISIANA



Strengthening Louisiana's Education-to-Employment Pipeline

Since launching our Master Plan for Higher Education, *Louisiana Prospers*, in 2019, the state's economic landscape is leaping forward. Game-changing projects from Richland Parish's massive metadata center to the \$5.8 billion Hyundai steel plant in Ascension Parish and the \$160 million FUEL project are seeding an industrial boom throughout the state. This frames the next five years of our work. Higher education is called to lead in this pivotal moment, producing the highly skilled workforce necessary to drive Louisiana to unprecedented heights.

Through the past six years, Louisiana's postsecondary education community has united around our Master Plan goal: 60% of working-age adults holding a credential of value by 2030. Together, we have boosted attainment, broadened education and training at all levels, supported student success, and aligned institutions' offerings with workforce demands. As a result, the latest data show that institutions have raised the state's attainment level to an all-time high of 52.5%, growing 3.0% from 2023 and 4.5% since 2019.

This work is urgent. The anticipated workforce demand that informed our 2030 target is needed now. Last year, more than two-thirds of job postings in Louisiana that specified education level required the candidate to hold a degree, diploma, or an industry-based certification (Lightcast). In fact, **at every credential level, the number of qualified working-age residents in our state struggled to keep pace with industry demands. Achieving 60% attainment will close these talent gaps and support our expanding economy.**

Our vision is clear: educating, innovating, and collaborating at scale to meet this moment. Despite gains in attainment, Louisiana still lacks a sufficiently skilled workforce in almost every priority sector of its economy. **We must continue to produce more graduates at all levels with the skills to meet current and future demand.** As a result, workforce alignment drives our most important policies — a revised funding formula that rewards institutions producing graduates in high-priority fields, a new academic planning process emphasizing employers' needs, and a focus on efficient programs that support our highest priorities. These policies, combined with strengthening business engagement, adding work-based learning opportunities, expanding career coaching, and increasing affordability, are critical elements of our ongoing work.

We want every Louisianian to find a meaningful career and have the opportunity to build a life right here at home, because this work is about both investing in our people and growing statewide success. **Moody's Investment Services recognizes that reaching 60% attainment in Louisiana drives our economic health, a "credit positive" that will foster "greater economic competitiveness" across the state.** Recent economic wins bear this out. Employers have unleashed a flood of new opportunities. Now is the time to capitalize on them.

Join us in our work to strengthen our state, meet rapidly expanding workforce needs, and retain our best and brightest. Accelerating *meauxmentum* and investing in our people's success: this is Louisiana's path to prosperity.

CURRENT
ALL-TIME HIGH
52.5%
ATTAINMENT RATE

↑4.5
PERCENTAGE
POINT INCREASE
SINCE 2019



350,000+

COMPLETERS SINCE 2019

Since the 2019 launch of our Master Plan, more than 350,000 adults have graduated – enough graduates to fill *three* Tiger Stadiums.

Our relentless focus on the Louisiana Prospers goal has driven Louisiana's educational attainment level for 25- to 64-year-olds to **its current all-time high of 52.5% in 2025, a full 4.5 percentage points higher than in 2019.** This translates to a six-year increase of 350,000 more people holding a credential, enough new graduates to fill LSU's Tiger Stadium three times.

A WIN FOR OUR STATE AND OUR PEOPLE

This year, a new record of 80,000 graduates earned credentials in Louisiana, just 5,000 annual completers short of our 2030 goal of 85,000, and a 9% increase over last year.

This number is more than a statistic — it represents opportunity. Over time, the personal financial benefits for those who earn higher education credentials are considerable. At every stage of their careers, these graduates will, on average, have significantly higher salaries than peers with only a high school diploma, according to a new LA FIRST report analyzing Louisiana education and income data. Across their working lives, those 80,000 graduates collectively will earn at least \$82 billion — on average, an additional \$1 million per graduate — more than a high school diploma recipient.

Increased earnings enable graduates to build more resilient lives, increase social mobility for themselves and their families, and launch or expand a tradition of meaningful workforce participation and productivity.

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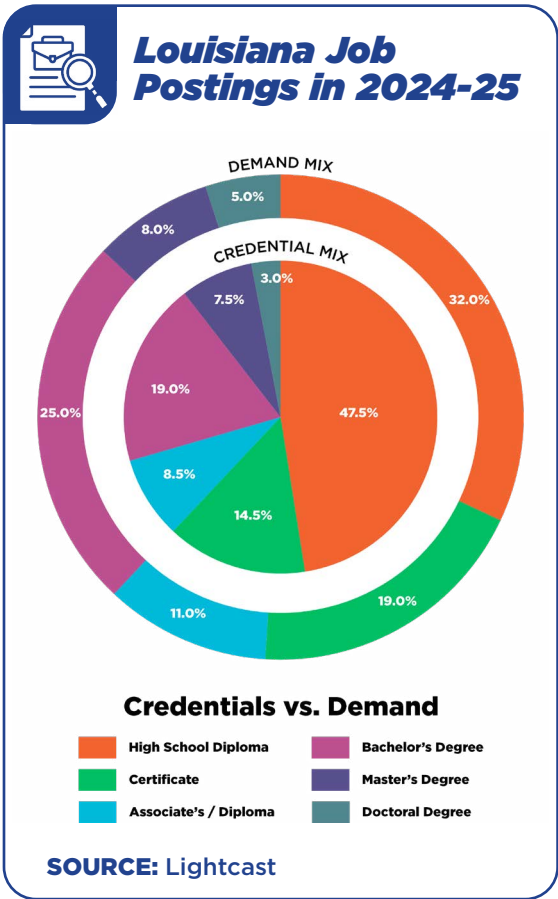
TO ACCESS
MASTER PLAN
DATA DASHBOARD

THE QUEST TO MEET OUR TALENT DEMAND

The benefits produced by these additional credential holders do not stop at their front door. Their impact will reach into the businesses they support and the communities where they live, generating an additional estimated \$10 billion in state and local income, sales and property tax revenues, an eight-fold return on the state’s annual investment in higher education.

In order to accelerate the return on this investment, we continue to align with the workforce needs of our state and our communities. Overall, more than 70% of this year’s graduates in Louisiana public institutions are in high-demand fields, including Applied Technology, Business, Health, and STEM. **While graduates are contributing to filling our workforce needs, the challenge is that the proportion of Louisianians with credentials trails employer demand at all levels, from short-term credentials to associate’s, bachelor’s, and graduate degrees.** Of jobs available now, 68% require a postsecondary credential, while only 52.5% of Louisiana’s population holds one.

To continue building momentum, we have combined labor market analysis with deep engagement with state and regional economic development leaders, business and industry sectors, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to implement a more focused and responsive strategic academic planning process. The result is approval of new high-demand programs in areas such as cardiovascular care, construction management, cybersecurity, mental health, and nursing, and engineering subdisciplines — while eliminating programs that no longer align with the state’s priorities.



RETAINING LOUISIANA'S TOP TALENT

While the economic advantages of education to both the individual and the state are considerable, those benefits only accrue to Louisiana if graduates choose to build their lives at home rather than leaving for other employment opportunities elsewhere.

Providing educational paths that lead to vocations in Louisiana is critical. Currently, 40% of those leaving Louisiana have earned at least a bachelor’s degree ([2025 LED Strategic Plan](#)).

To reverse that trend, we are adopting a full range of interventions, from the new TOPS Excellence scholarship prioritizing retention of our highest performing high school graduates, to increased work-based learning and career alignment to drive intentional and early connections between future graduates and in-state employers.

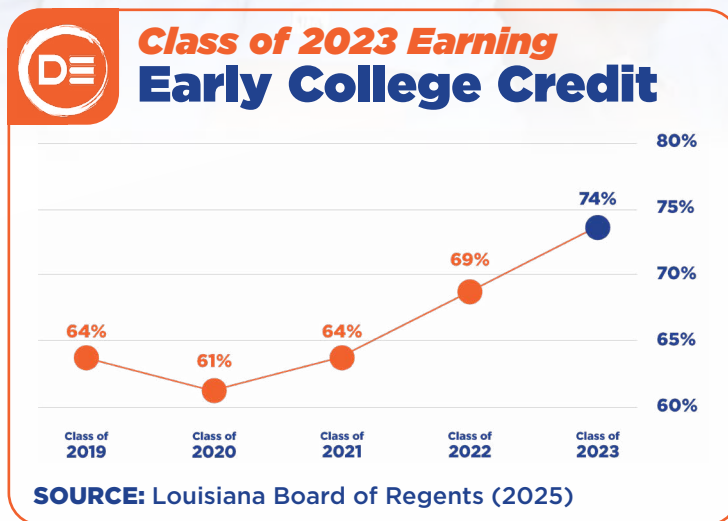
We are implementing and building on what works. Recent research confirms that early and intentional education-to-employment guidance and support, together with timely information about job opportunities and potential earnings, have a significant impact on postsecondary graduates.

Scaling this work across all of Louisiana’s universities and colleges will support talent retention and build a foundation for career success in our state.

SCALING REFORMS THAT WORK

► STRENGTHENING COLLEGE-GOING PATHWAYS

This work is not a solo act. The building of Louisiana's talent development pipeline requires effective collaboration and a long-term commitment across all education providers to improve results. Promoting early college opportunities for all Louisiana high school students continues to yield strong outcomes driven by a shared Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)/Board of Regents goal of all high school freshmen, beginning with the entering Class of 2025, graduating with college credit, an industry-based credential, or both. We are making strong progress. **Among the Class of 2023, 74% of on-time high school graduates earned early college credit and/or an industry credential — up from 61% just three years earlier.**



Dual enrollment access is essential to this growth. In 2024-25, Louisiana reached a **record high of almost 43,000 annual enrollments, marking a fifth consecutive year of growth.** This sustained expansion reflects a strategic, statewide commitment to increasing early access to college and places Louisiana on a strong trajectory to meet its goal.

Louisiana has also made notable gains in connecting high school students to **high-need workforce fields**, recording a **22% increase in career and technical dual enrollments** from 2022 to 2023. Additionally, two-thirds of the 1,705 credentials earned by dual enrollment students were in areas facing critical workforce shortages, including **health sciences and welding.**

This strategy is beginning to pay off. **After years of decline, college-going rates for Louisiana high school graduates are up, rising from 52.8% to 56.5%.**

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2024 DUAL
ENROLLMENT
REPORT

Data show that students who earned dual enrollment credits before graduation finished their postsecondary programs **more than a full academic year faster on average, saving both time and money.**



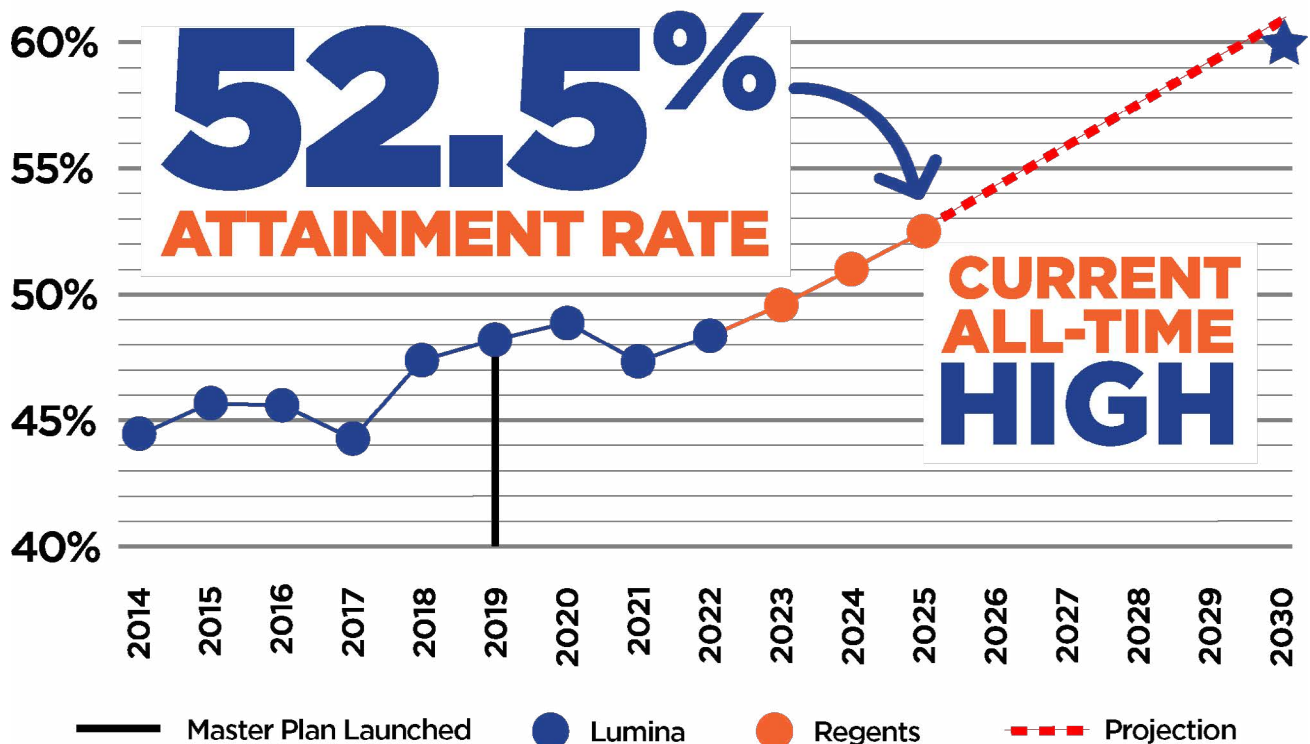
Six years ago, we charted an intentional course to drive our talent imperative through quality, affordable postsecondary education for all. Today, we are on track to exceed our big goal set in 2019, but we are not slowing down. In tandem with Governor Landry and the legislature as well as our workforce and K-12 partners, we will continue strengthening the education-to-employment pipeline to prepare Louisiana for the next generation.

Misti S. Cordell, Board of Regents Chair



»» **Louisiana Attainment**

In 2019, Regents set an audacious goal — for 60% of Louisiana's working-age adults to have a postsecondary credential by 2030.



SOURCES: Lumina Foundation's *A Stronger Nation Report* (2024) and the Louisiana Board of Regents (2025)

ATTAINMENT GOAL

60%

of Louisiana's Working-Age
Adults with a Postsecondary
Credential by 2030



85,000

COMPLETERS/YEAR

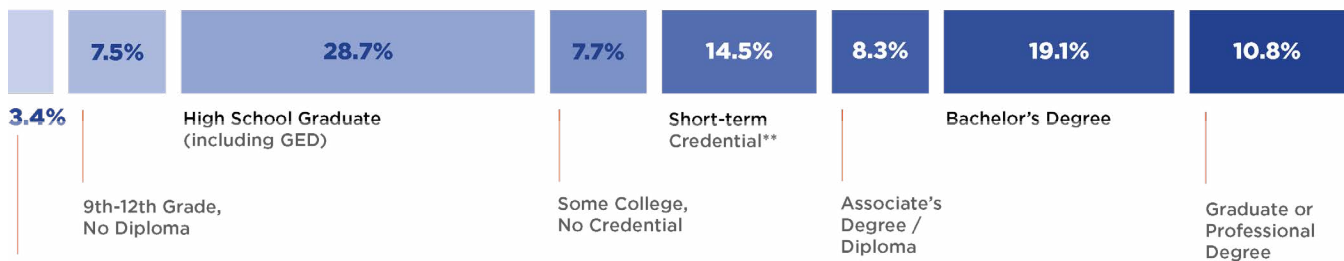
TODAY = 80,000

»» **Getting to 60%**

Based on the most recent data, an approximate 7.5% attainment increase is needed to reach Louisiana's 60% goal by 2030.

LOUISIANA WORKING-AGE RESIDENTS, AGES 25-64*

52.5% ATTAINMENT



* Because of rounding, the sum of these percentages may exceed 100.

** Short-term credentials include certifications (6.3%) and certificates (8.2%).

SOURCE: Louisiana Board of Regents (2025)

Year Six Major Accomplishments



Legislatively created new TOPS Excellence Fund to cover the cost of postsecondary attendance for the top talent in the state



Embedded work-based learning and career alignment into academic programs



Secured \$8M NSF E-CORE award to expand research capacity, competitiveness, and contributions across Louisiana



\$100M legislative investment over two years to address significant campus facility repairs

- ▶ Improved retention of K-12 teachers, implemented a new registered teacher apprenticeship program, and converted the Geaux Teach scholarship to a first-dollar scholarship to serve more future educators
- ▶ Increased funding for the National Guard Patriot Scholars Program
- ▶ In partnership with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, aligned program eligibility for all state career and technical scholarships (TOPS Tech Early Start, TOPS Tech, and M.J. Foster) administered by LOSFA
- ▶ Expanded philanthropic support to accelerate statewide reform efforts across Louisiana's postsecondary institutions
- ▶ First in the country to make Google Career Certificates available for free to every student, faculty, and staff at Louisiana's public colleges and universities
- ▶ Developed a revised data-driven funding formula that focuses on aiding student progress, rewarding contributions in high-priority fields and to workforce needs, and recognizing institutions for meeting their unique missions
- ▶ Expanded wraparound support for students through on-campus childcare centers, food and basic needs pantries, and a mental health and collegiate recovery partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health
- ▶ Through the LOUIS Library Network statewide consortium, launched modernization of critical campus technology that supports student and faculty access to resources through a new library services platform, increasing affordability for students and cost-effectiveness for institutions

► FOCUS ON AFFORDABILITY

Higher education provides life-changing credentials that yield significant personal and community benefits throughout a graduate's lifetime. The Board of Regents is committed to increasing access at every level so that graduates can thrive in their careers and communities. This requires a comprehensive strategy — strengthening scholarship funding for students with unmet need and merit-based and adult learners, as well as reducing time to completion and limiting student debt.

Louisiana has made important strides in recent years, expanding financial aid programs that open doors for students across the state and reward service and achievement with opportunity. The creation of the new legislatively created TOPS Excellence Award, designed to enhance Louisiana institutions' ability to keep our best and brightest here in the state, provides support to students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance. Similarly, Louisiana has increased funding for the National Guard Patriot Scholarship, ensuring that those who serve our state and nation can access higher education without financial strain, easing the pathway to both degrees and workforce credentials.

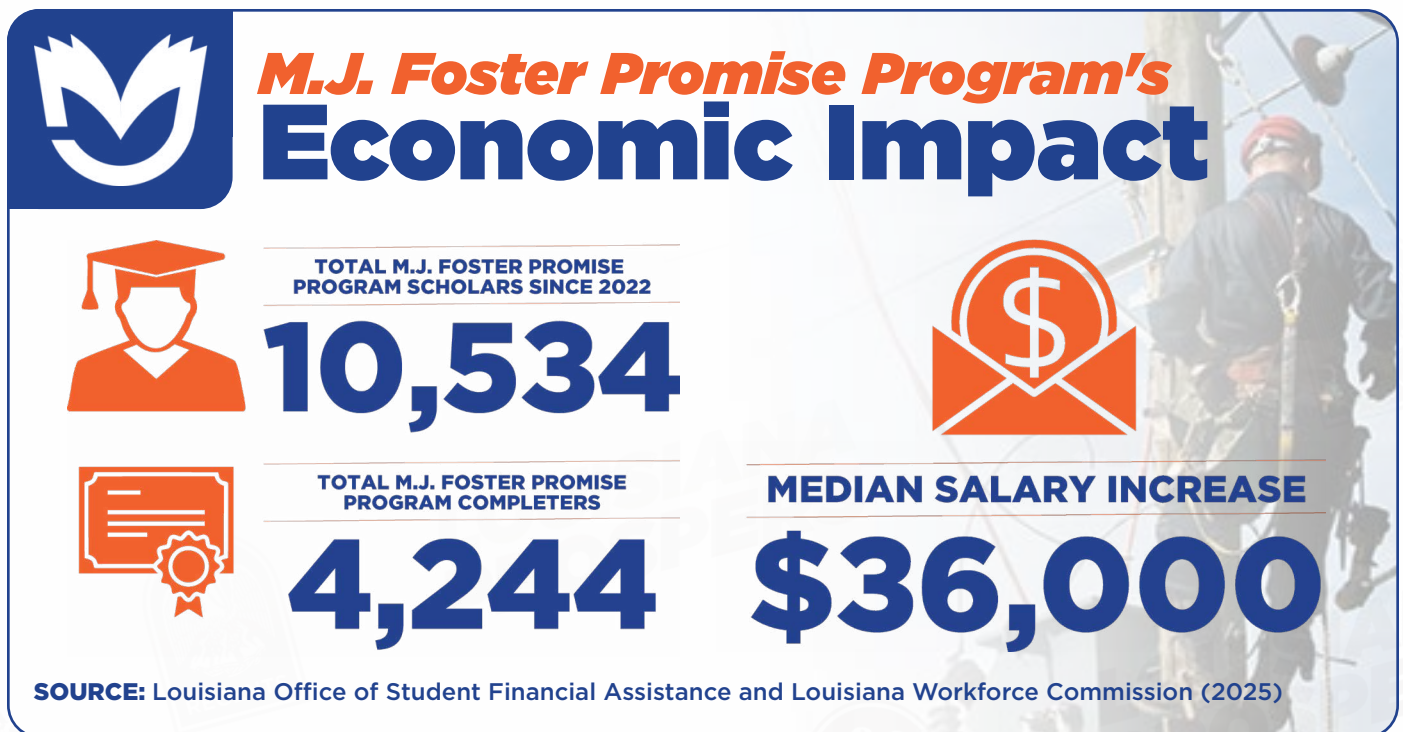
The M.J. Foster Promise Program continues to stand as the cornerstone of affordability and workforce development for adult learners. **Since its launch in 2022, M.J. Foster has supported more than 10,500 Louisianians**, with over 4,200 already completing a credential in high-value, high-demand fields. Its impact is clear: participants who completed programs in 2022–24 saw a median annual wage increase of more than \$36,000, for many more than doubling their pre-enrollment income.

Keeping higher education financially in reach for students remains central to achieving our attainment goal. Continued investment in need-based aid, including growing support for GO Grants and adult-focused initiatives while addressing state priorities will ensure that financial barriers do not block opportunity, allowing every student the chance to prosper.

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2025 FINANCIAL
AID REPORT



► GAINING MEAUXMENTUM

Louisiana's *Meauxmentum* initiative, supported by a \$3.8M grant, is now firmly established as a statewide change framework — combining bold goals, strategic design, and collaborative execution — to build a stronger postsecondary system for every student in Louisiana. This work continues to drive effective, statewide efforts to improve student success by supporting institutions in redesigning academic pathways, strengthening student engagement, and eliminating barriers to progress and completion. The universities and colleges in all four public systems — Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana State University System, Southern University System, and University of Louisiana System — are participating, receiving implementation grants along with intensive coaching, peer learning support, and technical assistance to operationalize institution-specific improvement plans.

Early implementation efforts are already reshaping practice. Teams are restructuring gateway course sequences, embedding undergraduate career advising in the first year, and integrating **high-impact practices** like **work-based learning experiences** into degree programs. Faculty are revising assignments to improve transparency and deepen learning and Meauxmentum Scholars are serving as champions of change at institutions across the state, while administrators are aligning policy and practice to sustain and support redesign.

► COREQUISITE MODELS PROPEL STUDENT SUCCESS

Early success in foundational math and English courses is one of the keys to completing a college credential. Traditionally, students needing additional instruction before taking college-level math and English were enrolled in non-credit developmental courses, for which they paid tuition. Results were poor, with only roughly 10% of the students who began in these remedial courses ever able to pass the credit-bearing math or English courses needed for their credential.

Our statewide reform allows students to enroll directly in the college-level course that counts toward their credential while receiving the supplementary support they need to succeed.

This approach is working. Using the new corequisite model, success rates have risen from 11% to 54% in mathematics and from 12% to more than 60% in English. This year, Louisiana became one of only a handful of states to fully implement corequisite education across all public two- and four-year institutions.



STUDENTS IN COREQUISITE
MATH AND ENGLISH HAVE EARNED
60% MORE
COLLEGE CREDITS
AT THE END OF THEIR FIRST YEAR

SOURCE: Louisiana Board of Regents (2025)

The Work Ahead

As a result of the tremendous progress and partnerships over the past six years, we are well on track to reach the 2030 Master Plan goal, but just reaching that goal is not enough. As the worlds of work and learning change at a rapid pace, we must continue to refine definitions of success moving forward, adjusting our approaches to meet Louisiana's highest priorities. Going forward it is critical that we prioritize the following:

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TO LEARN WHAT
STUDENT PARENTS
HAVE TO SAY

► BOOSTING CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

- Ensuring and communicating the quality, affordability, and safety of Louisiana's postsecondary institutions
- Emphasizing the applicability and alignment of programs and credentials to real-world opportunities in the state

► SUPPORTING STATE PRIORITIES

- Assisting institutions in being as efficient as possible in delivering superior education and training to individuals and communities
- Integrating agency and private-sector stakeholders, including the Governor's Office, legislature, Workforce Commission, Economic Development, K-12, community partners and business and industry, to expand the talent development pipeline
- Aligning programs and opportunities with the evolving workforce needs related to current and prospective economic wins
- Retaining Louisiana's best and brightest through excellent education and career opportunities here at home

► SERVING LOUISIANA'S PEOPLE AND INDUSTRIES

- Engaging business and industry in programs, student connections, work experiences, and campus/community engagement
- Embedding in education experiences career exploration and launching initiatives, including work-based learning in curricula, career services reform, internships and apprenticeship programs, and other mechanisms to connect learning and work
- Continuing to expand college-going and build student success through the adoption of proven innovations, clear, personalized communication, and college networks

As the 2019 Master Plan noted, **"we must pull as a single team to produce generational change for Louisiana."** Our successes to date and the plans to achieve our 2030 goal are the result of deep and sustained collaboration between institutions and systems, along with stakeholders throughout the state and across all sectors. This unified effort has already yielded steady improvements and record-setting growth in attainment. Louisiana stands ready to achieve its goal, and more importantly, to secure a bright economic future for its people. As the state continues to secure game-changing economic wins, we recognize and are acting on the urgent need to develop and retain the talent needed to catalyze *meauxmentum* into this new era.



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STATE OF LOUISIANA

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