

2026
YEAR 7
REVIEW

LOUISIANA'S FUTURE NOW



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA PROSPERS: LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS MASTER PLAN



From Credential to Opportunity: On Pace to Louisiana Prospers

In 2019 Louisiana set dual goals—producing 85,000 completers per year and having at least 60% of the population earn a credential of value by 2030. Today our campuses have met the goal of doubling the annual number of completers earned in our state, reaching 85,000 four years early. And we remain on

track to reach 60% attainment. That early success reflects higher education's embrace of reforms that work for the students they proudly serve. For Louisiana the future is now.

Together, our postsecondary community, including public, private, and proprietary institutions, has widened pathways to education, redesigned the student experience to improve persistence and completion, recognized a broader range of credentials of value, and strengthened the connection between education and employment. **At each stage of this work more Louisianians have joined the paths of opportunity that higher education makes possible.**

The work carries new urgency as more than \$200B in new economic investment has increased demand for talent throughout our state. Meeting this moment calls for more than producing additional credentials; it requires a deep and comprehensive connection of education to employment. Strategic investments by the Legislature and the Governor have been critical in preparing our systems and institutions to produce the skills, knowledge, and research needed to power a more diversified economy.

As our institutions continue to succeed in developing talent, we now accelerate our focus on retaining that talent—providing an environment that is ripe with opportunities for our graduates to prosper. To keep them in Louisiana, we must connect credentials to meaningful careers at home.

Louisiana begins this next phase in a position of strength. **We rank 14th nationally among the states, with a positive return on investment for public postsecondary graduates according to the Strada Education Foundation's 2025 State Opportunity Index.** Louisiana's new Beyond Completion Profile extends our insights, measuring the value of the credential and the successes it makes possible.

Helping more graduates translate completion into opportunity is our north star. We will drive to 60% while expanding employer partnerships, quality career coaching, work-integrated learning, and clear career pathways. Together, these strategies will help more graduates translate their learning into strong careers in Louisiana.

Year 7 begins the next chapter of Louisiana Prospers: increasing attainment while ensuring that the credentials Louisianians earn open doors to opportunity at home and greater prosperity across the state.



> Meauxmentum Moment

Since Meta began investing in Northeast Louisiana, **Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC)** and local partners have trained nearly **100 individuals through three data center installer cohorts**, creating a highly skilled workforce pipeline to support data center operations in Richland Parish. The program continues to demonstrate the transformative impact of industry and educational partnerships in developing the next generation of technical professionals.

📷 PHOTO: Data center installer cohort graduate at LDCC



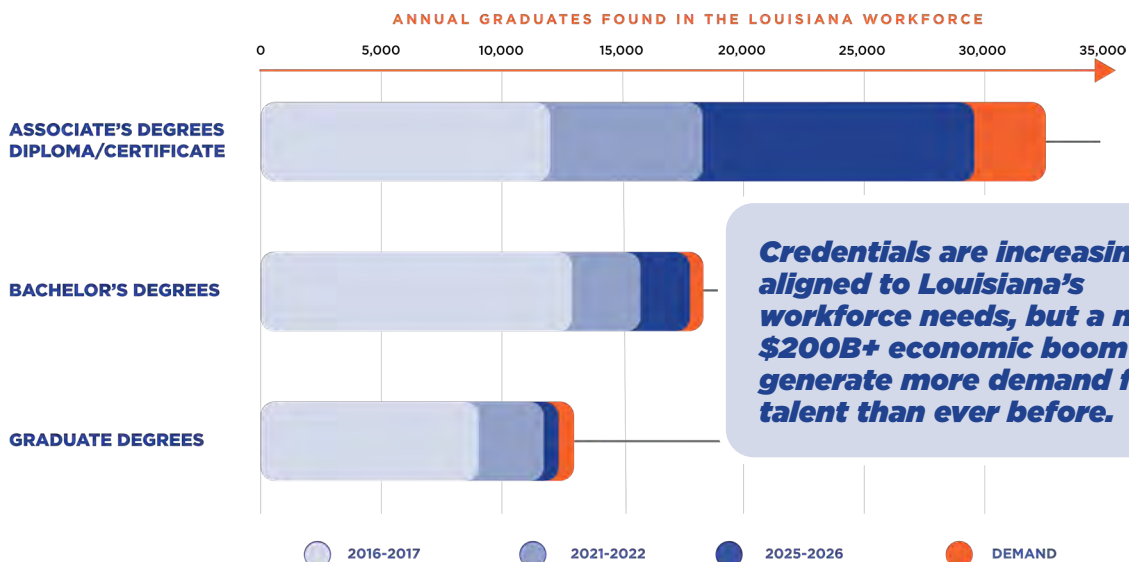
Doubling the Credentials

> An Early Win

In 2026 Louisiana higher education has delivered early on our goal to double the number of credentials earned annually, reaching 85,000 graduates for the first time. This number represents a historic achievement, with completions increasing by nearly 100% since the goal was set in 2019. The state is producing more talent, and the mix of credential types increasingly matches the need in Louisiana's economy. **But today an unprecedented economic development boom demands more. We must accelerate talent development and retention.**

We are tackling the remaining talent gap. Over the coming year, increased support for the M.J. Foster Promise adult financial aid program, TOPS Tech support for part-time students and the arrival of federal Workforce Pell funding will further expand access to short-term credentials for adults. In addition, Regents' funding policies and academic planning/career alignment, done in partnership with Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Works, and Regional Economic Development Organizations, target increased capacity in critical areas—skilled trades, healthcare, cybersecurity, and engineering—where demand will continue to grow through 2030 and beyond.

> Aligning Credentials to Louisiana's Talent Needs



SOURCES: Louisiana Board of Regents, LA FIRST, Louisiana Works, American Community Survey, Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO), Bureau of Labor Statistics.

> Meauxmentum Moment

Alumni from six Louisiana colleges and universities supported NASA's historic Artemis II mission. The Artemis II alumni, majoring in fields ranging from mechanical and electrical engineering to aerospace technology, featured graduates from all four public systems—Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, the LSU System, the Southern University System, and the University of Louisiana System—and our private institution partners (LAICU).

PHOTO: A view of NASA's Artemis II before launch in Florida



Demonstrating Value

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, we affirm our commitment to the enduring connection of higher education to the pursuit of the American Dream. For generations, higher education has been one of the United States' most powerful engines for turning that promise into opportunity. Louisiana has too often been described by how it falls short. National rankings frequently place the state near the bottom on measures of income, health, and poverty. But on one of the questions that matters most to students and families—whether a credential pays off—Louisiana tells a different story.



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

In Strada Education Foundation's 2025 State Opportunity Index, Louisiana ranks 14th nationally, and in the top three among SEC states, in the share of public postsecondary graduates who achieve a positive return on their higher education investment within ten years. At 69%, Louisiana is not just keeping pace. It is outperforming many states on a central question facing higher education today: Is the credential worth it?

This positive return on investment means that graduates are likely to earn back the cost of their credentials. But demonstrating value requires much more. **That's why the Board of Regents has developed Louisiana's Beyond Completion Profile: to explore what opportunities are within reach with a credential in hand, allowing students to achieve their American and Louisiana dreams.** Do graduates' earnings exceed the cost of the degree? And can graduates get to work reliably, build savings for future goals and unexpected expenses, and afford their own housing?

> Making Value Visible



Beyond Completion Profile

1



Positive Return

The credential pays for itself

2



Reliable Transportation

Dependable access to work and opportunity

3



Financial Resilience

Capacity to build savings for goals and unexpected costs

4



Housing

Afford your own housing

SOURCES: Louisiana Board of Regents, 'Louisiana Tackles Brain Drain with New Career Alignment Strategy' (March 18, 2026); Strada Education Foundation, 2025 State Opportunity Index.

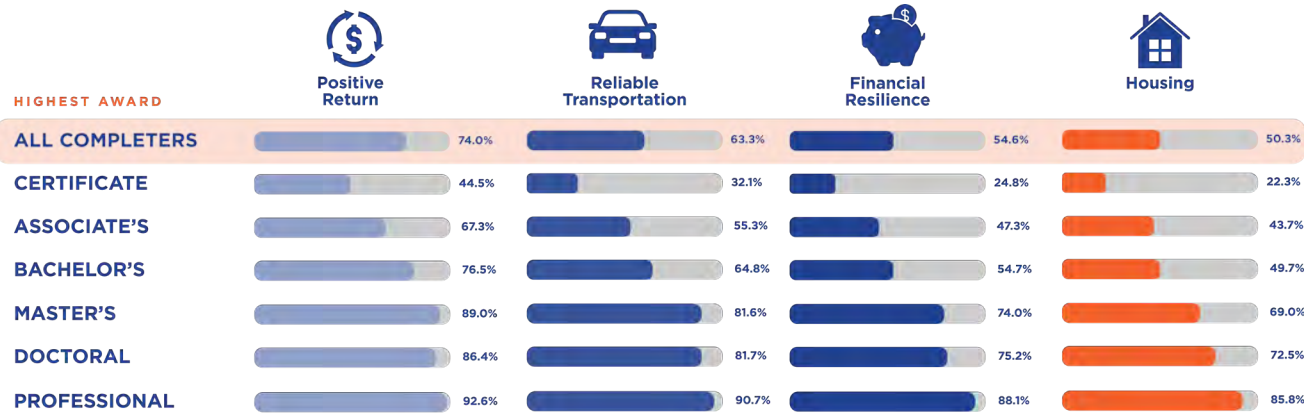


The stakes for Louisiana are high. The research organization United For ALICE estimates that 49% of Louisiana households lived below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Threshold in 2024, meaning their income was insufficient to cover basic household costs in the parish where they lived. **For these households, the economic value fueled by higher education is not abstract. It can mark the difference between persistent financial insecurity and the ability to thrive.**

>

Credentials Unlock Opportunities

More than two-thirds of Louisiana’s public postsecondary graduates achieve a positive return, and more than half of graduates are on track to earn at a level that both supports reliable transportation and housing within five years.



What do the percentages represent? They reflect the share of graduates who, five years after graduation, meet the income threshold for that rung of the opportunity ladder.

SOURCES: Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, LA FIRST, United Way.

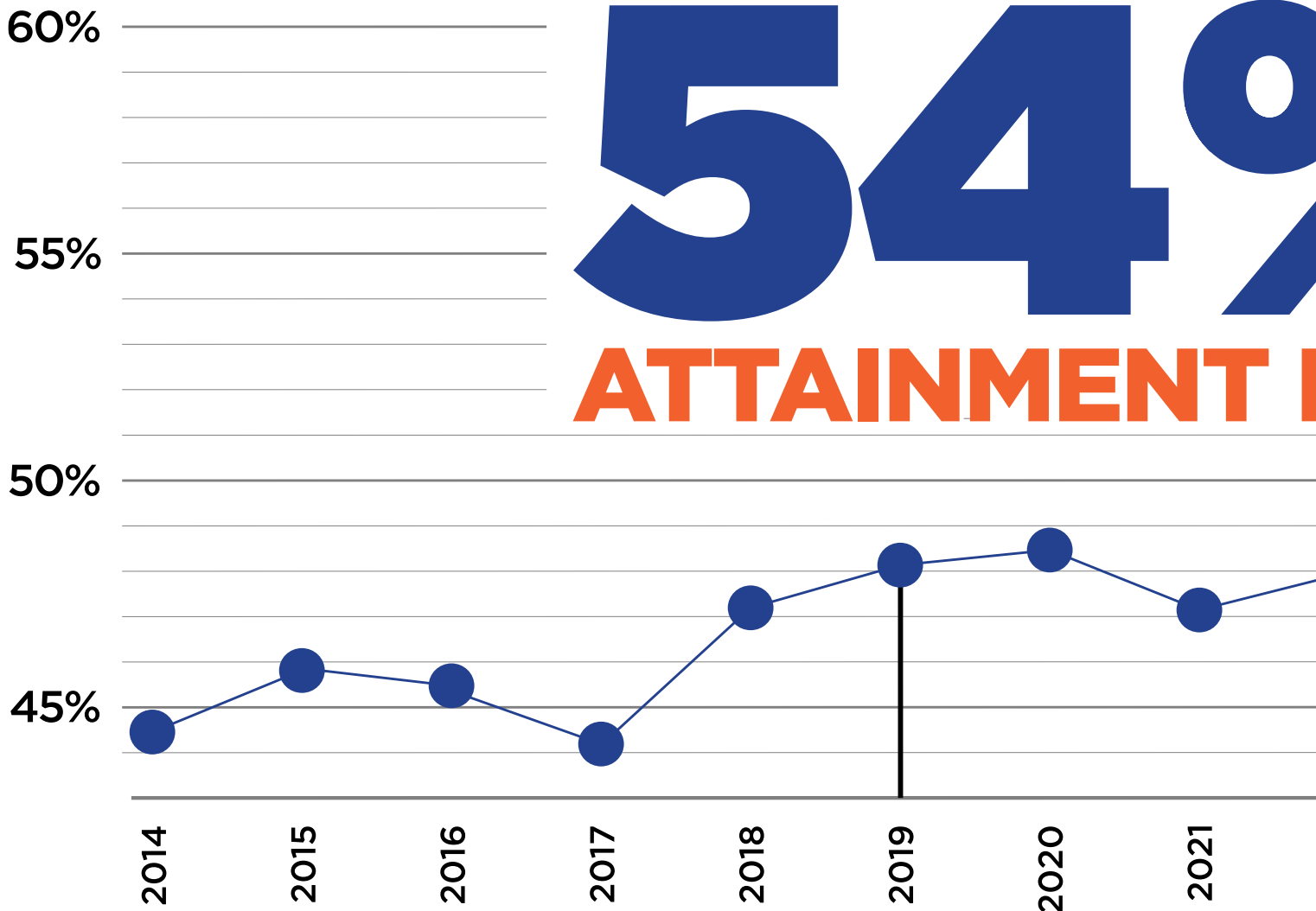
The Beyond Completion Profile makes that value visible. It shows that credentials help graduates start strong, invest in their futures, and build prosperous lives.



The goalpost has shifted. Success is not achieved solely when a credential is awarded; success is fully achieved when that credential is used to build a prosperous future in Louisiana.



GOAL IN SIGHT: On Track to Reach 60% A



SOURCES: Lumina Foundation's *A Stronger Nation Report* (2024); Louisiana Board of Regents (2026)

LEGEND:

— MPL

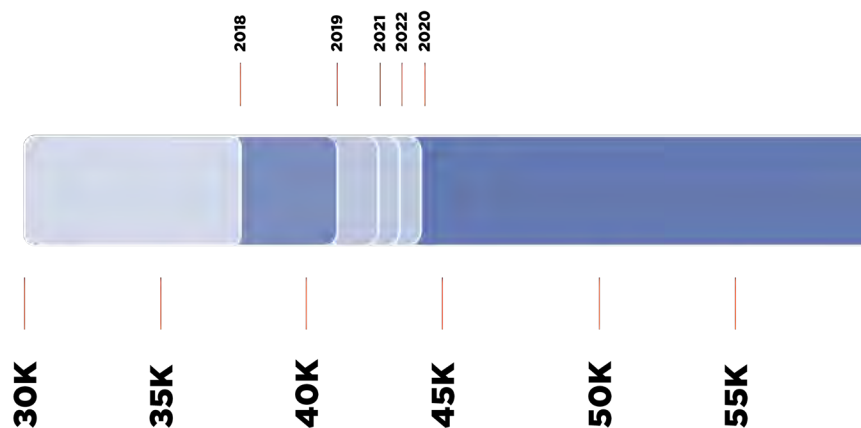


GOAL ACHIEVED: Double the Number of C

> Reaching

85K

Four Years Early



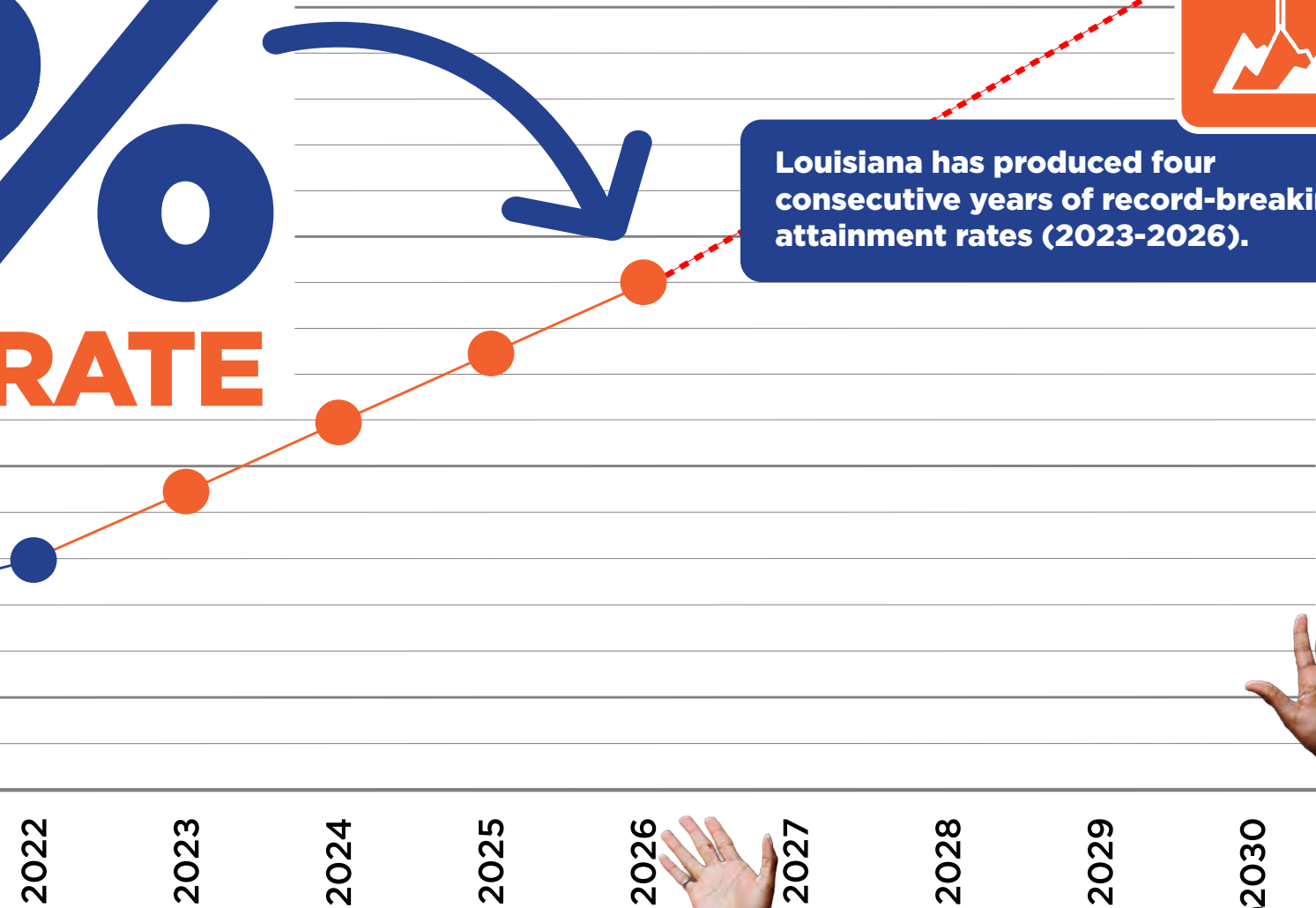
LOUISIANA'S FUTURE NOW

Attainment Rate in 2030

%
RATE

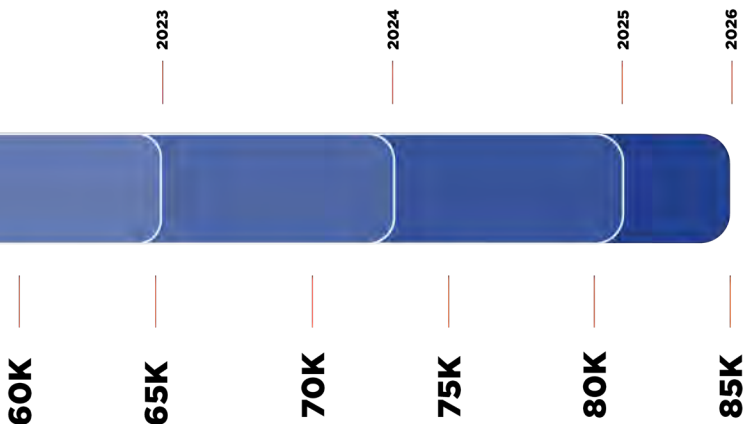


Louisiana has produced four consecutive years of record-breaking attainment rates (2023-2026).



Launched Lumina Regents Projection

Credentials



60K 65K 70K 75K 80K 85K



> Meauxmentum Moment

In February 2026, River Parishes Community College (RPCC) broke ground on its RPCC Hyundai Training Center in Donaldsonville. As part of its partnership with Hyundai Steel, RPCC developed an industry-focused curriculum aligned directly to Hyundai Steel's workforce needs. This new two-year program is designed to create clear, accessible pathways into high-demand careers in the steel industry while strengthening the regional talent pipeline.

PHOTO: RPCC hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in February 2026



Career Alignment: From Education to Employment

> Redefining Success—Career-Connected from Day One

Producing more credentials doesn't guarantee Louisiana's future. Graduates have to find attractive opportunities, build relationships with employers, and transition successfully from college into meaningful work. Fostering and retaining great talent—hallmarks of our success—are imperative for individual long-term employability and the state's economic prosperity.

Louisiana is expanding this strength through the Task Force on Career Alignment, charged to develop a statewide education-to-career strategy focused on retaining our talent. The central idea is simple—build career connections into every field of study for every student on every campus across the state.

> An Intentional Pathway from Learning to Earning



SOURCES: Task Force on Career Alignment Interim Report (2026); Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 (2025).

Students need direct access to labor-market information, meaningful work experiences, and professional networks, as well as early connections with Louisiana employers. These supports help graduates secure a good first job, generate earnings, and plan for their futures – the elements necessary for lifelong prosperity.

> Student Success Drives Attainment



> Opening Doors to College Early

More than 44,000 high school students participated in dual enrollment in 2025-26, completing over 107,000 college courses. New policy now counts dual enrollment credits for TOPS Tech eligibility, expanding pathways into workforce programs.

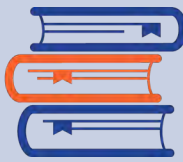
PHOTO: Achieve Dual Enrollment Students at Xavier University of Louisiana

> Meauxmentum on Every Campus

To secure Louisiana's future now, every public college and university across all four systems is implementing institution-specific Meauxmentum strategies to help more Louisianians enroll, persist, complete, and build their college experience into career success.

OVER 400
FACULTY AND STUDENT-SUCCESS
PROFESSIONALS ARE LEADING
MEAUXMENTUM STRATEGIES ON
CAMPUSES ACROSS LOUISIANA

Success rates in gateway math and English have **more than doubled** and second-year retention is

 **10 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER**
than traditional developmental education.

> Reforms Yield Results

Louisiana has fully implemented corequisite mathematics and English across every postsecondary institution, reforming developmental education and advancing student progress through the first year and far beyond.

> Transfer Pathways = Early Success

Louisiana's improved statewide transfer pathways have **shortened time** to degree by **more than one semester** for many transfer students. That means Louisiana is helping more graduates reach workforce opportunities sooner.



> Meauxmentum Moment

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) provides cutting-edge coastal and marine research infrastructure to all institutions statewide, including research vessels and facilities at the Houma Maritime Campus. LUMCON's research infrastructure is centered around 11 Carnegie-designated research universities, including **three R1 institutions** and **four R2 institutions**.



Major Accomplishments

In Year 7 Louisiana's higher education institutions have delivered, reaching the goal to double the number of credentials to 85,000 four years early, positioning our learners to reap the benefits of an unprecedented economic expansion.

Workforce Alignment and Academic Innovation

- ▶ **Learning Connected to Work:** Nineteen academic programs at two- and four-year institutions were redesigned to embed work-integrated learning; the Career Alignment Task Force advanced a statewide talent-retention strategy to knit career connections into credential programs and retain graduates in our state.

LOUISIANA'S FIRST
ACCELERATED
BACHELOR'S DEGREES

- ▶ **Program Innovations:** Regents approved Louisiana's first three-year (90-hour) bachelor's degrees, in Bioinformatics and Information Technology, and the state's first B.S. in Artificial Intelligence, at LSU System institutions, bringing accelerated preparation and key workforce preparation into our offerings.

- ▶ **National Models:** Louisiana was selected to pilot the national NASH/U.S. Census Bureau labor-market data system, to improve consumer information about education-to-employment.

Student Access and College-Going

- ▶ **Adult Financial Aid:** The remarkable earnings boost achieved by M.J. Foster Promise graduates was recognized with College Promise's 2025 National Impact Award.
- ▶ **Statewide College Outreach and Financial Aid:** To build on increases in Louisiana's college-going rate, Regents' personalized college admissions outreach campaign reached more than 40,000 college-eligible high school seniors encouraging enrollment; LOSFA conducted more than 700 outreach events in every corner of the state and delivered nearly \$362M in scholarships and grants to more than 80,000 college-going students.
- ▶ **Basic Needs:** The Hunger-Free Campus program expanded to all public and several private institutions, making grant awards to 21 institutions and securing a new \$1M state investment to support food insecure college students.



Investment, Financial Aid, and Opportunity

- ▶ **Strategic Investment:** \$56M in new formula funding and \$15M in increased M.J. Foster Promise support (\$25M total), provided by the Legislature and the Governor, will advance educational attainment, workforce alignment, research, and affordability.
- ▶ **Expanded Pathways:** The federal \$5.1M RESTART award helps justice-involved individuals reenter the workforce; a \$2.1M workforce Open Educational Resources (OER) grant expands skills-based pathways for Louisiana learners.



- ▶ **More Secure Infrastructure:** State investment of \$4M for START/529 education savings program is strengthening security and improving the user experience for Louisiana's account holders, with a market value worth over \$2B.
- ▶ **Inclusive Opportunity:** \$2M in new state support will grow inclusive postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities at nine higher education institutions.



The Work Ahead: Accelerating Talent Development

With strong and growing workforce needs, we know the demand for talent development and talent retention is urgent now. Louisiana has achieved much in delivering economic development wins and reaching our completion goal—with four more years to achieve our attainment goal. The coming year will accelerate our push to 60% while ensuring that credentials are career connected, employers find the talent they need, and graduates see potential here at home. When we achieve this vision, the value of higher education as the driver of prosperity will be realized by Louisianians in communities across the state.

► **Reach the Attainment Goal**

Advance college-going and student success at every institution, sustain growth in dual-enrollment participation, expand TOPS Tech and part-time pathways to credentials and employment, implement Workforce Pell, and improve affordability.

► **Lead with Career Alignment**

Scale to meet the workforce needs of the new Louisiana economy. Provide comprehensive information to all learners on the value of credentials in the labor market and of education beyond the credential. Expand quality career coaching, paid work-integrated learning, and employer engagement, supporting Louisiana Works' Talent Plan.

► **Provide the Supports that Make Completion Possible**

Connect students to financial aid, proven academic supports and basic needs including childcare, food assistance, transportation, security and safety.

► **Activate Regions to Efficiently Align Resources**

Use regional attainment and economic demand to guide decisions and resource allocation—strengthening campus, community, and regional ownership of outcomes.

Louisiana must accelerate the pace to effectively meet talent needs, capitalizing on new economic opportunities for our residents. Today the state recognizes that the credential itself is the beginning—to the career it launches, the stability it creates, the talent it retains, and the prosperity it makes possible.

For Louisiana the future is now.



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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