

# LSU

## PRESIDENT'S POSTSCRIPT



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Dear LSU Family,

Universities like LSU have important missions to fulfill. We are responsible for educating the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers. In fact, as a member of the 1% of U.S. universities holding land-, sea-, and space-grant designations, we are tasked with generating research that will solve the world's biggest challenges where they hit closest to home right here in Louisiana. Disease, coastal erosion, diminishing supplies of clean water -- you name it, and LSU is working to solve it. And we are committed to giving back to our communities through outreach and support.

In recognition of the critical role we fill, LSU is recommitting to our flagship roots through our new [Strategic Plan](#). This document outlines a razor-edged focus on six challenges facing our state:

- Advancing Arts & Culture
- Bridging the Coast, Energy, and Environment
- Fostering Research and Catalyzing Economic Development
- Improving Health and Well-being
- Transforming Education
- Developing Leaders

Through channeling our collective efforts toward real-world problems that have local ramifications and global implications, we will provide our students with a world-class education that sets them up for success throughout their lifetimes.

We think that's a mission worth having.

Sincerely,



F. King Alexander



## LSU's LIGO Research Wins Nobel Prize

The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to the pioneering leaders of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, or LIGO, for the first detection of gravitational waves. LSU faculty and students were instrumental in this discovery, which sent shockwaves across the international scientific community when discovered in 2015. It is considered the scientific breakthrough of the century.

Read more about LSU's role in this year's Nobel Prize [here](#).

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## LSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

Read the university's strategic plan and share your thoughts with me at [alexander@lsu.edu](mailto:alexander@lsu.edu).

# LSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

LEADING LOUISIANA. IMPACTING THE WORLD.

LSU




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## LSU Researcher Secures \$2 Million to Improve Behavioral Health

More than **20%** of Louisianans are currently living with mental illness, and our state is among those with the highest prevalence of behavioral health issues and the lowest rates of access. LSU's Scott Wilks of the School of Social Work recently secured nearly **\$2 million** from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to increase Louisiana's social work labor force to meet the state's increasing needs.

To learn more about how LSU research works to improve mental and behavioral health in Louisiana, click [here](#).

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**2** out of **3**  
LSU students graduate with  
  
**ZERO Debt**

### LSU Graduates Buck National Debt Trends

The average college student graduates with approximately \$30,000 in debt -- unless, of course, they graduate from LSU. Two out of three Tigers leave our campus with zero debt.

Those that accrue any debt do so at levels much lower than the national average.

And because our graduates also make higher than average starting salaries, they leave the university well-positioned to start their careers unburdened by debt and supported by a degree that only grows in value over time.

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### LSU Law Alums Nominated to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

LSU is proud to share that two LSU alums -- Kyle Duncan and Chief U.S. District Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt -- have been nominated to the [U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit](#).

Duncan is a 1997 graduate of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and practices law in Washington, D.C. Engelhardt, a 1985 graduate, is currently chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

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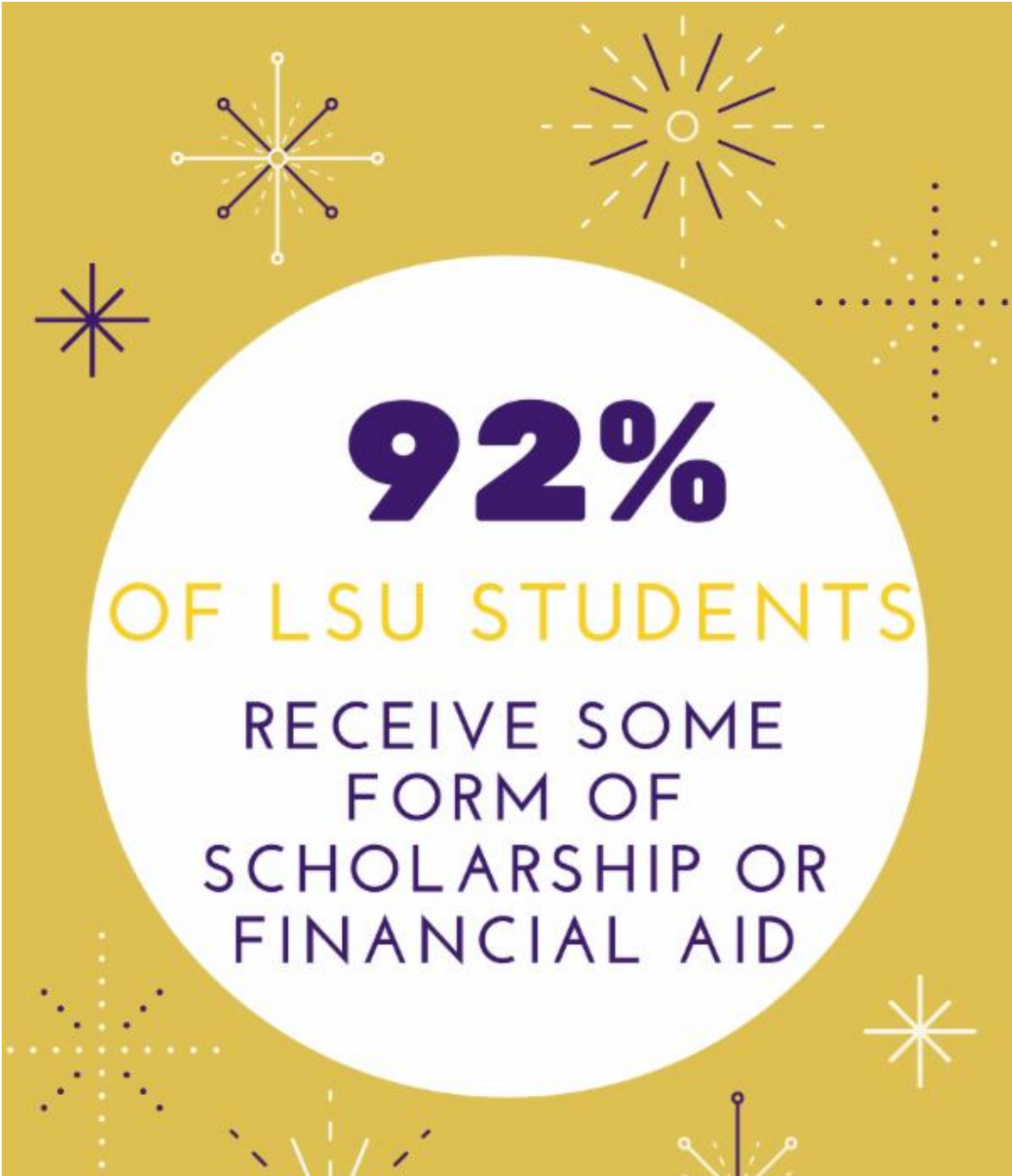
## LSU Alumna Funds \$2 Million Endowed Chair in School of Music

Janice Harvey Pellar, LSU '73, has established the Janice Harvey Pellar Chair in Voice and Keyboard in LSU's College of Music & Dramatic Arts to ensure the university's ability to attract and retain the most competitive faculty in the field. It is eligible for matching funds through the Louisiana Board of Regents' highly competitive Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars program, bringing the ultimate impact of the Pellars' gift to \$2 million.

Janice is the former owner and CEO of technology provider EMCO Technologies. She purchased the company from her parents in 1988 and grew it from 30 local employees to a nationwide technology provider. She credits her passion for voice and keyboard to her experience at LSU. She and her husband, Gerald, a 1974 LSU alumnus, have loyally invested in the college for nearly 30 years.









## LSU Supports Its Students

We know how important going to college is in today's world. Students who attain a degree earn nearly \$1 million more than their non-degreed counterparts over the course of a lifetime. LSU provides a wide array of scholarship and financial aid options to make becoming a Tiger a little easier.

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## LSU Grads Earn \$12,000 More than Competitors

Recent rankings demonstrate that LSU remains highly competitive in the metrics that matter most to students: outcomes.

According to PayScale's 2017-18 College Salary Report, **LSU leads the state** in both early and mid-career graduate salaries, ranks third in the SEC and 21st among flagship universities.

Washington Monthly's recently released 2017 College Guide and Rankings also place LSU as the highest ranked university in Louisiana, and fifth in the SEC.

The Washington Monthly rankings come on the heels of LSU being recognized by Kiplinger's Personal Finance in the 2017 "**Best College Value**" rankings. For in-state

students, LSU is rated 65 among Kiplinger's **Top 100 Public Colleges** , putting LSU as the highest rated public university in Louisiana.

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### **101-Year-Old LSU Alum Proves Age is Just a Number**

Julia Hawkins has been a Tiger for more than a century. From witnessing the arrival of LSU's first live tiger mascot, a visit from Eleanor Roosevelt, and meeting her future husband -- who would go on to be part of the namesake for LSU's Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering -- she has some fascinating experiences to share.

Her most recent accomplishment? Breaking a world record for the 100 yard dash in the 2017 National Senior Games. To hear more of her stories, click [here](#).

## 18 LSU Law students nominated for membership in Wex Malone Inn of Court

Eighteen LSU Law students were recently nominated for membership in the Wex Malone Inn of Court based on their performance during the LSU Law Center's annual Trial Advocacy Program.

The Wex Malone Inn of Court is one of the 175 chapters of the American Inns of Court nationwide. The American Inns of Court is an organization of attorneys dedicated to improving professionalism in the bench and bar. The movement was initiated by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger. The Wex Malone Chapter includes as members many of the leading attorneys and judges in the greater Baton Rouge area.

Membership in the Inn provides students with excellent networking opportunities, access to professional skills workshops, and the possibility of being matched with attorney mentors who are skilled in assisting young attorneys entering the legal market.

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### Did You Know?

The E. J. Ourso College of Business recently unveiled a [Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship](#) to help students prepare for running their own businesses in the future.

LSU just received the [Higher Education Excellence in Diversity](#), or HEED, award for the sixth year in a row.

The university welcomed record numbers of potential students to campus on Friday, Sept. 29, as part of its Kickoff LSU event series.

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### In the News

*A Sample of LSU Stories from Around the World*



- [Amid Chaos of Storms, U.S. Shows It Has Improved Its Response](#) ( *New York Times*)
  - [Five Things we can Learn if LIGO Detects Merging Neutron Stars](#) (*Forbes*)
  - [Has Tabby's Star Mystery Finally Been Solved?](#) ( *NBC News*)
  - [How researchers map the routes that save lives when disasters loom](#) ( *CNBC*)
  - [LSU Grads Earn More than Graduates of Other LA Universities](#) ( *WWL*)
  - [LSU System supervisors approve brain health center in Shreveport](#) (*KTBS*)
  - [LSU offers voice banking service, a 'game-changer' for patients with ALS, related diseases](#) (*The Advocate*)
  - [LSUS Celebrates 50 Years](#) ( *Shreveport Times*)
  - [LSU's Pennington Biomedical Center receives \\$6.7M from DOD to study nutrition of military](#) ( *WAFB*)
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## Mark Your Calendars!

Visit LSU's Museum of Natural Science for [Special Saturdays](#), a STEM program that focuses on introducing children and their parents to the world of natural science. This month's event will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 7**, from 10 a.m. to noon. LSU ichthyologist Pam Hart will discuss how caves are formed and what animals live within their depths. Please register, as space is limited.

"[Letterform Characters: From Stone Carver to Type Designer](#)" will be on exhibition in Hill Memorial Library from **October 9** - February 17, 2018. The exhibition is presented by LSU Libraries Special Collections and the LSU School of Art, and features two distinctive perspectives on typeface history and design. The research was supported in part by a Craft Research Grant from the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design.

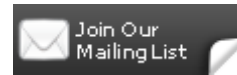
Join LSU Professor and folklorist Joyce Jackson for Science Cafe on **Oct. 24**. Dr. Jackson will share research on sacred rituals from the African diaspora, including one in north Louisiana that has been in practice for more than 150 years. Science Cafe is held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Varsity Theater in Baton Rouge. Doors open at 5 p.m. for free food, networking and drink specials, and the talk begins at 6 p.m.

LSU's [Landolt Observatory](#) will be open for public viewing of Saturn and the Quarter Moon on **Saturday, Oct. 28**, from 7 - 8 p.m.

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Not signed up yet?



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