For Immediate Release: Contact: Allison Smith
January 25, 2016 225-578-5958
asmi248@lsu.edu

RecoveryRun Baton Rouge Raises funds for LSU Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC)

BATON ROUGE, La.—

On Sunday, December 13th, 2015 local community organization RecoveryRun Baton Rouge held a 5K and 1-mile fun run to benefit the formation of a Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) on the LSU campus. According to The Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery (Texas Tech University), Collegiate Recovery Communities are defined as “a nurturing, affirming environment in which individuals recovering from addictive disorders can find peer support while attaining a college education.” After being awarded a $10,000 grant from Transforming Youth Recovery, LSU is set to become home to the first CRC in the state.

Community organizer, Felicia Kleinpeter with RecoveryRun Baton Rouge, passionately describes the necessity of this type of programming on Louisiana’s flagship campus stating, “Collegiate Recovery Communities are a vital component of any healthy university environment. An LSU CRC will provide a safe space on campus where one of the most vulnerable populations, students in recovery, gather to study, socialize, hold recovery meetings and access wellness services. Our CRC will also serve as a “beacon of light” to students who may be struggling with substance use and/or mental health issues. When we look at the purpose of this run and the community support it has received, we must acknowledge that something truly exceptional is happening here. This run isn’t just about reduction of stigma and support for individuals in recovery, it represents an entire community standing together to face the worst public health crisis our society has seen in over a century.”

LSU student James recently described what means having a CRC on the LSU campus would mean to him sharing, “that we have something to offer those [in recovery] who are interested in attending LSU. I have seen various cases of those who are interested coming to LSU with the hope that we have an established community to benefit them in their sobriety, but they are met with just a ragtag group of us that can barely fill a room. With university backing we will be able to have a set place and structure with which to meet these needs.”

Spring 2016 (mid-February) will see the opening of a new temporary lounge and study space for students in recovery which will be located in the Women’s Center. The space, with hours from 9am – 9pm Mondays through Thursdays and 9am – 5pm on Fridays, will allow for students in recovery to host multiple meetings and functions throughout the week while providing a space to build community.

The mission of LaCASU is to foster safe and healthy collegiate communities by reducing problems associated with students’ substance use through the process of collaboration among institutions of higher education and key community and state stakeholders. LaCASU illustrates LSU’s commitment to community outreach by assisting over 35 colleges and universities across the state of Louisiana by providing research, training, and technical assistance in matters related to substance use on college campuses. The LaCASU office is housed within LSU’s Office of Community University Partnerships and is largely funded by the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and receives supplemental funds from the local Baton Rouge campus.

For more information on the Collegiate Recovery Community initiative of LaCASU, please visit http://www.lsu.edu/lacasu

###