

SPRING 2026

IMPACT REPORT

LSU | College of Engineering



WELCOME

PRESENTING OUR FIRST-EVER IMPACT REPORT

Here at LSU, we've got an asset no other college of engineering in America has.

It's Louisiana.

There's our homegrown ingenuity. Faculty and students are resourceful and agile, tackling practical challenges in original ways. This is the place to design hurricane-proof homes, turn crop waste into jet fuel, and create technologies that clean water, fight cancer, and stop cybercrime.

If you can dream it, you can do it here—in a rich and vibrant laboratory.

Louisiana features hundreds of miles of coastline and millions of acres of wetlands and forests, farms and fisheries. It's ground zero for American heavy industry, with about 200 petrochemical factories and oil refineries strung along the Mississippi River. Our state is a industrial construction hub and home to NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility—"America's Rocket Factory."

Louisiana is, in short, a great place to build. Our network makes it exceptional.

LSU Engineering has dozens of industry partners and hundreds of active alumni working in Louisiana and across the Gulf South. These leaders give us real business challenges to solve in the classroom and one-of-a-kind research projects to tackle in the lab.

All this education and discovery is possible because of Louisiana culture. We share a love of food, football, and festivals. And we solve problems together to improve the lives of our Louisiana families – and families everywhere. We're also connected by our land-grant mission: Add value to our state.

My goal is to help LSU become a national leader. To get there, we must improve learning and discovery and deliver bigger benefits to our communities. The stories in this first-ever impact report show you how.

Vicki Colvin, Dean

LSU College of Engineering



PROGRESS

FINDING NEW WAYS TO MEET OUR MISSION

LEARN

#1

LOUISIANA'S FIRST AI BACHELOR'S
DEGREE, CREATED IN THE COLLEGE AND
APPROVED BY THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF
REGENTS THIS WINTER.

DISCOVER

30%

THE INCREASE IN COLLEGE FACULTY
GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS
BETWEEN JULY-FEBRUARY 2025 AND
JULY-FEBRUARY 2026.

DELIVER

83

THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE FACULTY AND
STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS
SPRING FOR ENGAGE LSU, A PROGRAM
THAT HAS INTRODUCED OVER 1,000
LOUISIANA MIDDLE SCHOOLERS TO
SCIENCE AND TECH CAREERS.

DASHBOARD

SPRING 2026 KEY COLLEGE FACTS

LEARN

949

SPRING GRADUATING CLASS

89%

EMPLOYED OR CONTINUING
EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION

\$85,677

AVERAGE STARTING SALARY

DISCOVER

\$36.2M

IN FY25 RESEARCH SPENDING

\$48.5M

NEW GRANT AWARDS IN FY25

3

COLLEGE FACULTY WIN PRESTIGIOUS
CAREER AWARDS FROM THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION

DELIVER

#1

LOUISIANA FIRST DESTINATION FOR
COLLEGE UNDERGRADS

100+

SPRING 2026 SENIOR DESIGN PROJECTS

6,800

FEET DEPTH OF NEW, FIRST-IN-U.S.
CARBON RESEARCH WELL

LEARN

REMOVING ROADBLOCKS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

To improve the education we offer, we dug into the data. We found a dozen required courses that were major roadblocks for students: too many were failing or dropping these courses altogether.

We changed how we taught these tough courses using performance-based approaches, building in more instruction time and offering online lectures so students could make up classes they'd missed or reinforce learning from classes they'd attended. Most importantly, we created hands-on lessons to make abstract concepts come alive.

This winter and spring, we saw signs of improvement—**an additional 127 students passed these roadblock classes.**





DISCOVER

TURNING AGRICULTURAL WASTE INTO INDUSTRY VALUE

Our faculty turn algae into fuel, plant waste into plastics. Now we'll expand that work with a **\$6 million grant from the National Science Foundation to turn agricultural waste into transportation fuel.**

Led by Ingmar Schoegl in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dorin Boldor from the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the LSU AgCenter, the grant supports a state-wide science team working together to turn sugarcane bagasse and other crop byproducts into diesel, jet fuel, and gasoline.

The research will create new revenue streams for Louisiana farmers and workers in the state's chemical industry. And it will leverage the state's plants, pipelines, and ports to transport both waste and fuel across Louisiana and the country.

DELIVER

BRINGING THE GIFT OF PLAY TO LOUISIANA CHILDREN

This winter, college students and faculty from the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering **built the 51st playground for Louisiana children** through the LSU Community Playground Project.

Since it launched in 1998, the project has brought together engineers, students, and community members to design and build playgrounds in nine parishes that **give an estimated 10,000 children a safe, fun place to play.**

Benefits of the program are mutual. Students learn the principles of people-centered design and get to know the communities they serve. Local kids contribute to the playground design. And communities get a gathering place.



EXCELLENCE

DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS ACROSS OUR MISSION



STUDENT WIN

We're national champs! **LSU swept the 2026 Construction Management Competition** this spring, planning a major construction project that met the highest safety and quality standards.



EDUCATION WIN

We created the **nation's first digital twin certificate to be developed by academic and industry partners** to skill up Louisiana in this transformative technology.



RESEARCH WIN

We won a **\$1 million grant from Google.org**—the first to LSU—to expand the LSU Cybersecurity Clinic thanks to the work of Aisha Ali-Gombe in the Division of Computer Science & Engineering.



REPUTATION WIN

We launched the **Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series** to bring the best minds to campus and raise our visibility among America's leading scientists and engineers.

CONNECTION

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AND CAREERS

We have an active student body that supports over 40 organizations. In these organizations they run, students build everything from robots to race cars, tutor classmates, and compete in national design competitions. Along the way, they make friends, learn leadership skills, get real-world experience, and serve their communities.

Dean Vicki Colvin has set a goal to get every LSU Engineering student involved in a student org before they graduate. To encourage participation, the college this year offered \$25,000 in financial support and started fundraising to support the groups.

Colvin told students this spring that joining an organization can help them hone skills important to employers like communication, team building, and project management.

“This experience is not only fun,” she said, “but can help you develop your own professional identity and land a job.”





INGENUITY

BRINGING CAREER SAVVY TO COLLEGE CLASSROOMS

We're known for bringing real-world experience to students. One way we do it: Put industry experts like John Pendergast in the classroom.

Pendergast worked at Dow Chemical for 40 years, secured 23 patents, and was elected as a fellow of the American Institute for Chemical Engineers – the highest honor for that profession. Pendergast is one of the college's **14 professionals-in-residence, who provide workplace insights and career advice and connect classroom work to the business world.**

"Industry experience adds a whole other dimension to our classroom teaching and our laboratory research," said Mike Benton, chair of the Cain Department of Chemical Engineering.



GRATITUDE

**CREATING A NEW SCHOOL
FOR LOUISIANA'S FUTURE**

This winter, the Louisiana Board of Regents approved LSU Engineering's new School of Construction. With the vote, regents created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring fresh thinking and new approaches to the construction industry—a vital part of the Louisiana economy.

We're more than two-thirds of the way to our fundraising goal for the Construction and Advanced Manufacturing Building, which will house the new school when it opens across from Tiger Stadium on South Stadium Drive. We have our friends and fans to thank for the new school and the building that will house it. **More than 130 donors, including individuals and companies, have donated to the building campaign.** Thank you!

SUSTAIN

WAYS TO SUPPORT LSU ENGINEERING

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