LSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

LEADING LOUISIANA. IMPACTING THE WORLD.
LSU’s latest strategic plan is a contemporary interpretation of the university’s original charter penned 140 years ago by former President David F. Boyd.
“Be it further enacted Etc; that the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, as hereinbefore created, shall have for its object to become an institution of learning in its broadest and highest sense, where literature, science and all the arts may be taught; where the principles of truth and honor may be established and a noble sense of personal and patriotic and religious duty inculcated; in fine, to fit the citizen to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously all the offices both private and public of peace and war.”
This strategic plan focuses on providing solutions to global issues that we in Louisiana and the region not only face, but are uniquely positioned to solve. Louisiana State University’s pursuit of these challenges will have measurable social, economic, and environmental impact. Specifically, the university has identified seven outcomes representative of the social return on investment that will occur through implementation of this plan.

1. People and organizations will choose to live and work in Louisiana because of the quality and quantity of LSU’s highly educated graduates.

2. Louisiana will earn a reputation as an exemplar for scientific discovery.

3. Louisiana will be the premier destination for both living and leisure through the advancement, promotion, and celebration of Louisiana’s unique arts, culture, and humanities.

4. Louisiana will advance its position as the undisputed leader in research and practice on coastal preservation and restoration.

5. Louisiana will be one of the top five states in the country conducting applied research in advanced chemical processing, energy, materials, and manufacturing.

6. Louisiana will be the role model for improving the world’s health outcomes, where Louisiana citizens will see a 20 percent reduction in chronic diseases in the next 20 years.

7. Louisiana will rank among the top 20 states with regard to high school graduation rates and percentage of students who attend college through innovative university/K-12 partnerships.
Our Values

Referencing the institution’s original charter, LSU’s rich heritage supports the ideals we value as a campus community—a balanced university that promotes the importance of our agricultural and engineering background, as well as the humanities, arts, and sciences with a passion to educate the whole individual that is inclusive and inquisitive. As faculty, staff, and students, we strive for excellence in expressing these values so they remain part of our culture and the legacy of LSU. They are:

**COLLABORATIVE**
We foster a culture that values and rewards collaboration at all levels of the university: across disciplines; among faculty, staff, and students; with other universities and institutions; and among those we serve.

**CREATIVE**
We nurture ingenuity throughout all areas of the university by creating a culture that encourages excellence, risk-taking, and an open-minded approach to challenges, while also recognizing and rewarding emerging talent and ingenuity.

**CULTURALLY ADEPT**
We celebrate our own uniqueness combined with an awareness and respect of local and global values and beliefs, which help to strengthen the intellectual environment and support our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

**GLOBALLY ENGAGED**
We understand that global events and culture affect our university, just as our scholarship, discovery, and experiences contribute to the world around us. Only through a conscious and consistent effort to connect with our global neighbors can we ensure that we advance the greater good for our entire planet.

**INNOVATIVE**
We innovate in the classroom, through discovery, and during engagement with the community. Innovative thinking across the university can help solve the challenges of those we serve and enhance LSU’s role as a global leader.

**TRANSFORMATIVE**
We are a catalyst for transformation—a force for good that changes lives and makes a significant, positive impact on the world around us.
For LSU to achieve the goals outlined next in our strategic challenges, it is important for the institution to invest in areas that have comprehensive impact across the university. These are: diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism; service and operational excellence; career excellence and enrichment; and student success.
DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND MULTICULTURALISM

The university believes that a critical part of the college experience is exposing students to a wide array of diverse people and cultures. As Louisiana’s flagship university, LSU draws students and employees from all 64 parishes in Louisiana, all 50 states, and nearly every country in the world. This mixture of cultures and ethnicities—what LSU calls a “gumbo” of humanity—provides students with broader experiences and a chance to expand their worldview.

Multicultural Resources

The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the International Student Association, the African American Cultural Center, the Women’s Center, and other services and activities promoting diversity exist to help students foster a better understanding of the people and the world around them, as well as prepare them for careers in a global economy. A variety of international programs and study abroad academic opportunities also give students a chance to explore other parts of the world and other cultures during their time at LSU.

Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap

In 2020, LSU created its Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap to further demonstrate the university’s commitment to fostering inclusive educational opportunities and an equitable workforce for all members of the LSU community. The Office of Diversity, a division of the Office of Academic Affairs, provides leadership to ensure that diversity is a vital component of all decision-making processes on all administrative, academic, budgetary, and strategic planning fronts. The Office of Diversity ensures that LSU as a whole is actively recruiting and supporting a diverse student body while simultaneously recruiting and supporting faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The Diversity Roadmap Steering Committee, composed of faculty and staff from across campus, guided the creation of the roadmap document that the university now uses to chart its course moving forward.
SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Exceptional customer service is the cornerstone of every successful enterprise. Through continual process improvement, LSU will work to advance operations and organizational structures to ensure maximum accountability, efficiency, and productivity.

Customer Service

The Student Success Help Desk, designed to assist students with any questions or issues they have, was unveiled in 2021. This service provides free coaching to students on anything from finding their way around campus to figuring out where to go for academic or financial assistance. Students can walk into a physical space with a question or can call, email, or Zoom with their questions.

Efficiency Through Technology

New technologies, such as apps that help students schedule courses and progress academically, and software that enables LSU to run its Emergency Operations Center remotely, are just some examples of how LSU is streamlining and modernizing processes to improve operations. Online and hybrid courses, as well as Zoom meetings for employees, have also proven to be efficient ways to do educate and conduct business during the pandemic. All these efforts are designed to enhance the overall campus experience, encourage creativity and discovery, and enhance the delivery of exceptional customer service to all who interact with the university.

CAREER EXCELLENCE AND ENRICHMENT

As one of the state’s largest employers, LSU will recruit a diverse workforce including nationally and internationally competitive faculty and administrators; increase support for its faculty and staff in their respective roles; and create a community in which all are valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

LSU is committed to recruiting a world-class, diverse workforce across all areas of the institution. From the administrators to the faculty and staff, LSU will work to find the best hires to help the university achieve its goals and produce successful students. LSU Human Resource Management will spearhead these efforts through national and international recruiting; by leading a variety of leadership and career-enrichment programs for faculty and staff; and by encouraging and rewarding employees through various recognition and awards programs.

Faculty Awards and Recognition

Numerous university-wide faculty recognition and award programs, including the Boyd Professor designation for LSU’s highest-achieving faculty, offer the very best teachers and researchers in the world an opportunity to shine while impacting the lives of students and citizens in Louisiana. Teaching awards, professorships, and privately funded monetary recognition programs will give the university a means of honoring its top faculty members.
Staff Awards and Programs
The LSU Foundation Staff Outstanding Service Award enables LSU to recognize staff members who go above and beyond to support the university and its students. Other programs to incentivize staff include ways to help pay for an employee’s fees if they are taking courses and scholarship opportunities for the children of employees. Leadership development programs will also serve to enrich staff.

STUDENT SUCCESS
LSU’s primary goal is the successful retention and graduation of our students. The university will work to address the needs of the contemporary student through the deployment of effective student success tactics that focus on graduation and career development combined with critical thinking and communication skills. By offering tools—both in-person and virtually—to help students set appointments with academic counselors, obtain academic coaching, matriculate toward degree completion, secure internships and future jobs, and maintain good physical and mental health throughout the process, LSU is actively supporting student success in a multitude of ways.

LSU will foster an atmosphere of success, not only in the classroom and on campus, but in an attitude that students take with them after graduation. LSU’s success lies not only in the graduation of its students but also in the contributions of its alumni to the state, the nation, and the world.

Maintain Quality Student Support Services
The LSU Center for Academic Success will empower students with strategies and resources that foster critical thinking and metacognitive development to advance student persistence and success. Free tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic coaching, workshops, and a variety of online resources help students succeed in their coursework and in all aspects of their lives. Evaluation and assessment techniques provide feedback to employees on which offerings work best, and data shows that these services improve retention and graduation rates.

Foster a Spirit of Community and Volunteerism
LSU will foster the qualities that turn students into productive citizens. Volunteer opportunities at the university instill in students the desire to get involved and give back. Service-learning classes require students to participate in community service projects as part of their coursework, and overall student engagement is encouraged through countless student programs, organizations, and activities that are designed to teach students the value of being an active member of a community.

Maintain an Effective Career Center
LSU’s Olinde Career Center is a powerful tool in preparing today’s students to lead tomorrow’s workforce. The center helps students obtain part-time jobs and internships, connects students with potential employers, offers interview and resume coaching, and helps in career decision-making. New technologies will contribute to the success of these programs as things like virtual career support and the Handshake online career platform come into wider use.

Provide Students with Hands-on Opportunities
As part of LSU’s educational experience, countless opportunities for hands-on learning in various fields give students the knowledge and confidence to be successful after graduation. Undergraduate research opportunities are plentiful. The LSU Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory recently contributed to a Nobel Prize in Physics, and LSU students played a role in that research. And facilities such as the Petroleum Engineering Research & Technology Transfer Laboratory—believed to be the only such facility in North America—teaches future petroleum engineers how to safely and properly operate oil well facilities and prevent blow-outs and other serious accidents that can occur on oil rigs. A multitude of other such opportunities enable students in all fields to have knowledge beyond their books, setting them up for success once they graduate.
Our Strategic Challenges

The plan is composed of six strategic challenges to guide ongoing efforts in our pursuit of discovery, diversity, engagement, and learning. These focus areas were chosen based on university strengths and opportunities, and reflect our dedication to serve our students, the greater community, and our world. It is through these channels that LSU has the potential to make transformative changes that will have a positive impact on a state, national, and global level. While there is a wide range of additional efforts ongoing within the university, these six challenges serve as points of collaboration and will guide us forward.
ADVANCING ARTS AND CULTURE
Louisiana’s prominence in a broad spectrum of the arts and humanities is recognized throughout the world. Expressions derived from generations of our multicultural heritage enrich the state’s economic viability and enliven the social fabric of our communities. As Louisiana’s premier public university, LSU excels in educating students in fields involving art and design, visual and performing arts, and in all areas of the humanities. Through collaborations across the university, and by coordination among arts and cultural leaders around the world, LSU will proudly continue to educate new generations to become leaders in preserving and advancing the arts, humanities, and our cultural heritage.

BRIDGING THE COAST, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT
LSU’s study of the coast, energy, and the environment is reflective of the increasingly complex relationship humans face with land, sea, and air. A large percentage of the earth’s growing population shares the common challenges, benefits, and vulnerabilities of living near coasts and within close proximity of a delta, which is often the site of fossil fuel production. The world’s energy needs and the pursuit of traditional fossil fuels and emerging renewable and efficiency resources remain at the national forefront. In facing these challenges, LSU has become internationally recognized for its expertise and resources in science, engineering, agriculture, energy, and coastal studies. With Louisiana’s focus on energy, along with the rapid erosion of our coast, climate change, and the inherent risk of hurricanes and flooding, LSU’s faculty must continue to address these critical issues with urgency.
FOSTERING RESEARCH AND CATALYZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
As the state’s flagship institution, LSU is uniquely positioned to facilitate economic vitality and opportunity on a state, national, and global scale through the research work of its faculty. Pivoting from established and emerging areas of research expertise, the university will promote an ecosystem of collaboration focused on basic and translational research. In partnership with the state of Louisiana, local economic development organizations, and entities across the nation and the globe, LSU will lay the foundation for building a 21st century innovation economy for Louisiana, while at the same time serving the state’s economic backbone—energy, agriculture, and manufacturing.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Quality of life issues affect all aspects of the socio-economic outlook for not only Louisiana but for citizens across the globe. The need is great, as evidenced by health issues such as epidemics and pandemics like COVID-19, cancer, an alarming rate of low-weight births, a high incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. Given the university’s vast expertise and research capabilities in the healthcare arena encompassing all colleges and LSU partners, it is imperative to create and implement strategies to transform health and wellbeing through research, education, clinical studies, interventions, and outreach.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION
LSU must transform the educational experience through enhanced teacher quality and leadership development, improvements in course standards, and access to university expertise. While the anchors of LSU’s educational efforts will continue to be the four-year and graduate programs, many of these programs have moved from a physical classroom to an online setting that provides more focused opportunities for nontraditional students. LSU must also be more than an institution that offers degrees; it must be a lifelong learning partner providing high-quality, affordable, easily accessible educational experiences as people advance throughout their lives. As the number of nontraditional students continues to grow, LSU must enhance online and distance programs, as well as continuing educational opportunities that meet the needs of this population.
DEVELOPING LEADERS
LSU has a long history of producing outstanding leaders. As times change, so, too, do modern leadership qualities. LSU must adapt its pedagogy to continue providing students with the highest level of skills needed to lead and succeed in the global market. As prospective students matriculate to LSU, we believe that the foundation of the undergraduate student experience should be rooted in a curriculum that embodies the values of the university—not just through traditional classes, but also through the synthesis of traditional teaching, co-curricular experiences, and experiential learning opportunities. As such, LSU will modernize its general education curriculum requirements to better prepare students for the 21st century workforce. In addition, the university must enhance its efforts to recruit high-quality students predisposed to leadership success and support them during their initial collegiate career while positioning the university as their lifelong learning partner.
LSU WILL BE A 
RECOGNIZED GLOBAL 
LEADER IN ARTS 
AND CULTURE.
Advancing Arts and Culture

LSU will be a global leader in the creation, cultivation, and promotion of the arts, humanities, and of Louisiana’s extraordinary cultural heritage.

Impact Economic Development
LSU will engage with civic leaders to advance Louisiana’s creative industries and to grow and diversify Louisiana’s economy through innovative arts and cultural partnerships and initiatives.

Expand Community Involvement in Arts
As part of its land-grant mission, LSU will partner with arts and culture organizations to serve Louisiana’s communities through meaningful engagement programs.

Promote Arts as Essential to Education
LSU will demonstrate the value of an arts education and promote the impact of the arts on our society.

Enhance Student Engagement in Arts
LSU will graduate creative problem-solvers and critical thinkers by connecting all students to arts and cultural experiences.

From Cajun and Creole cuisine to zydeco and jazz music to historic art, literature, and architecture, Louisiana’s culture is one of the nation’s unique treasures. A diverse mix of influences—including Spanish, French, Native American, African, and East Asian—have shaped our state’s artistic and culinary offerings and put Louisiana on the international radar as a prime destination for travel.

LSU fosters creativity in art, architecture, design, music, dance, theatre, literature, and film to further enrich and preserve our state’s culture to ensure that future generations may contribute to and experience the vibrancy and tradition it has to offer.
LSU WILL BE THE WORLD’S PREMIER LEADER IN INTEGRATIVE ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES THAT BUILD ON ITS COASTAL LOCATION.
Bridging the Coast, Energy, and Environment

LSU will be a collaborative nexus of people and ideas to advance knowledge and provide cutting-edge interdisciplinary education for our students in the areas of coast, energy, and natural resources, while also demonstrating to the world the important work performed in these fields.

Solidify LSU as Leader in Coastal Knowledge
LSU will solidify its place as a global leader in transformative coastal and deltaic research, education, and engagement by strategically investing in its intellectual capacity in groundbreaking coastal research, observation, modeling, and forecasting. LSU will demonstrate its ability to adapt to a changing coastal and social environment and increase stewardship of coastal, natural, and living resources in support of societal values.

Expand Energy Expertise and Resources
LSU will enhance its pursuit of energy law, policy, and economics; build and extend our global partnerships as a driver of the world economy; and actively pursue technological advances on how humans produce, conserve, and use energy, while seeking ways to address environmental opportunities and challenges.

Maximize Resources to Impact Environmental, Energy, and Economic Security
LSU will maximize existing resources and empower environmental and energy experts to address complex societal issues and respond to environmental challenges that affect Louisiana and the world, while also expanding economic opportunity to all citizens.

Louisiana is home to the most diverse wetland ecosystems in the country, yet every hour, our coastal land loss is equivalent to a football field. As one of the nation’s the top 10 states in crude oil production and one of the top five natural gas-producing states in the country, we also have a strong energy sector. Nearly half of the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve is housed in Louisiana.

LSU harnesses our power as a flagship research institution to deliver breakthroughs that balance coastal and ecological restoration with energy production and efficiency, to combat the problem of coastal erosion while ensuring our nation has the energy it needs to thrive.
LSU WILL CREATE THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS RESEARCHERS AND RELEVANT PARTNERS TO POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE 21ST CENTURY INNOVATION ECONOMY.
Fostering Research and Catalyzing Economic Development

LSU will encourage, support, and develop research and educational pursuits to work with all relevant partners to drive economic activity and wealth creation locally, nationally, and globally.

**Grow Interdisciplinary Research**

LSU will foster transformational fundamental science and grow interdisciplinary research prioritizing current and emerging focal areas.

**Catalyze the Innovation Cycle**

LSU will develop a strong culture of invention and discovery by supporting, incentivizing, and showcasing technology commercialization and university-industry interaction.

**Translate Innovation into Wealth Creation**

LSU will translate innovation into wealth creation by supporting researchers, students, and other entrepreneurs; leveraging university and regional assets; and connecting researchers, students, and other entrepreneurs to industry, alumni, and capital resources.

Now more than ever, evolving global challenges demand inspired approaches and bold partnership between industry and education, as well as a multidisciplinary approach to research and problem solving.

LSU provides discovery with results, contributing $5.1 billion in annual economic impact on the state and ranking among the top 100 universities, worldwide, granted U.S. utility patents. Access to clean water, development of sustainable energy, eradication of disease, protection of coastal regions and endangered species—solutions to the world’s most pressing issues are found in our research facilities.
LSU WILL PROVIDE SOLUTIONS THAT IMPROVE HEALTH, WELLBEING, AND LONGEVITY.
Improving Health and Wellbeing

LSU will positively impact the health and wellbeing of citizens in Louisiana and across the globe through research, education and training of medical professionals, public outreach, and by providing treatment facilities and creating access to healthcare for all of Louisiana. LSU’s reach in health and wellbeing encompasses the health of both humans and animals, as well as the environment in which they exist.

**Enhance Louisiana Health and Wellbeing**

LSU will apply its expertise to benefit Louisiana citizens through education, disease screening and prevention, environmental conservation and preservation, and data collection.

**Support LSU and Community Health**

LSU will embody and promote comprehensive wellness while creating partnerships that foster environmentally sustainable living.

| Louisiana cancer rates are higher than the national average, one in six Louisianans have diabetes, and more than one-third of adults in the state are obese. How these issues are addressed today will have a profound effect on our future population in the state and across the nation. These issues impact quality of life for our citizens and deal a significant blow to our economy. | LSU is at the forefront of medical research in all of these areas and more. Our scientific discoveries, including those at the LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center and LSU Health Sciences Centers, have helped positively change how America addresses health needs, nutrition, and preventative care. |
LSU WILL POSITIVELY INFLUENCE EDUCATION IN LOUISIANA AND PROMOTE A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING.
Transforming Education

As a lifelong educational partner, LSU will be a global leader in the positive transformation of education from cradle to career and beyond.

**Impact Pre-K and K-12 Education**

LSU will proactively impact the educational journey of Louisiana’s pre-K and K-12 student populations. From educating and training those who will teach Louisiana’s students of all ages, to providing the Early Childhood Education Laboratory Preschool and the University Laboratory School for children and parents in the Baton Rouge community, LSU is significantly improving the education of the state’s youngest citizens.

**Advance Higher Education**

LSU will provide relevant, transformative, and innovative education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, both in the traditional classroom setting and in the online platform. Modern higher education must include leadership development, career readiness, and experiential learning, along with the traditional learning and teaching strategies of the past. In particular, LSU is vastly expanding its offerings in its online programs in order to better meet the needs of its students and the changing times in which we live.

**Enhance Continuing Education**

LSU will further develop and enhance its commitment to providing lifelong learning by broadening the availability of all types of educational opportunities. From pre-college programs to certificate programs, and from professional development courses to noncredit community enrichment opportunities, LSU will be the state’s leader in helping citizens continue learning and growing throughout their lives.

Access to quality education has historically been a challenge for Americans with limited financial means, as well as minority populations. Unfortunately, Louisiana ranks as one of the least educated states, and the K-12 public education systems are often ranked near the bottom of national lists.

LSU conducts outreach to K-12 educators and provides student mentorships in local school districts in efforts to expand college readiness and offer best practices based on current research and scholarship. Events like Ocean Commotion, Ag Magic, and Sixth Grade Day give K-12 students the opportunity to visit campus for hands-on educational activities and to develop an early interest in higher education.
LSU WILL DEVELOP EFFECTIVE AND VERSATILE PROBLEM SOLVERS, GLOBAL CITIZENS, AND LEADERS FOR A COMPLEX WORLD.
Developing Leaders

LSU will prepare its graduates to lead purposeful lives as community leaders and global citizens. Using the Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College as a leading example, graduates will be able to understand and communicate with others, analyze and solve problems, and make socially responsible decisions based on literacies in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

**Revise General Education**
LSU will create a core integrative curriculum to replace the traditional general education paradigm.

**Attract Students Best Suited to Benefit from the LSU Experience**
LSU will purposefully recruit and support students best suited for LSU through enrollment management strategies and scholarships.

**Develop a Campus-wide Culture of Cross-disciplinary Teaching and Research**
LSU will encourage faculty and student collaboration across academic disciplines while eliminating bureaucratic barriers.

Good leadership is a critical component to the success of any business or institution and can be the difference between thriving and barely surviving. Effective communication, innovation, and engagement are all important leadership qualities that can be fostered through experience. Multidisciplinary experiential education, as well as leadership building, is an integral part of the LSU student experience, not only through coursework, but through opportunities like service-learning, Communication across the Curriculum, student clubs and organizations, internships and mentoring, and undergraduate research.
The university will use this document as a guide over the next eight to 10 years. The participants, including faculty, students, staff, alumni, key stakeholders, and members of the community, have contributed to the development of the plan, which has been a transparent and participatory process. We invite the LSU community and our constituents to continue monitoring the success of the plan as it is implemented and measured by its accompanying metrics. In-depth information on the history, the process, and the progress of the Strategic Plan can be found at strategicplan.lsu.edu.

THROUGH OUR WORK, WE CARRY FORWARD THE INSPIRATION AND VISION FOR LOUISIANA’S STATE UNIVERSITY, LEADING LOUISIANA AND IMPACTING THE WORLD.