



2020-21 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RICK BREWER, LOUISIANA COLLEGE PRESIDENT & CEO

Louisiana College is a Christ-centered community committed to Academic Excellence where students are equipped for lives of Learning, Leading, and Serving. That mission proved to be both more challenging and rewarding during this past year.

This was definitely a year like no other, and in many ways not one anyone wishes to repeat. The continuing health safety issues from a pandemic with added shutdowns from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and major interruption of services with an unusual ice storm, added much stress to operations at LC and also to many of our students whose lives were disrupted.

The resilience of our student body, the relevant ways our faculty and staff reached out to students during the time of quarantine, and the reaction of our alumni—stepping up more than ever knowing the financial consequences of this worldwide pandemic.

For all of this and so much more, we give God all the glory!

FAITH INTEGRATION

This year's fall semester kicked off with Curtis "CZ" Zackery as keynote for "*The Awakening*" challenging students with the

Truth of the Gospel. He is one of LC students' favorite speakers.

The first *Christ, Church, Culture Conference* of the academic year was held in October on the role of women in the 21st century ministry. Speakers included Victoria Dixon, Jess Archer and Dr. Amanda Walker.

In November, LC held another timely topic in its *5th Annual Values & Ethics Series—the Biblical Response to Racism*. Former professional baseball player Chris Singleton, whose mother was murdered in the Charleston, South Carolina mass shooting at the Mother Emanuel AME Church, spoke on the message of love and forgiveness. He was joined by Louisiana Sen. Katrina Jackson and Alexandria physician Dr. Greg Bevels.

In the spring, LC held two more C3 events. Dana Harris, the regional director for the Alliance Defending Freedom spoke in March on "*Religious Rights and COVID-19*." And in April, Prof. R. Keith Lofton from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke on "*Calling and Career*."

Our *5th Annual God in the Workplace* Lecture Series was held in March. Keynote speaker was Dr. Jay W. Richards, professor at The Catholic University of America, who spoke on "*Money, Greed and God: The Christian Case for Free Enterprise*.

In addition, LC signed articulation agreements with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary allowing students to apply college credits to a Master of Divinity degree at seminary.

GRANTS & RECOGNITION

Louisiana College was recognized by niche.com as the safest college in the state and the second most diverse. We are extremely proud of these recognitions and will continue to take measures to meet those standards. LC was also named a "*Top 30 Christian College*" by national research group BestValueSchools.org. This organization recognized schools that meet educational needs and maximize the student experience in the most affordable ways.

LC was recognized with several grant awards for bettering classrooms, living spaces, academic departments, and athletic areas. In addition, The CENLA Chamber of Commerce named the College's website the No. 1 Business Website in Central Louisiana.

The College was awarded two Board of Regents grants for theatre and business. The department enhancement grants total more than \$135,000 and provided for a business analytics classroom and a new stage for the theatre program.

ENROLLMENT & RETENTION

Many of the recruiting events we typically hold every year were cancelled due to COVID. The state also cancelled the High School Literary Rally in 2021 as we practiced social distancing.

We continue to grow our numbers of dual enrollment students with home schoolers, Pineville High School, and nearly 50 from Menard High School. LC Admissions team also held mini-college fairs at churches across the state.

At the time of the completion of this report, the College was expecting 350 freshmen, which would be the largest class in the institution's history.

ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS

In March, LC had its SACSCOC On-site Reaffirmation Committee visit for our 10-year accreditation review. The committee informed the LC Leadership Team of no finding of non-compliance. Their report will be sent to the Board of SACSCOC for a final decision during the December 2021 annual meeting. The last time SACSCOC had no recommendations for LC was 1991.

LC and CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini partnered to establish the Cabrini Scholars program to provide unique economic support for nursing students. The program provides grant money to eligible students enrolled in the college's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) in exchange for a commitment of employment as a registered nurse.

The Master of Social Work program, which began in January 2018, received its accreditation this summer from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The accreditation of this program, which since its inception has been to apply the Heart of Christ to the Hurt of Humanity, strengthens our goal to ensure our graduates are prepared to make a positive difference in the lives of the people and communities they will serve.

We officially moved from NCAA Division III to NAIA in July 2021. Membership in the NAIA provides opportunities for competing regularly in key recruiting areas of Louisiana while offering possibilities for competing for conference, regional, and national championships annually. All sports join the Red River Athletic Conference except football. Football will be a member of the Sooner Athletic Conference. This offers LC the opportunity to gain traction in some athletic areas we hadn't had previously and compete for some championship titles.

ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Your financial gifts to Louisiana College provide scholarships to phenomenal students, support the work of gift faculty, invest in innovative programs, and continue the LC tradition of academic excellence and a Christian commitment.

In the Office of Advancement, we received approximately \$5 million in unrestricted and restricted gifts to the College.

With more than 15,000 alumni worldwide, the Louisiana College Alumni Association was established in 1958 to connect alumni to each other, faculty, staff, and current students. In every way, LC Alumni are an extension of the mission of the college.

Alumni Affairs is doing spotlights on alumni in monthly e-blasts, and this has been added to the alumni page on the LC website.

We have migrated from a list of 68,000 names to about 20,000 with updated correct information in one location, and

Alumni Affairs has increased our alumni committee numbers and participants thereby increasing alumni engagement.

Wildcat Club has been reinvigorated with new membership categories to better represent members' specific areas of interest.

REFURBISHMENT & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Major renovations were completed this year in Cottingham women's residence hall, and Tudor Hall and English Village, men's residence halls, thanks to generous donor funds. English Village had a complete makeover with new siding on the exterior, and renovations of the interior including new furniture and wall hangings, and new tables and chairs in the Commons Area where students can charge phones and computers, as well as fellowship with students, play games and attend events held in this space.

LC became the first institution in Central Louisiana to partner with Ardeo Education Solutions to offer a loan repayment assistance program that will allow all incoming freshmen beginning this fall to get help repaying student loans.

In resource development, 80% of our existing Wi-Fi network was upgrades and additional expansions to the network produced coverage in all campus buildings. Sixteen classrooms and labs were upgrades with new computers, and 55 laptops were purchased for faculty—most of whom had never had one before.

Canvas was officially launched as the new LMS (learning management system) for LC

Fall 2020. With the challenges of COVID and other natural disasters, online education and new hybrid online learning tools were more needed than ever before. The Center for Online Innovation and Development (COID) launched and trained faculty and staff on best practices for tools such as VoiceThread and Teams, which allowed for the use of document cameras (Hover Cam8) and video systems (Vaddio) that were installed in larger classrooms. Students were then able to attend class virtually (synchronously and asynchronously). This move to offering more modality options for students to attend classes required much more work from the magnificent LC faculty, but allowed for better retention and support for students in crisis/need.

In addition to launching Canvas, the COID has developed training and new benchmarks for the creation of online classes that meet Quality Matters standards. According to their website, Quality Matters "course review results in better course design, which makes navigation easier for students, reduces barriers to student achievement, and results in better outcomes." LC has focused on developing new general education courses and business major courses with an emphasis in project management. Students were able

to attend classes with more flexibility during the uncertainty of 2020.

Online connectivity was also significantly improved across campus. Access Points (AP) were added across campus to ensure access to the internet. New switches were purchased and installed as well as many other technology upgrades to classrooms, dorms, and study areas. The library also added secure testing sites for online proctored exams.

This report captures the strategic planning and resolve of the last 12 months to rise to the challenges that came before us and the blessings that God has bestowed on Louisiana College.

I am grateful for all of the churches of the LBC for your continued support through the Cooperative Program. As the need for Christian higher education continues to grow, your support allows LC to continue offering an affordable and accessible education. It truly would not be possible without you.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for this worthy, Christ-centered institution. We will continue to follow His call.

