

APRIL 24, 2009

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Eight Universities Strong

Grambling State University

Louisiana Tech University

McNeese State University

Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University

Southeastern Louisiana University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

University of Louisiana at Monroe

UL System Expands International Partnership

An agreement between Pôle Universitaire Leonard de Vinci (PULV) and the eight UL System campuses, approved by the Board in August 2008, has continued to grow and flourish over the past eight months through building a solid relationship between the UL System and the French institution.

The cooperative agreement forms a partnership where students can study abroad while paying tuition to their home institution, and it also encourages collaboration between faculty through teaching and research opportunities.

A Representative from PULV recently visited Northwestern State University to learn more about institutionalizing service-learning. Also, PULV's Department Head for Applied Mathematics, John Cagnol, recently

guest lectured at Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern, Southeastern Louisiana University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

In addition, PULV graciously invited and sponsored a trip for 19 faculty members from UL System schools to attend International Week at their campus in Paris, France.

During the week, faculty members had the opportunity to teach seminars to the Parisian students in order to expose them to different teaching styles in a foreign language.

"The experience sharpened my teaching skills, which translated back to the classroom, and



President Moffett and Philippe Dubost, Associate director of PULV sign the Memorandum of Understanding in September 2008 while UL System Provost Brad O'Hara looks on.

opened the door to new research opportunities," said Karen Fontenot, Chair of the Department of Communications at Southeastern.

In August, the first group of PULV students will arrive for the Fall 2009 semester to study in various universities within the system.

Southeastern Uses Technology to Enhance Access and Success

Southeastern Louisiana University presented its approach to improving student access and success to the Board of Supervisors Special Committee on Access to Success. This was the fourth in a series of presentations by the eight UL System campuses.

Interim Provost Tammy Bour highlighted Southeastern's four guiding principles:

- Establishing relationships,
- Committing support,
- Communicating expectations, and
- Sharing responsibilities.

The university also uses technology to recruit, advise, and retain students.

An example is the Early Start dual enrollment program that has seen a 103 percent increase in participation with 1,000 students from 34 high schools. The university uses a computer system that tracks student progress and relays information to the university and high school administration.

Advising software assists academic planning and tracks degree progress. In addition, mid-term deficiency reports identify at-risk students and initiate faculty and advisor intervention.

Southeastern uses scholarships to assist student success. For example the Progression Scholarship is awarded based on course completion tied to degree attainment. The quicker you progress, the more you are rewarded.

Committee Chair Wayne Parker congratulated Southeastern on their work. "It's valuable that you have gone beyond instituting initiatives and have begun to measure their success," said Parker.

Visit www.ulsystem.edu to see the full presentation and learn more about the UL System Access to Success Initiative.

UL System has \$3.4 Billion Annual Impact



The UL System is “8 Universities Strong,” as seen through the results of the economic and community impact study released last week during a press conference in the Claiborne Building’s Louisiana Purchase Auditorium. A website, testimonials, and a full downloadable report dedicated to the study’s results, can be accessed by visiting www.ulsystem.edu/impactstudy.

Interesting findings include:

- **\$8 return on every \$1 the state invests in the UL System,**
- **Student spending in the UL System supports 12,500 non-university jobs in Louisiana’s restaurant, entertainment and retail industries,**
- **Approximately two-thirds of UL System graduates remain in the state, and**
- **Combined, the eight universities had almost 36,000 event days and 3.9 million visitors last year alone.**

Board Action

The Board of Supervisors for the UL System approved the following university requests:

Academic and Student Affairs

- Grambling: Discontinue the Bachelor of Science degree program in Hotel and Restaurant Management.
- Grambling: Discontinue the Associate of Arts degree program in Criminal Justice.
- Grambling: Award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Dr. Cuthbert O. Simpkins at the Spring 2009 Commencement Exercises.
- LA Tech: Award an Honorary Doctor of Law degree to Mr. Glen F. Post III at the Spring 2009 Commencement Exercises.
- Nicholls: Award an Honorary Doctor Science degree to Mr. Gary Fine at the Spring 2009 Commencement Exercises.

Finance

- LA Tech: Proceed with negotiations for a lease agreement for food service operations.
- UL Lafayette: Proceed with negotiations for a lease agreement for food service operations.

Personnel Committee

- Grambling: Appoint Dr. Stacey Duhon as Vice President for Student Affairs effective April 1, 2009.
- UL Lafayette: Appoint Mr. Jerry Luke LeBlanc as Vice President for Administration and Finance effective May 1, 2009.



Board Chair Elsie Burkhalter (left) and UL System President Randy Moffett (right) present outgoing Student Board Member Morgan Verrette an award for her hard work and dedication over the past year. Verrette served on the Southeastern Presidential Search Committee, successfully juggling classes at McNeese State University with candidate interviews in Hammond. She is majoring in Chemical Engineering at McNeese and plans to graduate next May. After graduation, Verrette plans to pursue a career in chemical sales.