

LSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

LEADING LOUISIANA. IMPACTING THE WORLD.

LSU

**From the Original Charter of Louisiana State University and A&M College
Adopted May 19, 1877**

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.

ther Enacted Etc;
State University of Agriculture
hereinafter created shall have
an institution of learning in
e, where literature, science,
ught; 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."

LSU

LSU Strategic Plan 2025

**Leading Louisiana.
Impacting the World.**

When President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act—more commonly known as the “land grant act”—it broadened the role of higher education beyond the training of priests and civil servants by incentivizing states to create “colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the Mechanical Arts” as well as “scientific and classical studies.” The goal was to create a new system of publicly supported American higher education that would respond to the needs of Americans in every state and territory, making higher education more relevant to the broader needs of society. Over one hundred and fifty years later, this responsibility hasn’t changed and the impact of our public research universities has had profound effect through enhancing the social mobility of generations of students and improving the well-being of the entire nation (and much of the global community) through contributions to research, infrastructure, the economy, and our knowledge base.

As one of the nation’s greatest public land-, sea-, and space-grant universities, LSU has an obligation to serve our region and nation through discovery, diversity, engagement, and learning. LSU’s contributions to the broad and evolving needs of society can be measured through the individual and social rates of return experienced by every citizen in the form of greater upward social mobility through higher educational attainment; enhanced human rights and democratization; better health and environmental outcomes; reduced income inequality and poverty; more efficient and productive agricultural production; and lower welfare, medical, and incarceration costs. Through the application of intelligence and reason to the region’s and nation’s problems, LSU has the human capital capacity to enhance the societal benefits that accrue to every global citizen. For this reason, LSU, as Louisiana’s flagship research university, has developed a new strategic plan to solve global challenges acute to this region through cutting-edge research and educating future leaders equipped with the ability, skills, and desire to make positive impact throughout the world.



F. King Alexander
LSU President

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 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

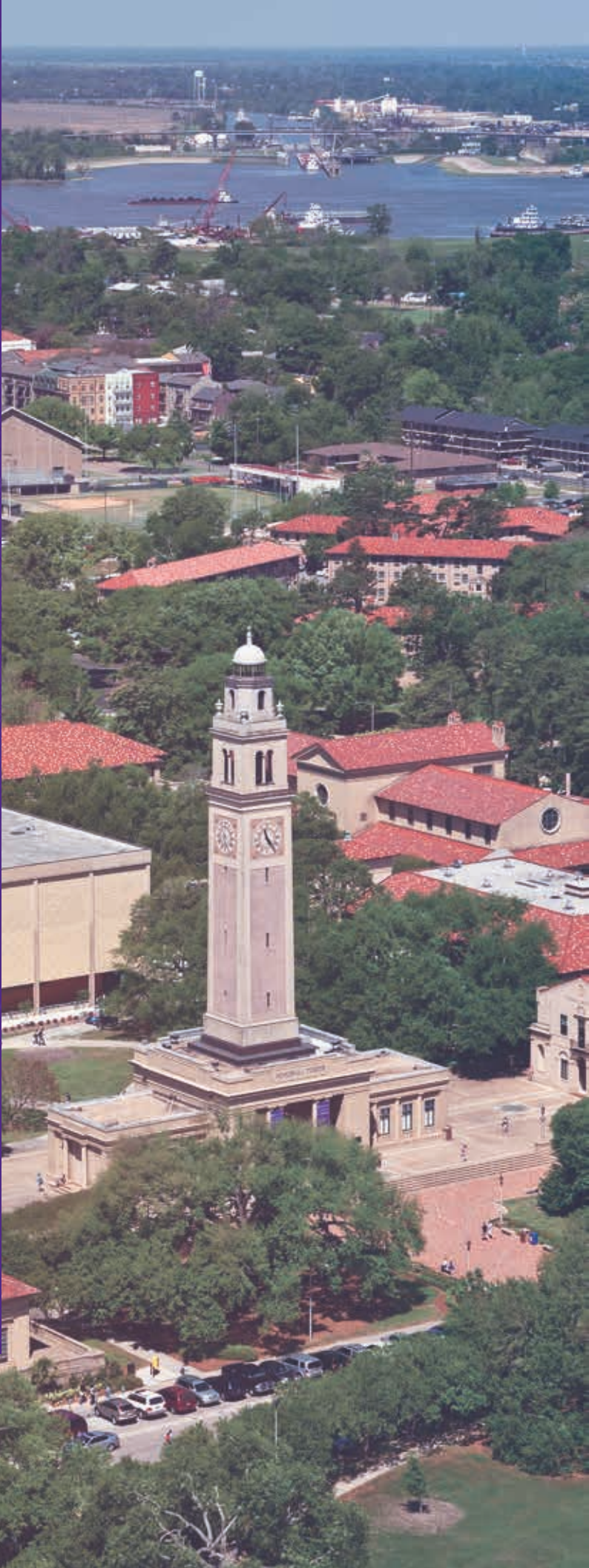
We innovate in the classroom, through discovery, and during engagement with the community. Innovative thinking across the university can help solve the challenges of those we serve and enhance LSU's role as a global leader.

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.

Our Strategic Challenges

The plan is comprised 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 multi-cultural 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 ranging from an alarming rate of low-weight births to early onset of disabilities caused by diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and obesity. LSU will use collaborative approaches to move forward with the design and implementation of a One Health initiative. Given the university's vast expertise and research capabilities in the health care 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 pursue scholarship to 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, LSU must be more than an institution that offers degrees, but 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, protocol, and 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.



IMPACT

Together, with key stakeholders, LSU will have a state, national, and global impact by implementing and sustaining a variety of initiatives at the department, college, and university level that support the strategic plan challenges. The ten university-led initiatives are:

- 1 The Louisiana Arts Connection
- 2 The Institute for Dialogue, Diversity, and Culture
- 3 The LSU Institute for Coastal Observation, Prediction and Response
- 4 The LSU Center for Next Generation Materials and Manufacturing
- 5 The Energy Center
- 6 The LSU One Health Institute
- 7 The Institute for STEM Literacy
- 8 "LSU Integrative Core" Curriculum
- 9 LSU Center for Collaborative Knowledge
- 10 The LSU Scholars Endowment Initiative





**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.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVES

The Louisiana Arts Connection

LSU will partner with community arts and culture organizations, along with civic leaders to create a unified vision to increase visibility and raise awareness of the importance of arts and culture in the community, thereby branding Baton Rouge as an arts destination. The LSU arts hub will be a virtual and physical space delivering a comprehensive arts calendar and ticketing system, exhibition space for artists, promotional information for the arts community, and a collaborative marketing strategy through print, radio, and social media.

The Institute for Dialogue, Diversity and Culture

LSU will address a significant challenge that revolves around the rhetoric of diversity and inclusion. Tackling this issue substantively so that we build bridges rather than perpetuate silos is essential to moving forward as an institution, a state, and a nation. While this challenge presents enormous aspirations for community and unity, at its core is a need to understand our perceptions of each other and foster free and open communication. The Institute will have significant impact on how we educate, counsel, articulate in text or in word, and perform visually and musically.



**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.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVES

The LSU Institute for Coastal Observation, Prediction, and Response

LSU will establish a multi-disciplinary “super-institute” to support our initiative as a leader of coastal observation, analysis, prediction, and response. The institute will focus on the following:

1. Positioning LSU as the coastal research and education equivalent of the world’s great “blue water” oceanographic institutions. Even more: as one of a handful of Land Grant/Sea Grant/Space Grant universities, LSU helps translate new knowledge to practice.
2. This initiative will bring together the resources of numerous academic units to create a nationally prominent research and education engine focusing on the interaction

of natural and social science. This endeavor will serve better-informed coastal resource investment and improve community resiliency to environmental stress.

3. Educating the next generation of scientists, leaders, educators, and managers concerned with the pressing coastal issues facing society.

The Energy Center

To expand economic opportunity, LSU will establish a multi-disciplinary center on energy extraction and production research and education, and enhance its present energy economics and policy programs via the Center for Energy Studies.



**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.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVE

The LSU Center for Next Generation Materials and Manufacturing

LSU will build on its investment in materials science research with applications to energy, medicine, high-precision electronics and sensors, computational modeling, the environment and manufacturing. This multi-disciplinary ecosystem will

be poised to develop new advanced manufacturing and materials technologies, introduce novel robotics & automation technologies in manufacturing environments, and enable high-value product manufacturing from the state's strong base in chemical manufacturing, with particular emphasis on process innovation.



**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 by researching, creating, and implementing a comprehensive One Health Initiative—an endeavor that encompasses the health of humans, animals, and 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.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVE

The LSU One Health Institute

Local One Health

Few populations in the U.S. suffer from as many health problems as do residents in our region. We rank near the top of all states in obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and sexually transmitted diseases, among others. According to ongoing research at LSU, much of these diseases are believed to reflect health disparities between groups within the region. Many of these problems are preventable through education on health, disease prevention, and nutrition. In addition, many of these diseases are reversible with timely treatment or lifestyle changes. To affect change for our region we must tackle the following:

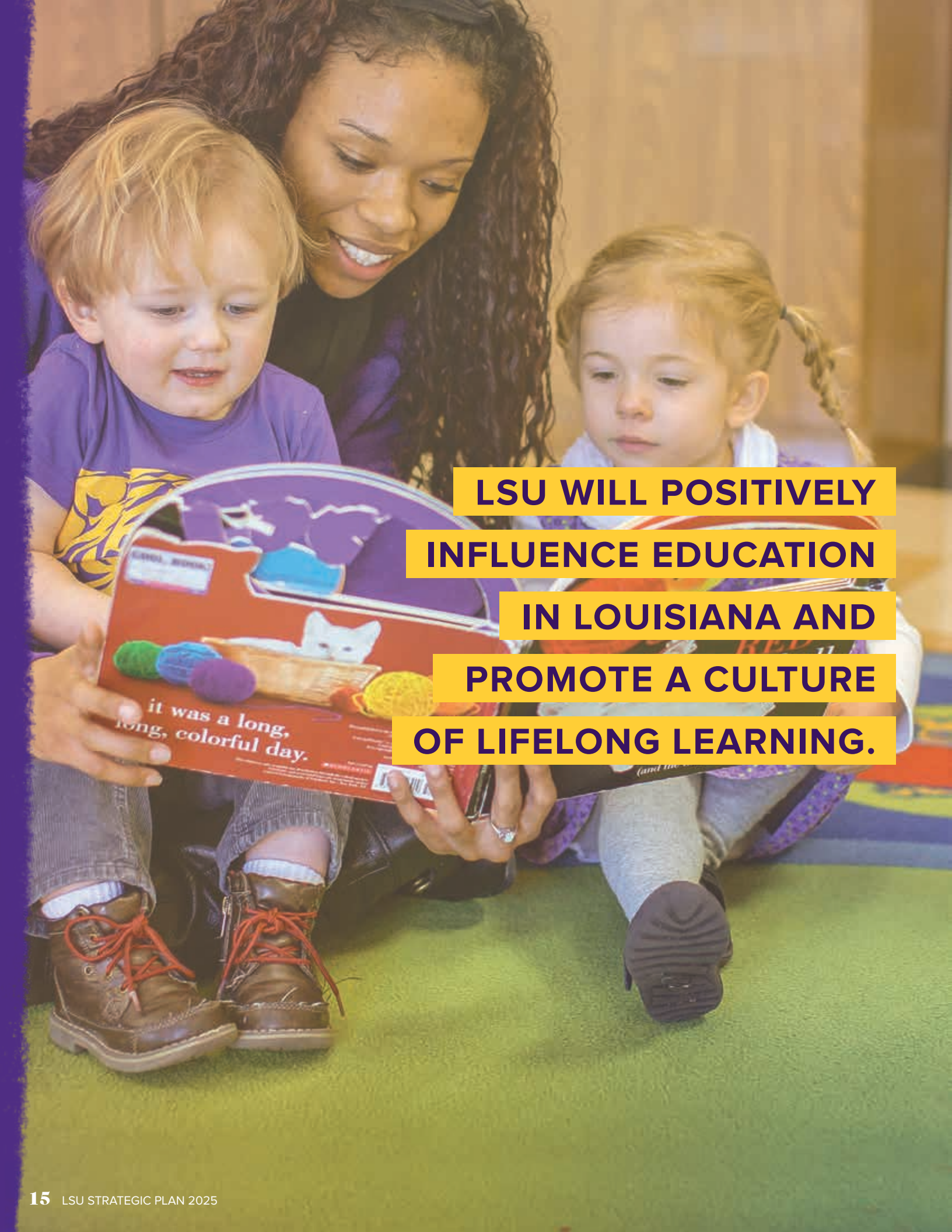
1. **Gather data on health problems in the state.** Information will be collected through collaboration with communities, hospitals and Pennington Biomedical Research Center, or a mobile clinic that might also enable sociological research into health disparities. The effort will also involve engagement with medical schools and LSU School of Public Health. Data collected could include health history, smoking history, geographic location relative to brownfield sites, blood pressure, micro-biomedical data, body mass index, family health history, neighborhood crime rates, economic status, lead levels in blood, CBC, and blood chemistry screens.
2. **Identify why such problems exist.** Fresh food deserts? Sedentary lifestyles? Few home cooked meals? Poor availability of facilities? Street safety? Poor primary and secondary school education? Sociologists and education professionals will be critical in conducting and analyzing proper surveys to assess these possibilities.

3. **Implement strategies to address the problems.** Such strategies will depend on the cause. At the very least, these issues would likely involve educational outreach programs from LSU to affect lifestyle changes and nutritional change. Strategies could also involve engagement with corporate and government partners to help fund such change.

Global One Health

The LSU One Health Institute will address select global health and sustainability problems. Initial proposals will be invited from faculty at LSU, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and LSU Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport. Leveraging LSU's broad network of faculty and researchers, the synergism would also generate new energy, ideas, and approaches to these critical problems. Disciplines in which synergies could play a role are numerous and will depend on the problem, but could include agricultural experts, agronomists, architects, biologists, biostatisticians, bio-computing professionals, climatologists, economists, engineers, entomologists, hydrologists, physicians, public health experts, public policy experts, veterinarians, wildlife, and land management professionals.

LSU would help in the initial stages of proposal development by facilitating communication between LSU faculty and faculty at sister universities in other countries to partner and implement "boots on the ground" efforts to affect strategies to deal with the specific problem. These actions will involve student (undergraduate and graduate) and faculty exchanges, a degree program in world health, fostering interactions between units through joint seminars, and joint graduate student projects.



**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.

Improve Pre-K-12 Education

LSU will proactively impact the educational journey of Louisiana's PreK-12 student population.

Advance Higher Education

LSU will provide relevant, transformative, and innovative education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Enhance Continuing Education

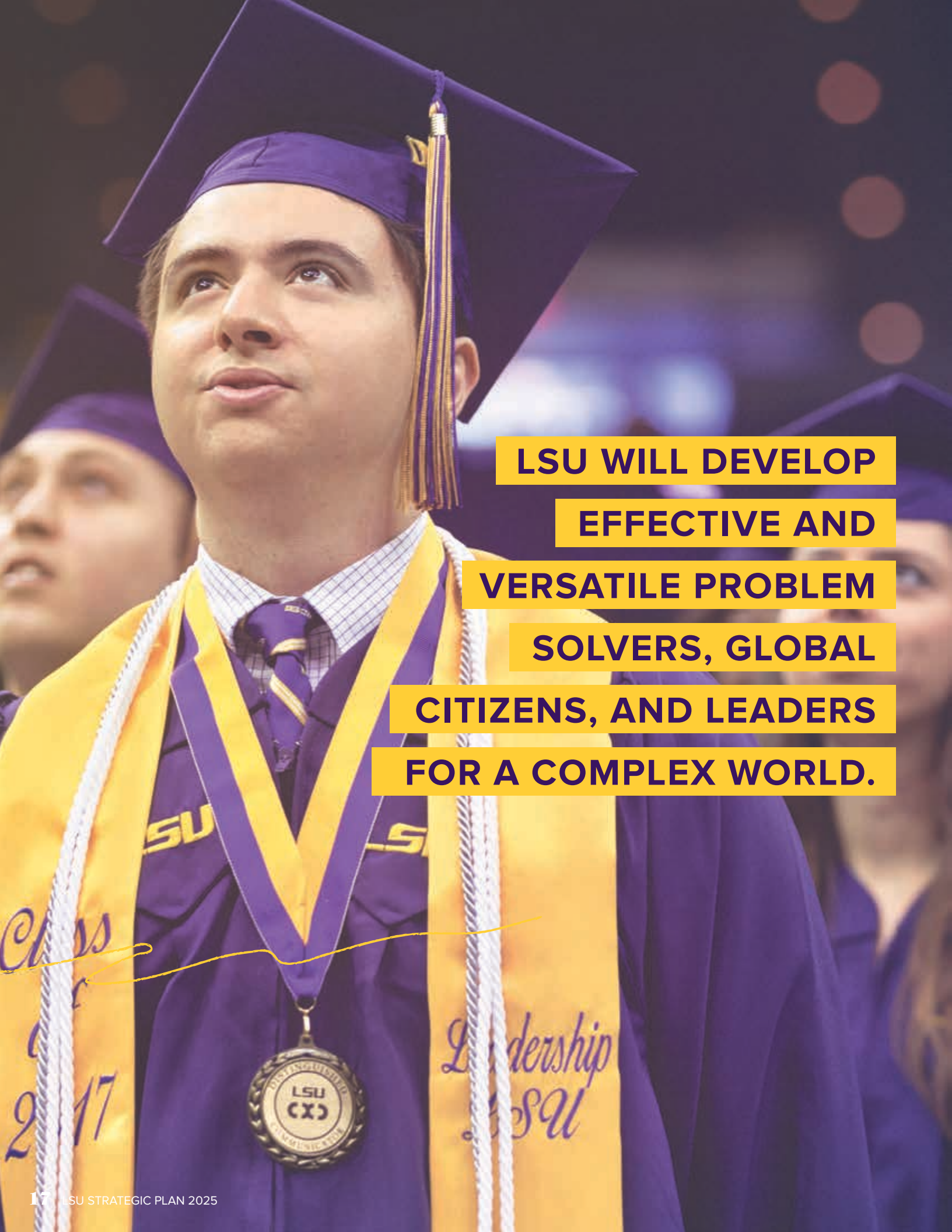
LSU will further develop and enhance its commitment to expanding the availability of LSU educational opportunities by significantly growing its online presence through the LSU Unlimited initiative.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVE

The Institute for STEM Literacy

LSU will expand the Gordon A. Cain Center into a world-class institute that advances both educator and student knowledge. The Cain Center's expanded role would offer traditional continuing education and professional development

programs for K-12 educators, expand college readiness and dual enrollment programs for students, and offer new programs for emerging educator needs based on current research, development, and scholarship.



**LSU WILL DEVELOP
EFFECTIVE AND
VERSATILE PROBLEM
SOLVERS, GLOBAL
CITIZENS, AND LEADERS
FOR A COMPLEX WORLD.**

Developing Leaders

LSU will create an experience to prepare LSU graduates to lead purposeful lives as community leaders and global citizens. Using the Roger Hatfield 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.

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY-LED INITIATIVES

“LSU Integrative Core”

With the overarching goal of producing highly effective leaders, problem solvers, and global citizens envisioned in the LSU mission for undergraduate education, the strategic planning subcommittee on general education is enhancing the existing general education format with integrative learning strategies. The new format will maintain fundamental aspects of the current distribution process, but will supplement them with learning experiences that enhance the student’s ability to develop the proficiencies associated with high-level success in the job market. General education courses will involve students in integrative learning strategies that align—in a scaffolding of courses across the undergraduate curriculum—assignments that mirror and/or actually involve students in the solution of complex, real-world problems. Instructors will maintain the freedom to present assignments that correspond to their own interests and inclinations, but will include pedagogies that require students to synthesize information in multi-disciplinary and co-curricular contexts. Introduction to inquiry of this sort will occur in a course in the student’s first year of study, will be continued in intermediate courses, and will conclude in a capstone experience in the senior year.

LSU Center for Collaborative Knowledge

In its 1877 charter, LSU committed itself to serving as “an institution of learning, in the broadest and highest sense.” At a time of rapid technological, political, and economic change, and of widening social divisions—defined chiefly by educational opportunities—we must reaffirm this vision of the university as the generator of broad and deep knowledge. Now, more than ever before, our students need an education that provides them the mental flexibility and sophisticated understanding of human cultures necessary

to thrive over the course of the long and varied lives ahead of them in today’s global world. Accordingly, the Center for Collaborative Knowledge seeks to widen, deepen, and intensify interdisciplinary research and teaching as a means to better prepare LSU students and faculty to take on leadership roles in competitive marketplaces and to act as globally-engaged citizens in an increasingly complex world.

LSU Scholars Endowment Initiative

LSU’s fundraising initiative will focus on expanding our scholarship program to recruit the best and brightest young minds, provide access to those with need, and extend experiential learning opportunities for students. LSU has identified three primary focus areas:

- **Leadership Scholarships:** The LSU Leaders Scholarship will help identify, recruit and recognize exceptional students across all fields of study. Candidates will participate in a rigorous application and interview process before being selected to receive the LSU Leaders Scholarship, which will offer opportunities such as full tuition, room and board, and enrichment funds, such as a study abroad stipend.
- **University Endowed Scholarships:** This “in state” scholarship will provide “close the gap” funding to allow LSU to recruit and retain exceptional students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend LSU.
- **Experiential Learning and Enrichment Endowed Scholarships:** Building from our values, culturally competent and globally engaged, this scholarship will provide funding for students to explore their world and better understand complex issues through experiential learning opportunities.

Our Institutional Framework

For LSU to achieve the goals outlined in our strategic challenges, it is important for the institution to invest in three primary areas that have comprehensive impact across the university. These are: Career Excellence and Enrichment; Service and Operational Excellence; and, Student Success.

ENCOURAGING CAREER EXCELLENCE AND ENRICHMENT

As one of the state's largest employers, LSU will recruit a diverse workforce including nationally and internationally competitive faculty, 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.

ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Exceptional customer service is the cornerstone of every successful enterprise. Through continual process improvement, LSU will invest deeply in its people and modernize operations and organizational structures to ensure maximum accountability, efficiency, and productivity. All of 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.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

LSU's primary goal is the successful retention and graduation of students who inherit our fundamental values during their studies at LSU. The university will work to address collectively the needs of the contemporary student through the deployment of effective student retention practices and scholarship that focuses on career development combined with critical thinking and communication skills.



The university will use this document as a guide over the next eight to ten 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: www.lsustrategicplan.lsu.edu

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



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