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Creating Futures

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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President
FROM: Dr. René Cintrón
Chief Academic Affairs Officer
Dr. Emily Campbell
Chief Enrollment Management Officer

SUBJECT: Strategic Sustainability and Growth Plan Initiative 1F – Creating Pathways for Adult Basic Education Programs

DATE: 2/26/18

FOR BOARD INFORMATION:

Background: In March 2017, the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) approved a comprehensive and strategic plan to ensure the long term sustainability and growth of the LCTCS. This plan, known as the "Strategic Sustainability and Growth Plan," contained many facets, including Item 1F, which called for college leaders to find new ways to create pathways for WorkReady U (WRU) students to earn a college credential and to provide an updated framework by which a high school equivalency is awarded.

According to the United States Census Bureau, 600,000 working-age adults (18 to 64 years of age) in Louisiana do not have a high school diploma. However, workforce projections indicate that by 2020, 53% of jobs will require a credential beyond a high school diploma. These economic realities call for innovative approaches to produce the skilled and educated citizenry necessary to meet industry demands.

As part of the "Strategic Sustainability and Growth Plan," the LCTCS has, over the past year, implemented more options through which an individual may earn a High School Equivalency (HSE) and developed a variety of student scholarships for the WRU population.

More Options for Earning a High School Equivalency

Act #732 of the 2010 Regular Legislative Session designated the Board of Supervisors of the LCTCS as the official issuing body of the HSE in Louisiana. Prior to June 2017, the only means through which an individual could obtain a HSE was by taking and earning a standard minimum score on the HiSet exam. In June 2017, the Board of Supervisors of the LCTCS revised LCTCS Policy #1.118 to provide more equivalency options. Today, individuals without a high school diploma may earn their HSE through one of five options, including: completion of developmental coursework in mathematics, English, and reading at an LCTCS college; earning a minimum standard score on a college placement assessment (such as the ACT or Accuplacer); earning a minimum standard score on a high school equivalency test (such as HiSet); completion

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of 12 credit hours of technical education coursework, earning a recognized Industry Based Credential (IBC), and demonstrating basic skills knowledge by earning minimum standard scores on a recognized adult education assessment (such as TABE); or through a combination of developmental coursework and minimum scores on a college placement assessment. Since June 2017, LCTCS staff have worked across colleges and WRU providers to develop automated systems and processes for the identification and notification of individuals who have satisfied one of the five options listed above so that a HSE may be awarded. To date, no individual has earned a HSE through one of the four new options. Staff will however report back to the Board at regular intervals on the number of individuals who earn a HSE through each of the options available through the Policy.

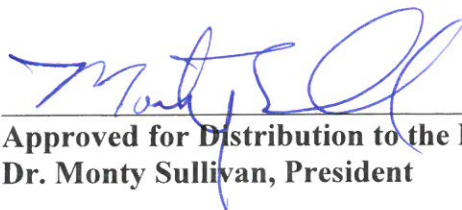
Scholarships for WRU Students

In an effort to remove financial barriers to both HSE and college credential attainment, the LCTCS has implemented a comprehensive portfolio of scholarship options for the WRU population. These scholarships, taken as a whole, provide financial assistance to WRU students at each step within their journey to a HSE and college credential.

The “Five for Six Scholarship” is geared towards individuals who are working towards their HSE but who also want to begin college coursework at the same time. The scholarship pays for an individual without a high school diploma to take six credit hours of college coursework. If they pass, they may qualify for federal financial aid as an Ability-to-Benefit (ATB) student. The “Five for Six Scholarship” therefore represents a bridge to federal financial aid for individuals without a high school diploma to earn both a HSE and college credential. Since its inception in spring 2016, 439 individuals have received a “Five for Six Scholarship,” 69% have passed six credit hours of college coursework, and 45% have either earned a credential or are still enrolled in a postsecondary program.

The “Hiset Scholarship” assists those individuals who are ready to take the HiSet exam with the \$90 test fee. Since its inception in August 2016, 67 individuals have received the \$90 scholarship, with 46 of those passing the HiSet.

The “Next Step Scholarship,” which will be offered for the first time in fall 2018, will be geared towards those individuals who have earned a HSE by passing the HiSet exam and who want to begin work towards a college credential. The scholarship will provide \$250 per semester for part-time enrollment and \$500 per semester for full-time enrollment, up to four consecutive semesters (with a maximum award amount over four semesters equaling \$2,000). To keep the award, recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress as proscribed by LCTCS Policy #1.026.


Approved for Distribution to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan, President

3/14/18
Date