To: Dr. Monty Sullivan  
President, Louisiana Community & Technical College System  

From: Dr. René Cintrón  
Chief Education and Training Officer  

Date: December 3, 2021  

Re: Reaching Equitable Prosperity by 2030  

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed goal for Reaching Equitable Prosperity by 2030.  

Background:  
In Louisiana, 15% of adults do not possess a high school diploma. An additional 35% have earned a high school diploma or equivalency. This is over 1.5 million adults with high school diploma or less as their highest educational attainment. The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) reports Louisiana last in the nation in adult literacy and numeracy. There are many other sources pointing to the need to focus on adult learners to establish a framework for generational change. Improving educational outcomes for adults results in improved educational attainment of children, decreased incarceration rates, improved health outcomes, and decreased reliance on government social services; overall prosperity.

Efforts to serve a diverse student population seeking workforce development training, academic programs of study, and the high school equivalency led to a record college graduating class from 19,810 in 2014 to 33,428 in 2020 encompassing a significant growth in short term credentials. The 2020 class comprised a 7% increase in racial minority graduates as compared to their 2014 counterparts. Analysis conducted by Old Dominion University of 9,452 individuals who earned short-term credentials with LCTCS indicated immediate labor market returns of $6,715.81 (+19%).

In an effort to have broad involvement in the development of the next set of goals, a diverse group of individuals from various levels at LCTCS colleges met over the last year to discuss what the system commitment to the people of Louisiana should be in the next strategic direction. A focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion has been at the heart of the conversations with educational attainment as the central theme. Open forums regarding our next strategic direction were held across the state welcoming conversation and input from faculty, staff, students, and community members regarding the draft recommendation for our next strategic direction.

The proposed goal for Reaching Equitable Prosperity by 2030 establishes a common system target to increase educational attainment of adults that intertwines equity, quantity, and quality components:

In pursuit of equity in educational attainment by 2030, LCTCS will graduate 330,000 individuals who will earn on average 150% above the median income.
In addition to the common system target, colleges will determine their goals, targets, and strategies supporting unique community needs with specific populations of focus in pursuit of equitable outcomes.

**Fiscal Impact**

While there will certainly be both costs and revenues that result from this strategic direction, there is no immediate fiscal impact. As the plan is being implemented, we will have an opportunity to delve more deeply into the fiscal implications of accomplishing the goal of the plan.

**History of Prior Action:**

In 2014, the LCTCS Board of Supervisors approved its first comprehensive public agenda *Our Louisiana 2020*, a bold plan to accomplish 6 goals: Double Graduates, Double Earnings, Quadruple Transfers, Double Students Served, Quadruple Partnerships, Double Assets. Four of the six goals were met. The full results of *Our Louisiana 2020* can be seen at [https://www.lctcs.edu/our-louisiana/ourla2020](https://www.lctcs.edu/our-louisiana/ourla2020)

**Benefits to the System:**

While the primary benefit is to the people of Louisiana, the System benefits from having a single goal that focuses on establishing an environment in which there are equitable opportunities to achieve individually defined successes.

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Approved for Recommendation to the Board  
Dr. Monty Sullivan  

[Signature]

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