



Louisiana Community and Technical College (LCTC) System

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Richard Nelson, President
Tim Hardy, Board of Supervisors Chair

TO: Richard Nelson
LCTC System President

APPROVED
10/14/26
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

THROUGH: Dr. Chandler LeBoeuf Wcl
Executive Vice President of Education Strategy and External Relations

FROM: Anthony Brown ABB
Chief Facilities Management Officer

DATE: October 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Land Purchase for SOWELA Technical Community College

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the LCTC System Board of Supervisors authorize the System President and Chancellor of SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to acquire the property located at 3400 Legion Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, for use as the future site of the Gulf Coast Energy Institute. The conveyance shall be completed and recorded with the appropriate local Clerk of Court and the State Land Office in accordance with applicable requirements.

Background: During the August 2026 Board meeting, the LCTC System Board of Supervisors approved a \$20 million Act 35 project for SOWELA Technical Community College known as the Gulf Coast Institute for Energy Exploration and Production (GCIEEP). The planned site for GCIEEP is an approximately 1.83-acre parcel of property adjacent to the SOWELA main campus in Lake Charles. The SOWELA Gulf Coast Energy Institute is envisioned as a regional workforce development and industry collaboration center designed to support the growing energy, industrial, and emerging technology sectors throughout Southwest Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. The acquisition of this property is being made possible through a collaborative effort involving the Chennault International Airport Authority, the City of Lake Charles, and the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. The Chennault International Airport Authority commissioned and paid for the official appraisal of the property. The City of Lake Charles and the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury have agreed to provide the \$775,000 necessary to purchase the property.

Prior to execution of the purchase and transfer documents, LCTC Board staff and SOWELA staff will complete all required due diligence to ensure that the interests of the Board and the College are

protected. Should any condition arise that prevents the acquisition from proceeding, the Board will be notified as soon as practicable.

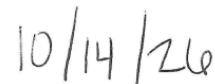
Fiscal Impact: The appraised value of approximately 1.83-acre property is \$775,000. The funds necessary to purchase the property are being provided by the City of Lake Charles and the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. The required property appraisal has been completed, with the cost of the appraisal paid by the Chennault International Airport Authority. No LCTC funds are required for the purchase of the property.

History of Prior Action: During the August 2026 meeting, the LCTC Board approved a \$20 Act 35 project to construct the Gulf Coast Energy Institute for SOWELA.

Benefits to the System: The Gulf Coast Energy Institute will serve as a comprehensive workforce development and industry training hub focused on industrial process operations, electrical systems, instrumentation and controls, pipeline operations, and emerging low-carbon energy technologies. By integrating these disciplines within a single advanced training environment, the Institute will provide students with hands-on training that reflects the operational realities of modern industrial facilities. This integrated approach will strengthen the region's workforce pipeline and prepare graduates to contribute to the evolving energy and industrial sectors throughout Southwest Louisiana and the broader Gulf Coast region. The acquisition of the property will provide SOWELA with a strategically located site adjacent to its main campus and support the development of the Gulf Coast Energy Institute as a regional center for workforce training, industry collaboration, and emerging energy technologies.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Richard Nelson



Date

Signature: Anthony Brown
Anthony Brown (Oct 7, 2026 07:27:57 CDT)
Email: anthonybrown@lctcs.edu

Signature: W. Chandler Leboeuf
W. Chandler Leboeuf (Oct 7, 2026 07:45:40 PDT)
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Land Purchase for SOWELA

Final Audit Report

2026-10-07

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"Land Purchase for SOWELA" History

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