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LOUISIANA DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO LOCATE FACILITIES ON ULM CAMPUS ON INTERIM BASIS WHILE OFFICIALS SEARCH FOR PERMANENT LOCATION

Contact: Kim Hunter-Reed

Louisiana Delta Community College has taken a step toward fast-track accreditation with a decision to locate its main operations on the campus of ULM on an interim basis while officials develop a comprehensive facility plan for a location in the Monroe area.

The agreement was reached after a tour of ULM earlier this week and discussions by Commissioner of Administration Mark Drennen, Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie, University of Louisiana System President Sally Clausen, Louisiana Community and Technical College System President Walter Bumphus, ULM President James Cofer and Delta Chancellor Lynn Kreider.

The agreement will allow the community college to lease administrative and classroom space within existing facilities on the campus of ULM. At the same time, the state will work with Delta to develop a permanent facility plan for the Monroe area. Future campus development for Delta will be guided by this campus master plan. Officials said Delta will continue to maintain various course delivery sites throughout the region to maximize access to its programs.

Drennen said his office is working on plans to renovate the former Coenen cafeteria on ULM's campus where Delta's main operations will be housed for the next three to five years. He said the state intends to have the renovations completed by August in time for Delta to hold classes there next fall.

Drennen is credited with getting involved personally and helping Baton Rouge Community College locate a site and build its campus. Today, BRCC is one of the nation's fastest growing community colleges.

Savoie said, “I am pleased that the academic leaders across systems and both campuses have come together with the governor’s office to work toward an efficient and effective solution that will assist both Delta and ULM.. This solution is consistent with the law that established the new LCTCS and follows the general direction of Governor Mike Foster and legislators to maximize the use of existing public resources prior to expending additional taxpayer dollars. Ultimately, the campuses and their communities benefit in a manner that provides improved services and cost savings to the taxpayers.”

“This agreement was designed with students’ needs in mind and we think it will work for everyone,” said Clausen.

“I am confident that this partnership will improve services to the region and more specifically will move us forward in addressing the unmet workforce development needs of the area,” said Bumphus.

The location on the ULM campus will assist Delta in moving ahead as it works to achieve Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges (CoC) accreditation. Regional accreditation is an important standard that signifies campus excellence and affords students an opportunity to seek federal financial assistance.