

**BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Larry Tremblay
Acting Deputy Commissioner**

SECTION:

Learning Centers

TITLE OF INITIATIVE:

Learning Center for Rapides Parish

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

During the Regular Legislative Session, 2001, R.S. 17:3226 authorized the Board of Regents to establish the Learning Center for Rapides Parish (LCRP) and to establish learning centers in areas of the state not adequately provided with postsecondary education services. The purpose of these learning centers is to ensure provision of a comprehensive offering of college courses and programs in a cost effective manner.

The LCRP is a 40,000 square foot facility located on England Airpark in Alexandria. The building is leased from the England Authority. As the only consortium of its kind in the state of Louisiana, the Center provides access to a variety of academic programs from a number of colleges and universities. The LCRP offers students the best of all academic worlds – partnerships among several institutions, course delivery through state-of-the-art technology and traditional methods and classes that meet the working students' schedule and needs. The Center's partner institutions include: LSU, LSUA, LSUE, LSUS, GSU, Louisiana Tech, NSU, ULM, SUS, BPCC, LTC-Alexandria, Texas Wesleyan University and Upper Iowa University.

Program offerings range from individual classes through graduate degrees. Students can complete community college coursework through LSUE's CENLA campus. If necessary, they can even participate in LSUE's nationally recognized "Pathways to Success" program. The students can then transfer their general education credits to one of the four-year degree granting institutions. To assist in that effort, opportunities exist for institutions to collaboratively offer "two plus two" degrees in popular programs of study.

The LCRP facility utilizes a high level of technology. Its 10 "smart classrooms" are integrated with an instructor computer, VCR/DVD player, document camera and ceiling mounted projector, providing the latest technology at the instructors' fingertips. The Center also has five compressed video classrooms, which enable institutions to maximize their resources while meeting the needs of students throughout the state. Also featured are two computer labs with flip-top computer desks for use as lecture or hands-on computer learning. The LCRP library also features 20 computer workstations for students to continue their studies.

Community interest in the programs at the LCRP has continued to expand during the past five years. In fall 2003, the duplicated enrollment number was nearly 750 students. As of spring 2008, that number had grown to 1,518. As a result of the growth, the Center embarked on a renovation project in summer 2007. During the renovation, the number of classrooms was increased to 29, and the seating capacity in the facility increased by 300 to approximately 900.

LCRP staff continues to work with its partner institutions to determine the most effective methods for delivering programs to meet the educational needs of central Louisiana.

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LINK(S) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

www.thelcrp.net