



Louisiana State University – Eunice
Coaching Visit Report

August 19-20, 2021

Dr. Nancee Sorensen, Chancellor
Louisiana State University – Eunice
Eunice, Louisiana 70535

Chancellor Sorensen,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the staff at LSUE for your kindness and hospitality during our recent coaching visit on August 19-20, 2021. It was a great pleasure to meet and spend time with you and the core team and the faculty and staff we had the opportunity to interact with during the listening sessions. We very much enjoyed meeting Trimeka Benjamin with SWIM Digital and having the opportunity to spend time aligning some of our mutual goals. This active engagement with the staff and core team is essential to the success of the Achieving the Dream work.

During the visit, we enjoyed the opportunity to participate in your annual convocation. Dr. Laurie Fladd had the opportunity to introduce the Building Resiliency in Rural Communities for the Future of Work (BRRFW) grant to the faculty and staff. During the presentation, Laurie welcomed LSU-E to the network and shared the benefits of being a member of ATD, discussed the theory of change behind ATD's approach and talked about key goals for the grant.

In the afternoon, two listening sessions were conducted which included a total of 43 attendees. The focus of the listening sessions included engaging the participants in a sensemaking activity focused on two of LSU-E's key early momentum data points. Those metrics included the number of students earning zero hours in their first semester and the number of students earning at least 15 hours in their first year. These metrics are important because we know that students that make progress early are more likely to complete. Themes which emerged from the listening sessions include the following:

- There appears to be a desire for additional success data disaggregated to include non-college ready status, athletic status, course modality and students with disabilities status.
- When asked for input about what factors at LSU-E might be contributing to the two data points, the faculty and staff identified:
 - ✓ Class sizes

- ✓ Need for first year experience around skills needed to be successful in college
- ✓ Student ability to drop out without ever meeting with anyone
- ✓ Scheduling of classes – both time of day and combinations of classes for FTF
- ✓ Academic interventions such as early alert are not at scale
- ✓ Professional development opportunities are needed
- ✓ Orientation contains large amounts of information which students may not retain

It was clear from our visit that LSU-E has dedicated employees who have a passion for student success. We would also like to commend you for the following:

- Branding of the work. The concept of LSUE Onward is timely and appears to resonate with the college community.
- Alignment of ATD with other college activities such as enrollment management and strategic planning. The opportunity to meet with and have discussions with SWIM Digital to align the efforts being undertaken at the College is an effective strategy.
- Availability of actionable data which is provided to the college community. A culture of data-informed decision-making is essential to this work. Dr. Paul Fowler provided many excellent examples of data available for faculty to use in evaluating their courses.

Going forward, we suggest you consider the following:

- Appoint a point person for the team that can coordinate the work for the team. This person would keep track of dates, deliverables, interface with ATD to set up agendas for both monthly coaching sessions and site visits and take care of logistics.
- Hold additional listening sessions focused on data points of interest and including listening sessions with students.
- Begin a review of course completion data disaggregated by the equity groups identified. Work with faculty to review the data and solicit suggestions for how to improve. This may inform your action plan.
- Send a team of student services staff and faculty to the Data & Analytics Summit (October 18, 2021) and the Holistic Student Supports Institute (November 4-5, 2021).
- Begin a review of program data including disaggregated data on enrollment and completions of the existing programs. The following from CCRC offers information related to this topic: <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/unpacking-program-enrollments-completion-equity.html> and includes a toolkit to assist with the work.

We look forward to visiting your campus again on October 7-8, 2021 to conduct the Capacity Café. This will be the opportunity to review the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT) results. It is important to get as many responses from across the college as possible. When LSUE is ready to administer ICAT, please send an inquiry and your requested open and close dates to

icat@achievingthedream.org Please be sure to copy myself and Nancy on the email to ATD. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Again, we would like to commend you on the good work taking place at LSUE, and we look forward to working with you as LSUE Onward! moves forward.

Sincerely,

Laurie Fladd

Nancy Ramsey

