In 2019, the Louisiana Board of Regents issued its Master Plan for Higher Education establishing an audacious goal for the state – 60% of working adults holding a degree or credential of value by the year 2030. At that time, Regents committed itself to “lead the way in developing and implementing key initiatives to eliminate performance gaps, bring equity and provide opportunity and social mobility to underserved Louisiana residents.” Following two years of major disruptions in our state, now is the time to accelerate all pathways to prosperity.

Reaching an educational attainment level of 60% requires Louisiana to more than double its number of annual completers, from approximately 40,000 in 2018 to 85,000 by 2030. But the Pathway to 2030 is not just about the destination of 85,000 completers, it’s also about the journey of establishing long-term, sustainable prosperity for Louisiana and its citizens. We cannot tinker around the edges in our approach. System redesign may be difficult, but it is necessary and it must take place at scale.

While challenging to accomplish, the good news is, the Pathway to 2030 is clear. Using rich data resources, Regents can now demonstrate our formula for expanding the benefits of postsecondary education to the state’s citizens, families, communities, and employers. We know what it will take to steadily increase the annual number of Louisianians who complete a credential and how to positively impact the quality of work and life for an additional 180,000 citizens to reach our goal.

To navigate that pathway successfully requires coordinated strategies within every aspect of the education ecosystem. It necessitates widening pathways to enable more people to begin or resume their higher education dream, transforming the learning experience to facilitate more student success, and recognizing and rewarding all postsecondary attainment that has economic value.

Having a shared vision that focuses on accelerating student learning, increasing affordability, and eliminating persistent equity gaps unifies our mission and purpose. Our state benefits from strong higher education leaders at the system level and both public and private institutions working collaboratively, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our Governor, our legislature, our K-12 partners, and our stakeholders in embracing this work and moving it forward. Success will not only position Louisiana as a leader in innovation, opportunity and talent, but also secure a stronger, more prosperous tomorrow for our people.

Our future demands that we get this right.
MAJOR YEAR-THREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“The largest-ever net increase for higher education.”

Removing Major Barriers to Credential Completion
- Statewide Co-Requisite Math/English Policy
- Prior-Learning Assessment Guidelines
- Universal Transferability Legislation
- Student Success Council Established
- Title IX Audits and Training to Improve Student Safety

Increasing Affordability through New and Expanded Financial Aid Programs
- MJ Foster Promise for Adult Students
- Completer Fund

Promoting Dual Enrollment
- Laborerenrollment.com portal launch
- Legislation to assure counseling opportunities in secondary school
- Mobile labs for community colleges/high schools

Strengthening Education to Employment Alignment
- Praxis Core barrier removed for teacher candidates
- Nurse capitation investment expanded healthcare cohorts
- Reboot Louisiana re-skilled adults for high-demand jobs

Building Workforce Alignment
- Redesigned Academic Program Planning
- Regional STEM Centers
- Regional Cybersecurity Education Grants

Securing Federal Funding for University-Based STEM Research
- Millions of dollars received from National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA and National Institutes for Health (NIH)

Increasing Funding Formula Outcomes to 28%
- Allocating 22% towards equity
LOUISIANA PROSPERS: THE PATHWAY TO 2030

THE CHALLENGE

48.1% of Louisiana's working-age population have a certificate or degree, well below the national average of 51.9%.

THE GOAL

60% Degree/Credential Attainment

PATHWAY TO 2030

180,000 additional completers

- Improve college success: +45,000 completers
- Increase college going: +80,000 completers
- Recognize credentials of value: +55,000 completers
- 85,000 credentials produced annually

DATA COMPARISONS
INCREASE COLLEGE GOING

To reach Louisiana’s attainment goal of 60% by 2030, we must create more ways for high school students to enter the Prosperity Pipeline by:

- Increasing access to early college experiences that build toward credentials of value,

- Expanding Fast Forward (dual enrollment) or Louisiana Transfer Pathways so that students earn a credential before they even graduate high-school or build a solid foundation towards completing that credential in their college or university of choice.

- Growing the number of Louisiana residents who earn industry-based certifications and credentials through the MJ Foster Promise program, which provides financial aid to adults.

- Supporting strategies that bring back near-completers and accelerate their degree completion, like Compete LA.
STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

IMPROVE COLLEGE SUCCESS

The *Meauxmentum Approach* is an evidence-based framework that has been demonstrated to significantly improve student success and close equity gaps. During the first year in college the Meauxmentum Approach helps each student make a purposeful choice about the direction of their college goals. Stemming from that choice, they are advised along a clear pathway to graduation, which includes English and Mathematics courses that support their program of study, opportunities to make a strong connection to that discipline, and experiences that heighten their belief in themselves as a learner. Continuing towards graduation, the Meauxmentum Approach incorporates support for each student in all of the milestones that they encounter along their educational journey, both inside and outside the classroom, and integrates experiences that create deeper and more engaged learning. By employing the Meauxmentum Approach, Louisiana institutions can improve student completion.

RECOGNIZE ALL CREDENTIALS OF VALUE

Louisiana’s public colleges and universities currently graduate approximately 45,000 students each year with degrees, diplomas, and certifications. Many other students are working towards industry-based certifications, degrees, or diplomas from one of Louisiana’s independent, private, proprietary, or out-of-state institutions. To truly measure progress towards our statewide goal of 60% by 2030, mechanisms must be created to recognize and count all credentials of value.

More than one million Louisianans have some credit towards a college degree, many with work experiences that warrant even more, while several thousand have already earned all of the credits required for a degree. We need to build the technology that recognizes when a student has crossed that educational threshold, even at several institutions, and provide those degree completers with the credential that they have earned.
NEXT STEPS

INCREASE COLLEGE GOING

- Adopt early college admission pathway
- Establish a universal dual enrollment funding structure
- Expand teacher training, including Geaux Teach
- Engage regional partners to meet high-demand workforce needs in priority sectors
- Develop new degrees supporting lifelong learning
- Create Universal Transfer Pathways

_HOST MEAUXMENTUM SUMMIT_

- Implement Meauxmentum Year Strategies to Include in 1st Year:
  - Math, English and 3 courses connected to degree program
- Replace all Math/English Remedial Courses with Co-Req Model
- Strengthen Counseling/Advising for Students
- Adopt Campus-wide Academic Mindset strategies to include:
  - Belonging & Inclusion
  - Purpose & Value
  - GRIT & Perseverance
  - Growth Mindset

RECOGNIZE ALL CREDENTIALS OF VALUE

- Use credential completion data from private, proprietary and Act 129 institutions to contribute to statewide credential counts
- Count industry-based credentials eligible for MJ Foster Promise financial aid program
- Implement reverse transfer degrees
- Increase credit based on prior-learning guidelines