



ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE ST. LANDRY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE FROM LSUE

MAY 9, 2019

OPELOUSAS, LA - St. Landry Parish School Board (SLPSB) is pleased to announce that five of the district's high school students in the first cohort of the Louisiana State University at Eunice (LSUE) Academy will be receiving an associate degree days before graduating from high school. St. Landry School District had the largest number of students regionally, five of eleven, receiving an associate degree in the LSUE Academy program.

The LSUE Academy affords high school students the opportunity to earn an associate degree while taking classes at both LSUE and the high school they attend. Students are eligible to begin the LSUE Academy in their junior year of high school.

Bryan Flores and Antonio Quiroz, both seniors at Opelousas High School, will graduate with an Associate of Arts Louisiana Transfer degree, Humanities; Ali LeJeune, a senior at Eunice High School, will graduate with an Associate of General Studies. Northwest High School senior, Trinity Myers, will graduate with a 4.0 and an Associate of Science Louisiana Transfer degree, Biological Sciences and Bonnie Lahman, a Port Barre High School senior, will graduate with an Associate of Arts Louisiana Transfer degree, Social Sciences. The students will be attending a graduation ceremony on Friday, May 10, 2019.

"Competing for jobs in the 21st century and thriving in a global economy requires a growing, skilled and educated workforce. The partnership between SLPSB and LSUE gives our students the skills and education to be prepared for all challenges in the 21st century. We are excited that these students decided to take advantage of this incredible opportunity, and would like to congratulate our St. Landry Parish students on this outstanding achievement," says Superintendent Patrick Jenkins.

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When asked about their experiences at LSUE, this is what the students had to say...

Bryan Flores says, "College is a completely different ball game than high school."

"I would like to thank Mrs. Sondra Cormier for pushing me and working with me to earn my associate's degree," says Antonio Quiroz.

"I have developed advanced study skills and have made fantastic relationships with professors and my advisors. I have many friends in all of my classes. LSUE had truly changed my life and has made me feel prepared for university life. I will forever be thankful for this opportunity," says Bonnie Lahmen.

Ali Rae LeJeune says, "Going into the Academy was one of the most exciting, yet stressful, things I've ever done. All of the work and exams seemed overwhelming, but the day I found out I was eligible for an Associate's Degree it made the whole experience worth it."

Mr. Ricky Julien, Opelousas High School Principal, said he was a huge supporter of the dual enrollment Pell Grant experiment because it provides eligible high school students an opportunity to receive an associate degree at no cost to them. "The program also allows more mature students to get an early start on the collegiate phase of their educational experience," says Julien.



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