



LOSFA

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

— A PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS —

M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM STUDENT ORIENTATION

Brittany Terrio

Special Programs Specialist

Martha “Marsha” Beardon

M.J. Foster Student Engagement Specialist

April Smith Bergens

Public Information Officer

A black background filled with falling, multi-colored confetti. The confetti consists of small, irregularly shaped pieces in various colors including red, blue, green, yellow, pink, and orange. The pieces are scattered throughout the frame, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Congratulations!



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ABOUT **LOSFA**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is a Program of the Louisiana Board of Regents, that strives to be Louisiana's first choice for college access by promoting, preparing for and providing equity of college access. LOSFA administers the state's scholarship and grant programs and the state's Internal Revenue Code Section 529 college savings program.



BOARD *of* REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA



ABOUT THE **BOARD OF REGENTS**

The Board of Regents is a state agency created by the 1974 Louisiana Constitution and coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The 15 volunteer members of the Board of Regents are appointed by the Governor to six-year, overlapping terms, with at least one (but not more than two) Regents drawn from each of Louisiana's seven Congressional districts.

In addition, the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents appoints one student member as its representative on the board.

M.J. FOSTER **PROMISE**



- The M.J. Foster Promise Program is available to Louisiana residents, 21 and older, who have not yet earned a degree at the associate level or above and are seeking a post-secondary diploma or credential in one of these high-demand fields:
 - Information Technology
 - Manufacturing
 - Construction
 - Transportation and Warehousing
 - Healthcare

MAINTAIN AWARD

To maintain eligibility to receive an M.J. Foster Promise Award, a recipient must:

- Annually complete the FAFSA. The 23-24 FAFSA is now available.
- Annually complete the on-line application for an M.J. Foster Promise Program award. The application for the next award year is not yet available.
- Continue to meet initial eligibility requirements.
- Make steady academic progress.
- Remain in good academic standing at the college in which enrolled.
- Maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale in a qualified program for which letter grades are issued.
- Maintain steady academic progress in a qualified program for which letter grades are not issued.

MAINTAIN **AWARD**

- Not be incarcerated and not have a conviction for any violent crime. Those convicted of a violent crime, but not incarcerated for that crime are ineligible.
- If a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and been separated from service, have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.
- Have received the award for not more than three consecutive academic years unless granted an exception.
- Have not used the award to earn more than sixty (60) hours of college credit.
- Certify the completion of at least twenty (20) hours of community service or twenty (20) hours of participation in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship for the prior calendar year.

MAINTAIN **AWARD**

- A recipient may continue to receive an award under this section after they have completed one or more qualified programs of study other than an associate's degree if:
 - They continue to meet all the continuing eligibility requirements.
 - They have not exhausted the maximum award eligibility of six thousand four hundred dollars (\$6,400).
 - They have not received the award for three years.

CAUSE FOR EXCEPTION

If you experienced extenuating circumstances beyond your control (including a temporary disability, a permanent disability, pregnancy/maternity, military service, etc.) that prevented you from maintaining continuous enrollment and that you can document, request an exception for cause to the continuous enrollment requirement by contacting tops.exceptions@la.gov.





POLL TIME

APPROVED SCHOOLS

- LSU-EUNICE
- SOUTHERN-SHREVEPORT
- LCTCS
- APPROVED PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS



APPROVED PROGRAMS

- IT
- MANUFACTURING
- CONSTRUCTION
- TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING
- HEALTHCARE



AWARD AMOUNTS

- The M.J. Foster Promise Program is a last dollar award. The award will be applied to your balance of tuition and fees after all other sources of aid (excluding student loans and federal work study) have applied so award amounts will vary by student.
- Award amounts may not exceed \$1600 per semester/ \$3200 per year. Students may receive up to \$6400 per year for certain high-cost programs that can be completed in less than one year.
- Students may receive a maximum of \$6400 over a period of 3 years.
- Students cannot receive M.J. Foster Promise and TOPS.
- If enrolled less than full-time, the amount will be prorated.

AWARD AMOUNTS



- LOSFA does not pay students directly. The school in which you are enrolled will request funds on your behalf.
- Since M.J. Foster Promise Program is a last dollar award, it will be applied to your balance of tuition and fees after all other sources of aid (excluding student loans and federal work study) have applied.
- Students may not receive a refund of M.J. Foster Promise funds.
- The M.J. Foster Promise Award is limited to tuition and fees; it will not cover the cost of books and supplies.

SUMMER ENROLLMENT

- Start date must be on or before June 30, 2023.
- If enrollment has been reported from an eligible school:
 - Meet continuous enrollment requirement.
 - Earn a cumulative 2.0 GPA in a qualified program of study.
 - Have remaining funds available for the current award year.
- If you have not received the award or had enrollment reported by an eligible school:
 - Eligible to receive up to \$1,600 per semester.
 - May receive up to \$6,400 if enrolled in a high-cost program that can be completed in less than one year.



AWARD **EXAMPLES**

- Student A is enrolled full-time at SLCC in the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Science:

Tuition and fees:	\$4500
Merit-based Scholarship:	<u>\$3500</u>
Remaining Balance:	\$1000

In this example, the student may receive up to \$1000 in the M.J. Foster Promise Award.

AWARD **EXAMPLES**

- Student B is enrolled full-time at BRCC in the Computer Science Associate Program:

Tuition and fees:	\$4500
Merit-based Scholarship:	\$3500
Student Loan:	<u>\$2750</u>
Remaining Balance:	-\$1750

Since student loans are excluded as a source of aid, the student is eligible for up to \$1000 in the M.J. Foster Promise Award before the loan has been applied.

AWARD **EXAMPLES**

- Student C is enrolled full-time at Southern-Shreveport in the Nursing Program:

Tuition and fees:	\$4500
Merit-based Scholarship:	\$3500
Pell Grant:	<u>\$3735</u>
Remaining Balance:	-\$2735

Student C is ineligible to receive the M.J. Foster Promise Award since all tuition and fees have been met by other sources of aid.

NEXT STEPS

Enrollment Deadline

- You must be enrolled at participating M.J. Foster Promise school in an eligible program by June 30, 2023. Those who do not enroll by the date listed on your official notification will be removed from the eligible list and must reapply.
- Eligible programs must have a semester/program start date of July 1, 2022, or later, but before July 1, 2023.

FEE BILL



The institution in which you are enrolled will determine final eligibility based on:

- The program in which you are enrolled.
- The amount of tuition and fees after all other sources of aid (excluding student loans & federal work study).

NEXT STEPS

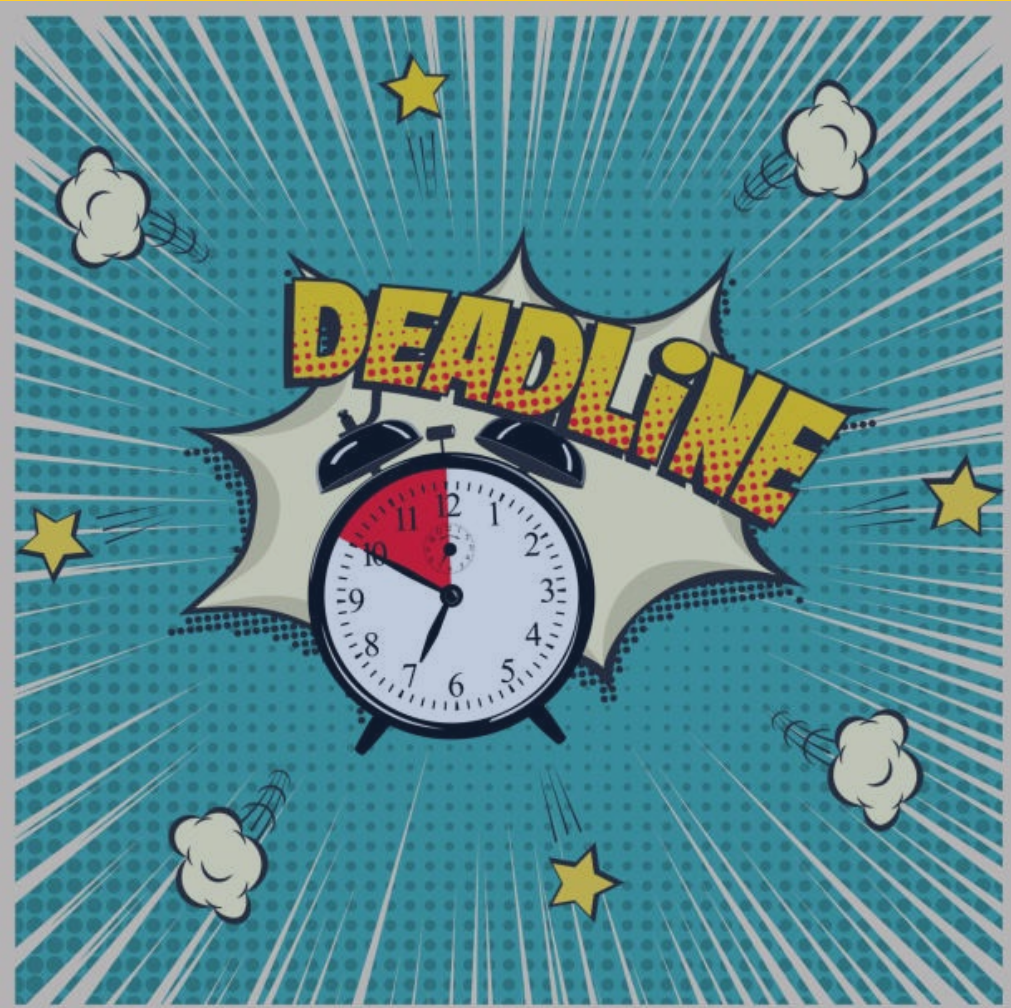
Community Service

- You must complete 20 hours of community service for each year that you receive the award.
 - Hours counted toward community service or participation in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship should be completed outside of school and not counted toward completion of the program in which you are enrolled.
 - You have one year from the initial date that funding is received to complete the 20 hours of community service.
 - The entity or person certifying your community service hours must be affiliated with a nonprofit agency or educational institution.
 - The apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship should be related to your field of study.
- Resources for community service are available on the Louisiana 211 database. The link can be accessed on the resources slide.

23-24 M.J. FOSTER APPLICATION

NOW AVAILABLE AS OF JUNE 1st

- Complete the 23-24 FAFSA
- Priority Deadline: June 15th





POLL TIME

POST PROGRAM

Agree to reside and work full time in Louisiana for a minimum of one year after the completion of the last program of study for which funding is received.

Both the MJ Foster recipient and the employer must be in Louisiana.





**CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR
M.J. FOSTER PROMISE
ELIGIBILITY!**



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M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM

VIRTUAL NETWORK GROUP

Martha “Marsha” Beardon

M.J. Foster Student Engagement Specialist

STUDENT NETWORK GROUP – MISSION & GOAL

Mission

- To address the needs of the whole student (i.e., academic, social, emotional, mental, and physical) as they persist and excel through an identified course of study thereby producing a skilled and competent workforce

Goal

- To support, encourage, and retain cohorts of students matriculating through rigorous programs of study (i.e., Nursing, Education, Engineering, Accounting/Finance, and IT/CIS majors) by addressing the psycho-social and emotional needs through group and/or peer mentoring



STUDENT NETWORK GROUP – OBJECTIVES

Objective #1

- Improve student well-being through increased social supports

Objective #2

- Build and strengthen connections with other students and professionals who are either majoring or employed within a related field of study



Objective #3

- Increase awareness of and access to available resources to promote student success and completion

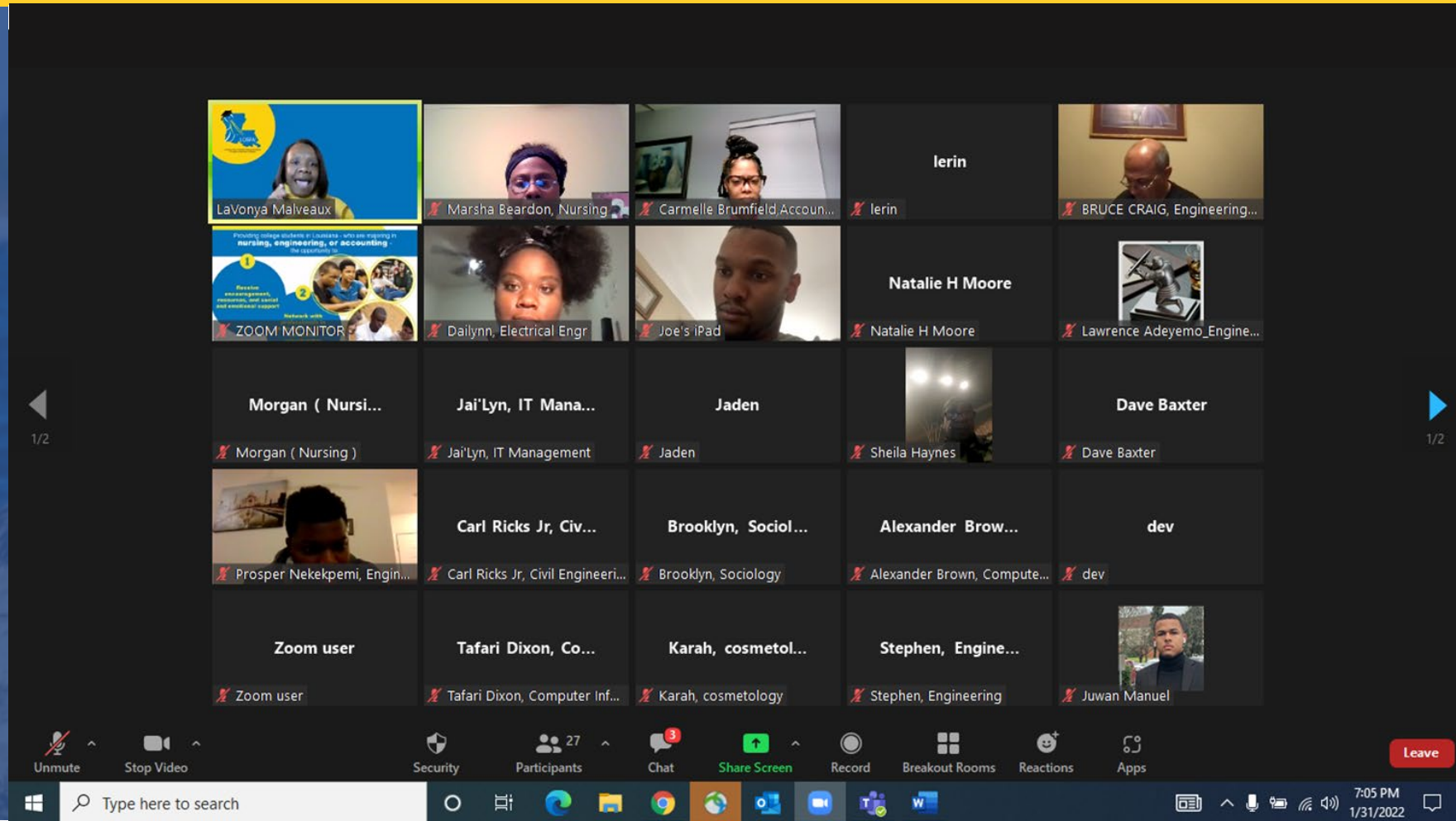
STUDENT NETWORK GROUP - **HOW IT WORKS**

Monthly Zoom Sessions		One hour length		Academician	Practitioner
Other students	Different colleges and universities	Same major		Nursing	Accounting/Finance
Education	Engineering	Information Technology/Computer Information Systems		MJ Foster Promise Program Award Recipient	
Postsecondary Transition		Gather/Connect		Share resources	Share experiences
Study skills		Time management		Support	Encouragement
Discuss Financial Aid		FAFSA Completion		TOPS Retention	

VIRTUAL STUDENT NETWORK GROUP - SCREENSHOTS



VIRTUAL STUDENT NETWORK GROUP - SCREENSHOTS

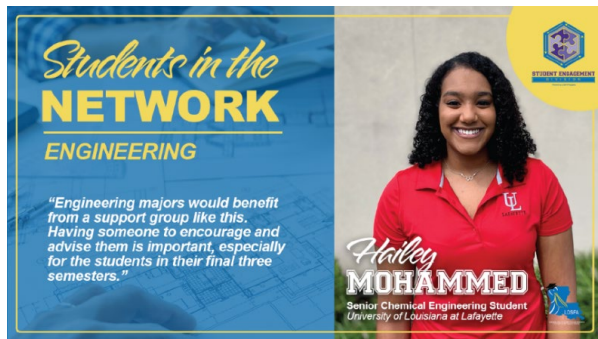


VIRTUAL STUDENT NETWORK GROUP ORIENTATION

Student Engagement Survey Feedback

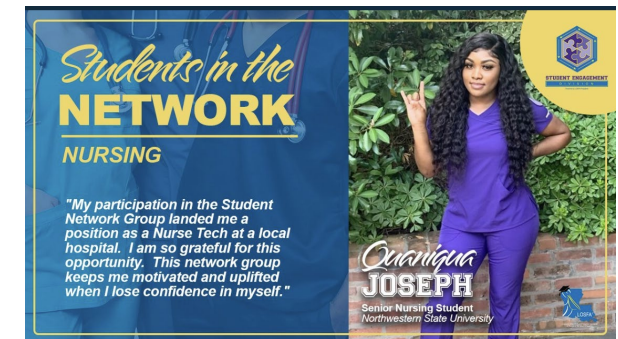
COMMENTS:

- "I liked the student representation from many schools and the diversity of engineering disciplines represented."
- "Students had similar problems. I did not feel so all alone. It was good to get advice from other students."
- "The knowledge about nursing is very beneficial. I think about each session during my classes. The sessions has helped me with time-management and study skills."
- "I thought I was the only one struggling with work and school. I now feel that if other students can do it, then I can do it as well."



INFORMATION SERVICES

Internship/employment opportunities





VIRTUAL STUDENT NETWORK GROUPS

PROVIDING
M.J. FOSTER RECIPIENTS
THE OPPORTUNITY TO:



1

Network with other M.J. Foster recipients throughout Louisiana

2

Discover resources and opportunities for successful degree completion, internships, and job placement

3

Connect with professionals and/or employers from various fields

DATES & TIMES

GROUP ORIENTATION

1st Monday
each month
at **7:00 pm**

GROUP MEETINGS

3rd Thursday
each month
at **7:00 pm**

**REGISTER
HERE** →



Contact us at LOSFA.StudentSupport@la.gov to register and receive session information.



LET'S CELEBRATE

THE

STUDENT NETWORK GROUPS

class of 2023!

JOIN US FOR A
completion
CELEBRATION

JUNE 29
7:00 PM

special guest host:

HOLLIS CONWAY
TWO-TIME OLYMPIC MEDALIST

scan here
TO JOIN →

MEETING ID: 2252197154
PASSWORD: Engage2023



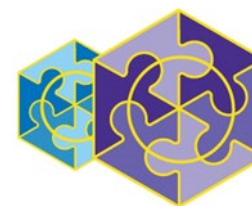


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PLEASE JOIN!!!



1. Create your individual LinkedIn account to connect to opportunities
2. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12829387/>

CONNECT WITH **LOSFA**



Facebook
@losfa



Twitter
@losfa



YouTube
@losfa1000



Instagram
@losfa001

LOSFA also uses **Signal Vine Text Messaging** to connect with students and families. To receive important information and updates from LOSFA, sign up for Signal Vine by texting “LOSFA” to 56500.

CONTACT **LOSFA**

ASK
LEX



- LEX is LOSFA's virtual response assistant
- LEX is available on LOSFA's Website at www.mylosfa.la.gov
- Available **24/7** to answer questions about TOPS

ON THE **WEB**



www.mylosfa.la.gov



custserv@la.gov
GeauxFAFSA@la.gov

VIRTUAL **OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday

YEAR IN **REVIEW**



INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

SAVE THE
DATE



LOUISIANA'S
MJ FOSTER
PROMISE PROGRAM

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

JUNE 15 11 AM AND 2 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT **MJFOSTERPROMISE.COM**

Click the links to register for the webinars.

June 15 at 11 a.m.

<https://ow.ly/jQk250OMY9f>

June 15 at 2 p.m.

<https://ow.ly/89li50OMY9g>

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- For initial and maintaining eligibility: MJFoster.Promise@la.gov OR custserv@la.gov .
- Community Service Database: LA 211 Database found on M.J. Foster Promise webpage: <https://mylosfa.la.gov/students-parents/scholarships-grants/mjfoster/>
- Community Service Verification Form: <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/MJFPCommunityServiceVerification.pdf>
- Virtual Office Hours for initial eligibility and admissions question: <https://mylosfa.la.gov/virtual-office-hours-with-losfa-staff/>
- Community Service and Student Network Support: Martha.Beardon@la.gov
- Eligible Programs: <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/MJ-Approved-Programs.pdf>
- FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Designated College Contacts: https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/MJ_Foster-Contacts.pdf



QUESTIONS?



BREAKOUT SESSION