



#### PRINTING AND PRODUCTION DISCLAIMER:

The public document was published at a total cost of \$15,000. 3,000 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$15,000. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints, is \$15,000. This document was published for the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, 2237 S. Acadian Thruway, Suite 650, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 by Baton Rouge Printing, Inc., to promote public awareness of the programs and services provided by the LPFA to Louisiana and its citizens and to keep the public informed about the operations of the LPFA under authority of Title 9, Chapter 2-A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provision of Title 9, Chapter 2-A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. For more information about the printing, the content of this document, or public information requests, contact Emily C. S. Spears at spears@lpfa.com.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Management	3
Empowering Development & Helping Louisiana Thrive	4
Improving Economic Development by Providing Access to Capital	7
The Best of Both Worlds: Creating Jobs and Saving Money	8
A Better Place to Live, Work & Play	10
Bond Issues that Improve the Quality of Life in Louisiana	14
The Low Interest Bond Bank Program Strengthens Local Governments	20
Helping Louisiana Grow through Low Interest Loans to Rural Communities	22
Encouraging Student Success with Lela's College Planning Resources	24
Supporting Community Awareness and Partnership	28
Board of Trustees	30
LPFA Staff	31
Financials	33

LPFA investments helped generate more than

323,900 NEW JOBS

and \$7.5 billion in additional personal earnings for Louisiana's economy.

**Dr. James A. Richardson**Alumni Professor of Economics
Louisiana State University
Impact Study - August 2014





## DEAR CITIZENS of LOUISIANA,

Our aim is to advance the success of Louisiana's vital public and private institutions by helping them achieve their goals.

Over the past 41 years, by issuing bonds to make below-market financing available, we have empowered our partners to serve Louisiana's people. As a result, hospital systems have been able to modernize and expand; industries to invest; and universities to become stronger and grow.

In all, we have supported more than 656 projects and programs designed to improve Louisiana's health care, economic development, education, housing, job creation and environment.

In 2015, we achieved a milestone, surpassing \$25 billion in bonds issued since our inception in 1974 with our largest investment - \$8.3 billion-made in Louisiana health care.

We issued \$956 million in bonds in 2015 alone for projects serving Louisiana citizens throughout the state. It was the largest bond issuance in one year since the economic downturn of 2008, with more than \$608 million devoted to health care facilities: Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, Touro Infirmary, Louisiana Children's Medical Center, Ochsner Clinic Foundation and Inspired Living at Kenner.

The remainder of the bonds supported projects focused on economic development and other needs. They included Louisiana

Pellets Inc., Department of Environmental Quality; Tiger Athletic Foundation; Department of Health and Hospitals; and Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

We know that for most people, their quality of life is rooted in the communities in which they live and work. This is why we created programs to help villages, towns and other local entities improve vital infrastructure and meet other essential needs. So far, we have committed \$40 million in zero and low-interest loans through the LPFA Bond Bank and LPFA Rural Development programs for communities like those in Vermilion and Caldwell parishes for projects such as improving wastewater treatment plants, upgrading fire protection equipment, constructing police stations and expanding water systems.

One of the most persistent needs in most communities is help connecting students with opportunities for post-secondary education. This is where our education division, Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela), comes in. In 2015, Lela provided assistance and resources to more than 35,000 students throughout Louisiana, as well as \$28,000 in scholarships.

We are proud of the work we do to improve the lives of Louisiana residents. We look forward to continued success as we collaborate with our partners in progress to build a 21st Century Louisiana.

Guy Campbell III Chairman, Board of Trustees James W. Parks II President & CEO



# EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT and HELPING LOUISIANA THRIVE

Founded in 1974 by a private corporation, the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA) is a financing authority created as a public trust and public corporation pursuant to an indenture of trust.

The State of Louisiana is the beneficiary of the LPFA trust. The LPFA is fully selfsupporting, operating solely on revenues generated by fees on bonds issued and programs administered through the LPFA. The LPFA has never asked for or received any tax or other appropriation from the State of Louisiana for its operations.

To finance eligible public and private projects throughout the state, the LPFA acts on behalf of a borrowing entity by serving as a conduit issuer of special obligation revenue bonds. Entities borrow money through the LPFA, not from the LPFA, using LPFA-issued bonds to access financial markets and capital.

The LPFA complies with state laws regarding public records, public contracts, open meetings, public bids, the Bond Validation Procedures Law and the state Code of Ethics. An auditing firm selected by the State Legislative Auditor performs an annual independent audit of the LPFA's finances and submits its findings to the State Legislative Auditor.

All LPFA bond issues must undergo review and approval by the State Bond Commission. All bond-issuance fees paid in connection with LPFA bond issues are subject to the review and approval of the State Bond Commission or the Louisiana Attorney General. The annual operating budget of the LPFA is also subject to review and approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

The LPFA promotes, encourages and furthers all activities that are or may become beneficial to the State of Louisiana. This includes, but is not limited to, issuing taxable and tax-exempt bonds for:

Industry and commerce to foster economic growth and stability

Hospital, extended care, clinical, community health, geriatric, nursing home and medical care facilities

**Educational facilities** 

Student Loans

Residential housing

Projects protecting the people of Louisiana against air, water, noise, ground and other types of pollution

Public utility facilities and services

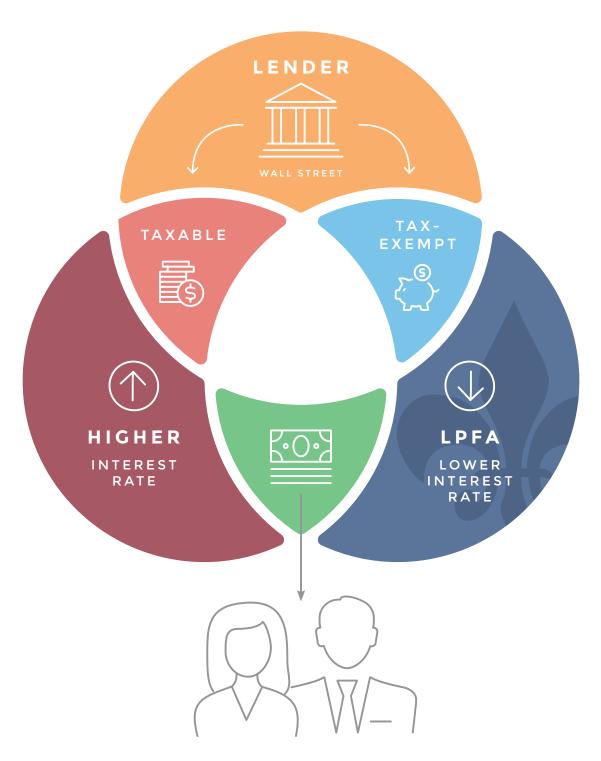
Projects that increase efficiency in the operation of state and local governments

Cultural and recreational facilities

Public transportation facilities

Other activities or facilities that may be deemed a proper public function for the furtherance of the general welfare, health, safety, economic, environmental, governmental, educational, scientific, transportation, recreational and cultural development of the State of Louisiana and its residents





LOUISIANA BORROWER

# IMPROVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT by PROVIDING ACCESS to CAPITAL

- The LPFA acts as a conduit by passing payments from the borrower to the bondholder to reduce the borrower's financing costs.
- The LPFA issues bonds on behalf of a borrower, allowing the borrower to benefit from tax-exempt borrowing.
- LPFA funds are not at risk in connection with a financing, and no funds of the State of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof are at risk. Each LPFA bond contains language to that effect.
- The marketplace determines if the bonds are marketable, not the LPFA.
- Bonds issued by the LPFA are payable solely by the underlying borrower from the funds and assets pledged for each individual bond issue. The LPFA does not enhance the credit of the underlying borrower, and no LPFA funds are pledged for the payments of any bond issue.
- The LPFA and its bond counsel analyze each project's eligibility for taxexempt bond financing as specified by federal law.
- The LPFA does not assume the responsibility of determining the creditworthiness of a project or borrower, nor does it assume the resulting legal liability from making such a determination.



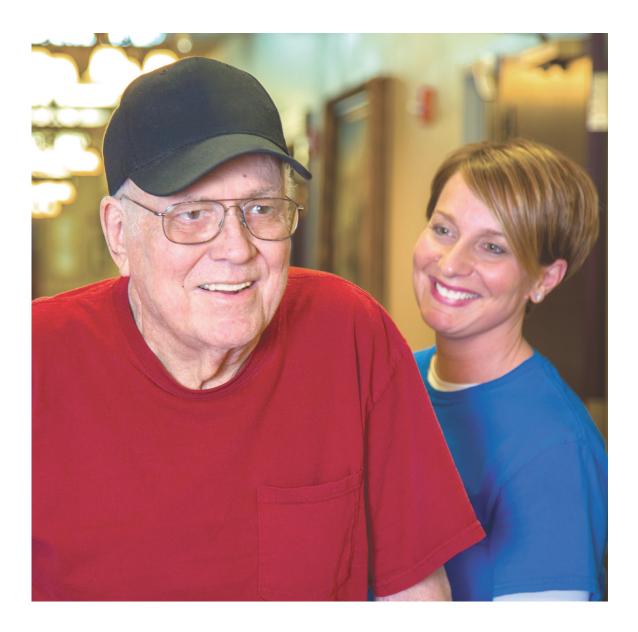
#### THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS:

## CREATING JOBS and SAVING MONEY

By funding critical bond issues during both good and tough times, the LPFA helps businesses advance, save money, and create and preserve jobs.

LPFA's flexibility in putting together major financing packages has played a critical role in rescuing state and local agencies and private companies during difficult times. These financings not only saved tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers, utility customers, and private industries, they also created and helped preserve thousands of Louisiana jobs.

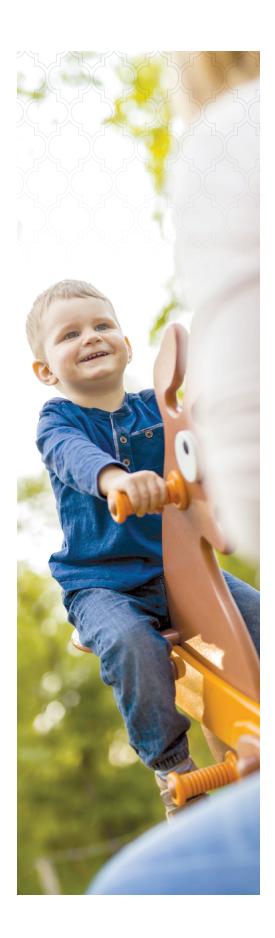
In its past 41 years of operation, Louisiana State University Alumni Professor of Economics Dr. Richardson reported in his 2014 Impact Study that the LPFA helped generate more than 323,900 new jobs and \$7.5 billion in additional personal earnings for Louisiana's economy. During that period, Louisiana's economy experienced a number of ups and downs, prompting LPFA to work



with officials to develop a variety of special programs that helped pull Louisiana, its businesses and its citizens through difficult times.

In 2015, the LPFA issued \$37 million in bonds for Inspired Living at Kenner to create a new three-story, 105,000-square-foot facility on a 9.7-acre lot at Loyola and Vintage drives, adjacent to Ochsner Medical Center-Kenner for retired NFL players that will specialize in the provision of memory support services to persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other forms of cognitive disorders.

The Inspired Living closing cleared the way for construction, which will include approximately 81 assisted living units accommodating 90 assisted living beds and approximately 46 memory support units containing 68 licensed memory support beds, together with common and support areas. These will include an enclosed courtyard with miniature golf and gazebo, swimming pool, fire pit, spa and bathing rooms, a spacious seating and dining area, a living area, a quiet room and beauty/barber shop. The facility is projected to be available for occupancy in March 2017.



# A BETTER PLACE to LIVE, WORK and PLAY

Every LPFA project and program is done with the intent of helping the people of Louisiana. Our mission is to make Louisiana a better place to live, work and raise families by furthering education, health care, economic development and job creation in the state.

In 2015, as the LPFA completed its 41st year of service, we continued to fulfill our mission of fostering economic development and helping to improve the quality of life for our citizens through our financing activities. With its activity this year, the LPFA has issued more than \$18 billion in bonds since its inception for health care, economic development, universities and the State of Louisiana.

## LPFA has ISSUED MORE THAN \$25 BILLION in BONDS. (1974-2015) HEALTH CARE \$8.3 BILLION \$6.4 BILLION **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** STUDENT LOANS \$2.4 BILLION UNIVERSITIES \$2.4 BILLION UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION \$1.5 BILLION SCHOOL BOARDS \$1.2 BILLION COMMUNITIES \$819 MILLION MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING \$676 MILLION STATE OF LOUISIANA \$443 MILLION SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING \$327 MILLION LA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION \$187 MILLION LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES \$74 MILLION

TOTAL \$25,027,568,396.00



# LPFA has ISSUED OVER \$18.03 BILLION in PRIVATE ACTIVITY and INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS. (1974-2015)

A significant portion of the LPFA's economic development work involves helping private entities finance their projects. In the past 41 years, the LPFA has issued more than \$18.03 billion in private activity bonds and industrial development bonds (IDBs) to finance more than 656 projects that have generated more than 323,900 construction and permanent jobs in the state.

# 2015 BONDS by PARISH

\$219,959,888.00	Ouachita	\$9,500,000.00	Acadia
\$39,495,000.00	Plaquemines	\$500,000.00	Allen
\$1,700,000.00	Pointe Coupee	\$237,100,000.00	Ascension
\$33,775,000.00	Rapides	\$1,600,000.00	Avoyelles
\$1,100,000.00	Richland	\$4,349,500.00	Beauregard
\$10,800,000.00	Sabine	\$1,250,000.00	Bienville
\$9,478,594.00	St. Bernard	\$71,726,011.00	Bossier
\$130,345,000.00	St. Charles	\$571,038,374.00	Caddo
\$1,000,000.00	St. Helena	\$151,250,000.00	Calcasieu
\$36,840,000.00	St. James	\$4,080,000.00	DeSoto
\$14,505,000.00	St. John the Baptist	\$2,893,344,086.00	East Baton Rouge
\$23,310,900.00	St. Landry	\$1,000,000.00	Evangeline
\$1,000,000.00	St. Martin	\$1,500,000.00	Franklin
\$2,425,000.00	St. Mary	\$27,332,100.00	lberia
\$125,910,000.00	St. Tammany	\$57,776,000.00	Iberville
\$22,445,000.00	Tangipahoa	\$986,675,721.00	Jefferson
\$595,000.00	Tensas	\$1,000,000.00	Jefferson Davis
\$27,820,000.00	Terrebonne	\$417,190,130.00	Lafayette
\$1,000,000.00	Union	\$59,240,000.00	Lafourche
\$6,400,000.00	Vernon	\$395,800,000.00	LaSalle
\$3,000,000.00	Washington	\$147,381,000.00	Lincoln
\$8,250,000.00	Webster	\$4,050,000.00	Livingston
\$58,675,000.00	West Baton Rouge	\$6,100,000.00	Natchitoches
\$6,596,835,400.00	Multiple Parishes	\$4,607,309,325.00	Orleans

TOTAL SINCE INCEPTION \$18,034,757,029.00



## BOND ISSUES that IMPROVE THE QUALITY

\$190,710,000

LPFA Revenue Refunding Bonds

### Franciscan Missionaries of Our **Lady Health System Project**

Series 2015

Delivered: March 24, 2015

The proceeds from the bond sale were used to refund all or a portion of the prior Bonds (2005A and 2009A) and to pay the cost of issuance. Headquartered in Baton Rouge, LA, FMOL serve patients across Louisiana through a network of hospitals, clinics, physicians, elderly housing and integrated information systems located in Bogalusa, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Gonzales, and Monroe.

\$40,500,000

LPFA Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds

### **Touro Infirmary Project**

Series 2015

Delivered: April 24, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale were used to refund all or a portion of the outstanding Series 1999A Bonds and pay the costs of issuance. Touro is located in New Orleans.



In 2015, LPFA closed 12 bond issues totaling more than \$956 million. This brings the LPFA's total bond issues over the past 41 years to more than

\$25 BILLION.

## of LIFE IN LOUISIANA

\$102,000,000

LPFA Solid Waste Facility Revenue Bonds

### Louisiana Pellets Inc. Project

Series 2015

Delivered: May 22, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale helped finance the construction and equipping of a solid waste disposal facility, which processes wood waste to manufacture biomass wood pellets. The plant is located in Urania, Louisiana. \$3,100,000

LPFA Revenue Bonds

Department of Environmental Quality

### **Municipal Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Match Program**

Series 2007 Draw 9

Delivered: June 23, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale were used to provide the state with matching funds necessary to obtain capitalization grant awards from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in connection with the State's Municipal Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Program.

## \$225,000,000

LPFA Taxable Hospital Revenue Bonds

### Louisiana Children's Medical **Center Project**

Series 2015A

Delivered: June 23, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale were used to design, acquire, construct, equip, furnish, install and renovate capital projects including but not limited to improvements at Louisiana Children's Medical Center, located in Orleans Parish, and/ or West Jefferson Medical Center, located in Jefferson Parish.

## \$52,000,000

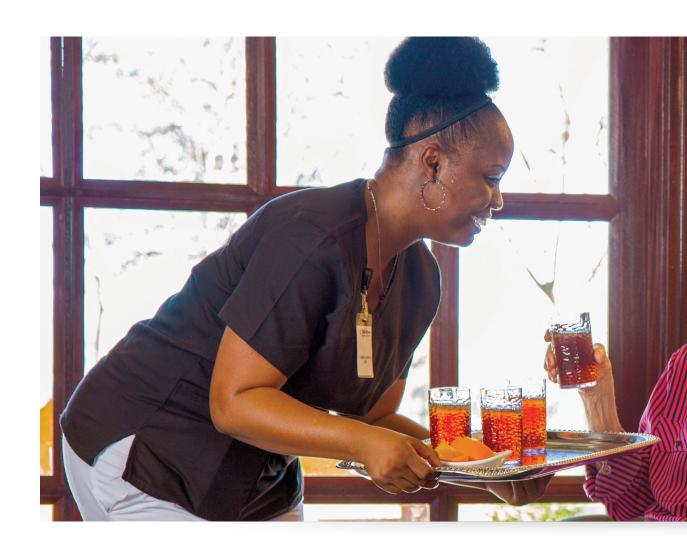
LPFA Revenue Bonds

### **Tiger Athletic Foundation Project**

Series 2015

Delivered: July 1, 2015

The proceeds of this bond sale were used to finance improvements and renovations to Tiger Stadium at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in addition to improvements to the Olympic Sport Improvements at the University and to pay the costs of issuance.



## \$35,800,000

LPFA Solid Waste Facility Revenue Bonds

### Louisiana Pellets, Inc. Project

Series 2015A

Delivered: June 24, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale helped finance the construction and equipping of a solid waste disposal facility, which processes wood waste to manufacture biomass wood pellets. The plant is located in Urania, Louisiana.

## \$2,500,000

LPFA Revenue Bonds

**Department of Health and Hospitals Drinking Water** 

#### **Revolving Loan Fund Match Projects**

Series 2006 Draw#22 Delivered: July 30, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale were used to provide the state with matching funds necessary to obtain capitalization grant awards from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in connection with the State's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program.



In all, we have supported more than

## 656 PROJECTS

and programs designed to improve Louisiana's health care, economic development, education, housing, job creation and environment



\$114,800,000

LPFA Revenue Bonds

### **Ochsner Clinic Foundation Project**

Series 2015

Delivered: August 20, 2015

The proceeds from this bond sale were used to refund prior bonds and to pay the cost of issuance. As southeast Louisiana's largest nonprofit, academic, multispecialty health care delivery system, Ochsner owns, manages or is affiliated with 25 hospitals and more than 50 health centers across the region.

\$99,285,000

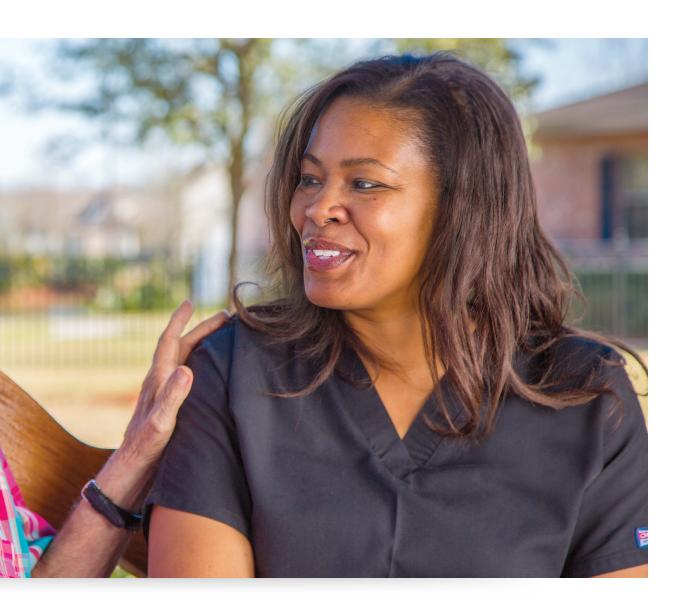
LPFA Revenue Refunding Bonds

### Nineteenth Judicial District **Court Building Project**

Series 2015

Delivered: August 27, 2015

The proceeds of this bond sale were used to refund the Authority's Revenue Bonds (Nineteenth Judicial Court Building) Project 2007 and to pay the cost of issuance.



\$37,083,466

LPFA Senior Housing Revenue Bonds

### **Inspired Living at Kenner Senior Living Project**

Series 2015A - Senior Housing Series 2015B -1 - Subordinate Sr. Housing Series 2015B-2 - Taxable Convertible Appreciation

Delivered: September 18, 2015

The proceeds from the bond sale were used to construct, install, and equip a senior living community including assisted living units and memory care units in addition to a common area for dining, recreation and activities and laundry facilities, and the acquisition of the land.

\$53,045,000

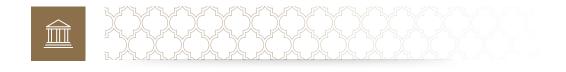
LPFA Revenue Refunding Bonds

### **Tiger Athletic Foundation Project**

Series 2015A

Delivered: November 2, 2015

The proceeds of this bond sale were used to finance improvements and renovations to Tiger Stadium at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in addition to improvements to the Olympic Sport Improvements at the University and to pay the costs of issuance.



# The LOW INTEREST BOND BANK PROGRAM STRENGTHENS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The LPFA recommitted its long history of service to Louisiana local governments with the creation of this program.

In the fall of 1998, the LPFA Board of Trustees voted unanimously to provide funds to assist local governmental entities in lowering the cost of borrowing for capital expenditures. This program has encouraged partnerships between local governmental entities, local financial institutions and the LPFA.

The concept is simple. When faced with a borrowing need for capital expenditures, local government officials work with local banks to obtain the most favorable loan rates. The LPFA then provides 25 percent of the total borrowing at reduced interest rates and the participating bank provides the remaining portion. LPFA's participation at substantially reduced interest, coupled with competitive bank rates for the remaining portion, results in tremendous savings to Louisiana's local governmental entities. To date, the LPFA has assisted over 257 local government entities with their borrowing needs of more than \$12 million, saving these entities more than \$1.56 million in interest payments.

In 2015, the LPFA Bond Bank Program provided \$557,000 to assist with programs totaling \$2,980,000 in loans outstanding in financial assistance to local government entities, saving them more than \$42,154 in future interest payments. The borrowing entities are as follows:

#### **CADDO PARISH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3**

borrowed \$400,000 to acquire, construct and improve fire protection facilities, to purchase fire trucks and additional fire equipment for the District. The LPFA provided \$60,000 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$3,910 in future interest payments.

Delivered: January 22, 2015

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH FIRE **DISTRICT NO. 9**

borrowed \$160,000 to acquire, construct, and improve fire protection and emergency medical service facilities, vehicles and equipment. The LPFA provided \$24,000 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$1,243 in future interest payments.

Delivered: January 28, 2015

#### TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

borrowed \$150,000 to construct a police station for the Town. The LPFA provided \$22,000 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$1,621 in future interest payments.

Delivered: January 29, 2015

## OUACHITA PARISH PRAIRIE ROAD WATER DISTRICT

borrowed \$450,000 to construct and acquire improvements and extensions to waterworks system. The LPFA provided \$15,000 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$5,750 in future interest payments.

Delivered: February 2, 2015

#### POINTE COUPEE PARISH

borrowed \$265,000 to construct and improve gas facilities within the Parish. The LPFA provided \$67,500 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$3,822 in future interest payments.

Delivered: May 13, 2015

## ACADIA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1

borrowed \$300,000 to purchase a fire truck for the Richard community. The LPFA provided \$75,000 at half the market rate of interest, saving \$5,700 in future interest payments.

Delivered: June 22, 2015

#### UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

borrowed \$300,000 to acquire equipment to be used for solid waste collection and disposal. The LPFA provided \$52,000 at zero percent interest, saving the Parish \$1,463 in future interest payments.

Delivered: June 23, 2015

#### TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

borrowed \$80,000 to re-roof public buildings in the Town. The LPFA provided \$20,000 of the total borrowing at half the market rate of interest, saving about \$1,406 in future interest payments.

Delivered: August 11, 2015

## ST. HELENA PARISH, FIFTH WARD RECREATION DISTRICT

borrowed \$150,000 for the acquisition, construction and improvement of recreational facilities and equipment within the District. The LPFA provided \$37,000 of the total borrowing at half the market rate of interest, saving \$2,763 in future interest payments.

Delivered: October 29, 2015

#### CITY OF MARKSVILLE

borrowed \$200,000 for the renovation of a public building to serve as a community center. The LPFA provided \$50,000 of the total borrowing at half the market rate of interest, saving the city \$5,128 in future interest payments.

Delivered: November 3, 2015

## CADDO PARISH, SEWERAGE DISTRICT NO. 7

borrowed \$300,000 for the acquiring and constructing of improvements to sewerage system of the District. The LPFA provided \$75,000 of the total borrowing at half of the market rate of interest, saving the District \$6,830 in future interest payments.

Delivered: November 4, 2015

#### **ACADIA PARISH**

borrowed \$225,000 for the acquisition, construction and equipping of a multipurpose facility for the Parish. The LPFA provided \$56,000 of the total borrowing at half of the market rate of interest, saving the Parish \$2,216 in future interest payments.

Delivered: December 14, 2015

#### TOWN OF NEW LLANO

borrowed \$750,000 for improvements to the sewerage system of the Town. The LPFA provided \$187,000 of the total borrowing at half of the market rate of interest, saving the Town \$8,687 in future interest payments.

Delivered: December 16, 2015



# HELPING LOUISIANA GROW through ZERO INTEREST LOANS to RURAL COMMUNITIES

In 2000, the LPFA Board of Trustees unanimously voted to assist rural communities by creating a program that would help rural communities cover the cost of infrastructure projects.

Much like the LPFA Low Interest Bond Bank Program, this program buys down interest rates. Projects slated for Rural Development financing – such as sewer systems, water treatment plants, and other construction – usually need interim financing before receiving permanent financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program. In 2015, the LPFA portion of the interim financing is provided at zero percent interest.

How does it work? The entity submits an application with the US Rural Development Program for funding assistance for the project. Once approved, the LPFA provides 20 percent of those interim funds at zero interest, in partnership with local financial institutions, which provide the remaining portion of the financing. The LPFA's interest, coupled with banks' competitive rates, lowers the entity's borrowing cost, resulting in a savings to the rural entity.

To date, rural entities and communities have borrowed more than \$165 million, of which LPFA has funded \$28 million, saving Louisiana's rural entities more than \$824,000 in interest payments since the program's inception.

In 2015, entities borrowed more than \$9.19 million, the LPFA Rural Development Program provided \$2.3 million in interim financing loans, at zero interest, to the following communities:

#### TOWN OF ERATH

borrowed \$3.31 million for the purpose of constructing and acquiring improvements to the sewer system in the Town. The LPFA provided \$662,000 of the total borrowing at zero percent interest, saving the Town \$22,067 in future interest payments.

#### ST. HELENA PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 2

borrowed \$2.24 million for improvements, extensions and replacements to the District's waterworks system. The LPFA provided \$447,000 of the total borrowing at zero interest, saving the District \$10,728 in future interest payments.

#### COLUMBIA HEIGHTS SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

borrowed \$1. 35 million for improvements, renovations and replacements to the District's waterworks system. The LPFA provided \$336,000 of the total borrowing at zero interest, saving the District \$8,232 in future interest payments.

#### ST. HELENA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

borrowed \$2.47 million to construct a new 12-classroom high school building and a renovated junior division on the former campus of Northshore Technical College in Greensburg, La. The LPFA provided \$494,000 of the total borrowing at zero percent interest, saving the School Board \$8,645 in future interest payments.

## ENCOURAGING STUDENT SUCCESS with LEL



(L-R) Lela's Christie K. Smith and Ann Carmichael assist students at Capitol High School in Baton Rouge, LA.

### A'S COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES



In 2015, Lela, LPFA's education division, continued to expand access to higher education in Louisiana by assisting students and parents as they pursued their educational goals through focusing more on helping students and parents access funds to pay for college through Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion.

Through its innovative outreach initiatives to increase financial aid awareness and financial literacy, the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) affirms that, in addition to academic success, the key to ensuring access to higher education is to plan effectively and early. It is important to have a plan for both a student's academic success and financial success.

Committed to helping students succeed, Lela continued to provide students with the appropriate college planning resources to secure financial assistance. The foundation of the process is the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Completing the FAFSA is one of the many challenges college-bound students face and can even deter students from pursuing post-secondary education. From limited access to parental or guardianship information to non-traditional socioeconomic factors, many students become overwhelmed with questions and often feel discouraged when completing forms and submitting required information to apply to college.

In 2015, to help students overcome these challenges, Lela focused on helping students and parents with FAFSA completion while providing hands-on, oneon-one counseling for students and parents as well as conducting FAFSA Webinar and Completion workshops on high school campuses. Lela offers an array of resources for Louisiana high school students and parents through its website, askLela.org, featuring its Lela College Planning Guide, College Planning Checklist for Juniors and Seniors, and the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators' College Cost sheet.



# **COLLEGE PLANNING CENTER AVAILABLE** for LOUISIANA **STUDENTS**



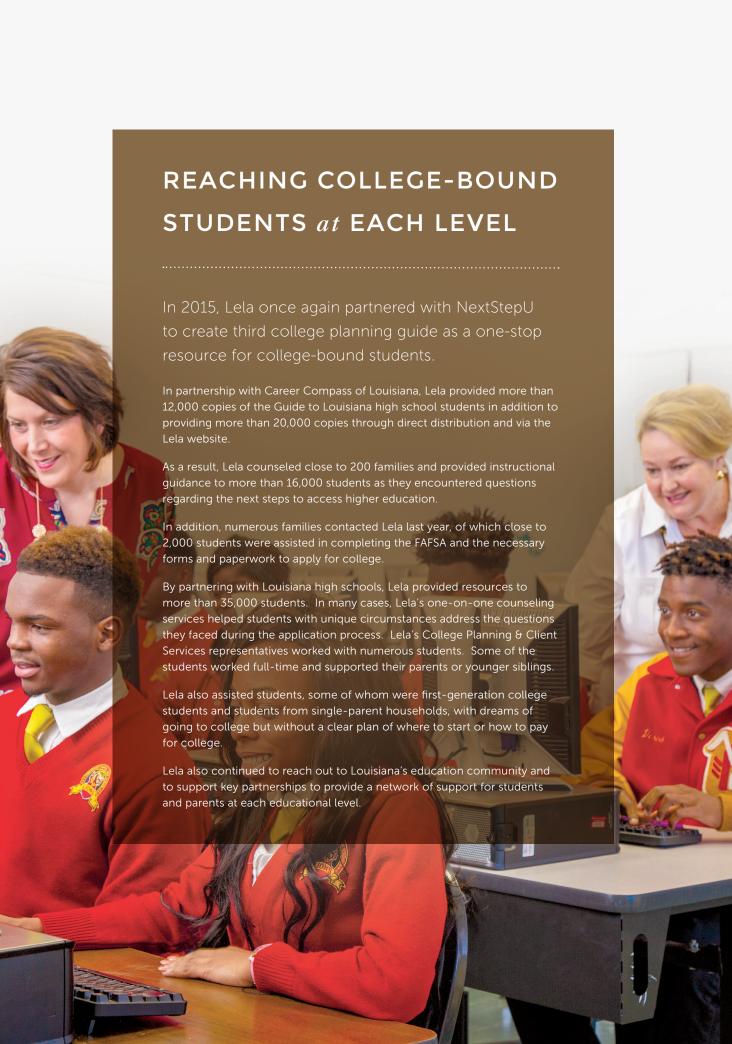
Spring is college decision time for high school seniors and their parents. In 2015, Lela continued to commit itself to helping with one of the most challenging parts of the process: completing the paperwork required to secure grants, loans and scholarships through

its College Planning Center.

The Center offers free services to all students and parents in Louisiana. In 2015, over 30,000 students and parents were offered assistance. Since inception, Lela has assisted over 400,000 students.

There, students took advantage of free, one-onone counseling; computer and Internet access; a resource library and help in completing essential forms, such as the FAFSA, which is required for TOPS Scholarships, in addition to federal and state college aid. All services through the Center are provided free of charge for Louisiana residents.

In addition to connecting with more than 6,000 fans on Facebook, Lela also used Facebook to provide scholarships and share its outreach efforts with the community.





# SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AWARENESS and PARTNERSHIP

#### FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS

For the tenth consecutive year, the Louisiana Governor proclaimed February Financial Aid Awareness Month. In support of the 2015 proclamation by Governor Bobby Jindal, Lela conducted its 14th annual statewide campaign Financial Aid Awareness Month (FAAM) during February 2015 to provide information and increase awareness among the public about financial aid opportunities and to provide assistance throughout the financial aid application process.

Each year, Lela provides its expertise to Louisiana students and parents to provide support as they transition into their educational endeavors. In 2015, Lela participated in nearly 300 financial aid related workshops and events across the state. Through FAAM workshops, statewide mailing to high schools, electronic messages, and social media, Lela provided all Louisiana seniors with an opportunity to receive \$5,000 in scholarships in addition to its annual "Cash for College" essay contest. Lela received more than 75 essays and 20 video submissions from college-bound students across the state.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Lela offers a number of scholarship opportunities for Louisiana students to help alleviate the cost of college. In 2015, Lela awarded more than \$25,000 direct scholarships through its Quarterly Scholarship, Facebook Quarterly Scholarship, Holiday Art Scholarship, FAAM scholarship and the Financial Literacy Scholarship.

Lela in conjunction with LPFA sponsored more than \$100,000 in scholarship and program awards through its partnerships with numerous organizations in Louisiana such as 100 Black Men of Baton Rouge, the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts, the NAACP, Communities in Schools New Orleans, Girl Scouts, College Application Week, Beta Convention, Boys State and Girls State.

#### **CAREER COMPASS OF LOUISIANA**

Bridging the gap between students and available resources is the key to funding college and, for many students, is the key to attending college. To help link students with available resources, Lela continued to partner with Career Compass of Louisiana. Through its partnership with Lela, Career Compass is able to help ensure access to higher education through application fee assistance, scholarship assistance, ACT preparation and hands-on assistance with the college or post-secondary enrollment process despite any student's background or learning aptitude.

In 2015, Lela provided key financial aid information to approximately 65 Career Compass Career Coaches during their annual statewide planning meeting. Lela also distributed more than 12,000 information packets for Career Compass tailored to support high school senior students heading into post-secondary education. The packets also included an opportunity for students to receive a scholarship award to use toward the post-secondary school of their choice.

#### GEORGE RODRIGUE FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS

Lela and the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA) continue to support each other in the effort to provide students with an arts-integrated curriculum and to provide scholarship opportunities to defray the cost of college for graduating seniors.

Lela assisted the foundation by sponsoring scholarships through grant funding for their 2015 GRFA Art Contest. More than 15 junior and senior students in Louisiana received scholarships totaling more than \$45,000 for submitting exceptional art capturing the contest theme: Louisiana's Music, in partnership with New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Inc. GRFA featured the winning art on a commemorative poster at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation's four free festivals.

Lela shares the GRFA's commitment to making sure that higher education is accessible and affordable for all students so that they may continue to pursue their education.

By supporting the George Rodrigue Foundation, Lela augments the Foundation's efforts and positively encourages Louisiana students to pursue their post-secondary education in addition to offering assistance to lower the cost of college by increasing scholarship opportunities available to students.



# BOARD of TRUSTEES

#### From left to right:

Eric Liew Camille A. Cutrone, Vice Chairman Lorin J. Crenshaw Guy Campbell III, Chairman Peter Egan, Secretary - Treasurer Craig A. Cheramie Dale Benoit











## STAFF

#### Front Row (left to right):

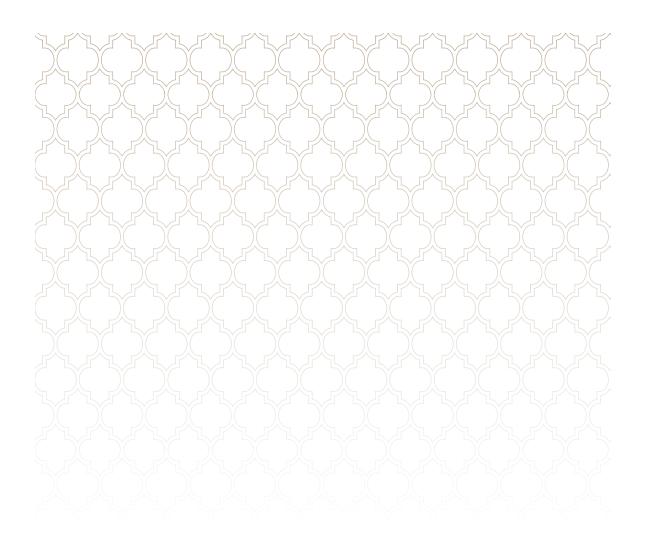
Brinda White, Assistant Vice President Martin Walke, Vice President of Economic & Program Development James W. Parks II, President & CEO Tricia A. Dubroc, Vice President of Student Loans & Administration

#### Back Row (left to right):

Stacye L. Bradford, Executive Assistant Kentra Davis, Compliance Analyst Kayla Thomas, Administrative Assistant Geralyn King, Administrative Assistant Roosevelt J. Leonard, Operations Assistant Becky Harmon, Accountant Joni M. Leggio, Assistant Vice President Rachel Simmons, Receptionist Emily C. S. Spears, Webmaster & IT Manager

#### Not Pictured:

Ann Carmichael, College Planning & Client Services Christie K. Smith, College Planning & Client Services



## THANK YOU

We greatly appreciate the financial partnerships and relationships we have developed with the citizens of our state for the past 41 years. We will continue to fulfill our mission by promoting equity, integrity and diversity to build better communities for the people of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

LPFA Board of Trustees and Staff



## **FINANCIALS**

click on the News and Events tab and select



LPFA.COM • LELA.ORG

2237 SOUTH ACADIAN THRUWAY SUITE 650 BATON ROUGE, LA 70808

PHONE: 225-923-0020 TOLL-FREE: 800-228-4755 FAX: 225-923-0021