AT&T Aspire: Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

Program Description:
The Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited (LSYOU) program is a case-managed dropout prevention program for at-risk students that provides them with long-term, relationship-based strategies designed to foster academic achievement and workforce readiness.

The program consists of an initial five-week summer-in-residence component before the students enter 9th grade, followed by support throughout each high-school year.

All students who enter the program are identified as potential dropouts based on poverty-level family income plus at least two of the following criteria: offender; pregnant or parenting; over-age for grade level; failing two or more classes; member of a single-parent family; and reading or math scores at least two years below grade level.

The Aspire funding will expand the New Orleans program to Baton Rouge and eight surrounding parishes.

The mission of LSYOU is to provide a long-term, case-managed, relationship and data driven intervention into the lives of high-need students to enable them to successfully graduate from High School and enter post-secondary education.

Additionally, the program serves as an outreach to the community, a service learning site to the Louisiana State University faculty and students and a place where students from the College of Human Sciences & Education can learn effective teaching, counseling and data collection techniques.

“[Being in the LSYOU program] allowed a young person to explore and deal with new settings, meet new people, and face new challenges; skills which I continue to use. As I look back and consider my past, I am where I am today is partly due to LSYOU and its positive reinforcements. It’s amazing what six weeks of learning can do for a person who is looking for direction and purpose.”

Tuan Bui, LSYOU Alumni

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