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Rapides Parish School Board Partners with LSUA and CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital to Inspire the Next Generation of Nurses

Alexandria, LA – The Rapides Parish School Board, in collaboration with Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) and CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital is working to foster the next generation of nurses in Central Louisiana.

Yesterday morning, approximately 150 high school students interested in nursing visited the LSUA campus to explore its nursing and other healthcare-related programs and tour the facilities. The event offered students a firsthand look at the educational and funding opportunities available to them as they consider their future careers in nursing.

LSUA Chancellor Paul Coreil emphasized the urgency of recruiting new talent into the field: “With the continued workforce shortages in all health professions—especially nursing—we need a comprehensive, ‘all hands on deck’ approach to appropriately address this crisis. Recruiting high school students into all health professions is crucial to short-term and long-term success to maintaining accessibility to quality healthcare for everyone in Central Louisiana.”

Building on CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital’s \$1 million scholarship fund for future LSUA nursing students, the hospital is committed to cultivating successful healthcare practitioners. “This collaborative effort between the RPSB, LSUA, and CHRISTUS Health will create an educational and financial pathway for students to enter the workforce with a secure job in healthcare,” said CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital CEO Monte Wilson.

LSUA’s dual enrollment courses allow students to get a head start on their college education while still in high school, offering them the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate Degree.

“This opportunity is a great example of how Rapides Parish truly is better together. We want to encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities, especially in an effort to close the healthcare workforce gap in our community,” said Rapides Parish School Superintendent Jeff Powell.

By bringing together healthcare and education partners, the event offered students invaluable resources to help guide their future career paths. The goal is clear: to inspire the next generation of nurses and secure the future of healthcare in Central Louisiana. [PHOTOS LINKED HERE](#)



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