The A&M Agenda for Louisiana

Background
As an agricultural and mechanical university, there are significant and inherent responsibilities to the community and states they serve. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is fortunate to have two world-class A&M universities. Louisiana State University (LSU) and Southern University and A&M College (SU), established in 1853 and 1880, respectively, have a combined 317 years of service to the community and hundreds of thousands of proud and successful graduates. These universities also have systems to which they belong, which reinforce their statewide footprint. However, many of those years have transpired in coexistence and unrealized potential and opportunities. The geographic proximity and history of these two A&M institutions provide a singularly unique opportunity across the entire nation. It is critical that the two institutions partner to invest in the community, the people of Baton Rouge, and the entire State of Louisiana. This document, the A&M Agenda, establishes a strategic partnership between LSU and Southern for the future. It will impact generations of graduates to come and secure a prosperous future for Baton Rouge.

Purpose
Providing a shared agenda for Louisiana State University and Southern University that demonstrates a commitment over the next five years to expand the positive and collective impact of the two institutions, in partnership, for our students, greater Baton Rouge, the State of Louisiana, and the Delta and Gulf Coast regions. The agenda recognizes past efforts, including, but not limited to, the 1981 Consent Decree.

Partnership, Opportunity, and Community
The A&M Agenda describes what is possible when two A&M universities come together to leverage our academic enterprises to yield tangible results for students and our communities. The positive and collective impact can be immeasurable and enduring. While there are numerous benefits of an A&M Agenda, they are broadly organized into three distinct areas: partnership, opportunity, and community. Furthermore, maximizing potential in these areas places a premium on communication, collaboration, and continuous shared scope of the first two will extend and strengthen the third and create an environment of increased impact.

Partnership
An essential element of the A&M Agenda is a shared opportunities built on mutual respect, appreciation, and trust. This is a historic opportunity to align disciplines, space, people, and partners across a range of responsibilities of an A&M institution. Close partnership in research, discipline development, economic development, workforce development, and shared capacities will enable an environment that produces talent at a world-class level and the outcomes that strengthen our community and state economy.

Opportunity
The A&M Agenda also provides a framework for elevating student opportunity and potential. In close collaboration, both institutions can create pathways that are of great interest to the student, great value to the community, and great impact on our state. These pathways will also reinforce the objectives of the partnership described above, to improve economic and workforce development in a positive life-cycle. The following efforts are highlighted:

Community
Finally, this A&M Agenda will positively impact the local community, Baton Rouge, surrounding parishes, and the State of Louisiana. With a commitment to service and a belief in the potential of our people, the A&M Agenda will leverage opportunities to bring groups together to benefit from learning, discovery, and service. The following efforts are highlighted:

Summary
The A&M Agenda’s impact will be measured in expanded educational pathways for students, lives changed, and communities strengthened. Again, the power of this Agenda is realized with the elements of communication, collaboration, and commitment and will benefit Louisiana for decades to come. This Agenda will be examined routinely based on the measures in this document and will benefit from continuous dialogue and engagement with Baton Rouge and the local community.

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