

## **We're committed to research for a reason.**

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette specializes in applied research that solves real-world problems. That's why it recently partnered with Drexel University to establish a center that can help companies gain an edge in the global marketplace by learning to interpret and analyze huge amounts of complex data. It's also why some of our faculty members are studying the effects of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. What they learn may help mitigate the impact of future spills. In short: we make research relevant. With our wealth of expertise and top-notch resources, we offer everything it takes to awaken the change agent in anyone.

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## **This is our time, and we're determined to make the most of it.**

By any measure, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is thriving. Our freshmen are more prepared for college-level work than ever before. More exceptional students are making the University their first university of choice. And we have devoted unprecedented energy and resources to student success. The payoff so far: one of the highest graduation rates in Louisiana. Our faculty members are earning national and international recognition. And, they are drawing record amounts of external research monies. In 2011, total research and development expenditures at the University totaled \$69.97 million; only one other public university in Louisiana spent more on R&D. Four student residence halls have been built in the past three years and the expansion and renovation of the Student Union is under way. Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® are poised to lead the Sun Belt Conference in every major sport. And, our alumni can be proud of the fact that their degrees have more value and respect than ever before. Buoyed by the accomplishments of its students, faculty and alumni, the University has pledged to take advantage of every opportunity to achieve greater prominence among public institutions of higher learning.

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## **We have a gift for bringing people together.**

For centuries, south Louisiana has embraced diversity. So it's not surprising that we have a natural talent for leaping over disciplinary borders and forging new collaborations. The Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning embodies this inclusive spirit. It has experts in many fields, such as education, public health, business and communicative disorders. And, it partners with community organizations ranging from school districts to Junior League to United Way. Our students earn an important lesson from these initiatives: some of the best opportunities emerge from the crossroads of knowledge.



## **We're eager to share what we're learning.**

Our research extends beyond the classroom. Students and faculty in our Community Design Workshop help cities and neighborhoods revitalize their communities. This mobile design studio has completed more than 70 funded projects since its inception. The university has also partnered with Cleco, an energy company, to build an alternative energy center in Crowley, La. It is bringing together experts in engineering, biology and other fields to improve existing technologies and use some of Louisiana's renewable natural resources to produce biofuels. By hosting CajunCodeFest, a computer programming competition the university sponsored along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the University is blending information and innovation to improve the health of children. The end result: using technology to help address learning and childhood obesity. We work tirelessly to improve our communities by applying what we're learning.

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## **We teach the real meaning of *joie de vivre*.**

We prepare students to do more than earn a living. The lessons we offer about life transcend any textbook. *Joie de vivre* means living life fully, deeply. So we teach with the same passion that defines Cajun and Creole cultures. And we nurture students' ability to listen, reflect, articulate and savor because these are tools for a lifetime of thoughtful citizenship. For our students, *joie de vivre* means much more than being good company. It also means being a lively and discerning thinker.

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## **Our Ragin' Cajun spirit goes beyond athletics.**

We're passionate about the possibilities for a better world. But we also know good intentions aren't enough. That's why we've embraced serving others. In the 2011-12 academic year, faculty and students performed about 200,000 service hours in the community. And it's why our Communicative Disorders Department doesn't limit its clinical practice to the school year but instead devotes summer months to helping at-risk children gain the literacy skills they need to succeed. Our students and faculty are invigorated by problems that call upon our deepest reserves of humanity—and we're applying our best thinking to solve them.

