



For Immediate Release
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Our Lady of the Lake College Receives \$2 Million Title III Grant

Baton Rouge, LA – Our Lady of the Lake College has been selected to receive a five year, \$2 million grant funded under the United States Department of Education’s Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) (84.031A).

“With this Title III grant, we can accelerate the ongoing improvement of laboratory experiences in our science courses and in our clinical programs,” stated Glenn Blalock, Ph.D., Associate Dean in the School of Arts, Sciences and Health Professions. “The grant will enable us to increase students’ success in science and laboratory courses, to improve their critical and applied thinking skills, and to foster their interdisciplinary learning.”

The funds granted to Our Lady of the Lake College are proposed to support improved basic science and clinical laboratories and more comprehensive science training. Reconfiguration and improvement to chemistry and biology labs along with the development of a Simulated Environment Teaching Hospital (SETH) will touch students at every level and in all programs. Hands-on activities will be incorporated into both basic science and professional curricula to provide students with a more engaged learning experience. These and other changes, including contemporary instruction and well-equipped labs will combine to reduce barriers for disadvantaged students who have not had quality science instruction.

“The SETH will provide a replica of the patient care environment where health profession students can learn to apply cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills using an interdisciplinary approach without risk to patient safety,” explained Mary Pat



Thevenot, M.S.N., R.N., Assistant Professor and Simulation & Skills Program Director in the School of Nursing. "This will be the College's first opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary team scenarios and truly experience collaborative learning."

The SIP program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education helps eligible institutions of higher education to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.

Sandra Harper, Ph.D., President of Our Lady of the Lake College underlined the grant's importance. "We are ecstatic to have received this vote of confidence from the United States Department of Education. This support will have a monumental impact on the success and academic growth of the College as we continue to fulfill the educational ministry begun by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady a century ago."

The College learned of the award from the office of Senator Mary L. Landrieu in September of 2011. The grant will include \$396,000 during the first fiscal year, and is anticipated to continue for five years for a total of approximately \$2 million.

Offering master's, baccalaureate, and associate degrees, Our Lady of the Lake College is a four-year, independent institution, providing a strong foundation in the liberal arts and continuing its highly-regarded health sciences and nursing programs. For more information about the College, go to www.ololcollege.edu.

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