

# Fund New and Existing Postsecondary Inclusive Education Programs for Students with I/DD

## KNOW THE FACTS

- **LA currently has 64 postsecondary institutions with only 6 offering an inclusive higher education opportunity for students with I/DD.**
- **44% acceptance rate—Too many students apply and not enough slots available. This opportunity is in demand!**
- **83 individuals have completed their programs with 75% gaining competitive employment.**
- **Current programs are certified by the U.S. Department of Education as Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary programs making students eligible for Pell Grants.**
- **LRS funding also covers student cost for those who qualify.**

## What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate \$1 million in State General Fund to expand and increase postsecondary inclusive education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Louisiana.

## Why Do This?

The Louisiana Alliance of Postsecondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE) was formed in 2019 to increase postsecondary inclusive opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Louisiana.

Individuals with I/DD deserve the opportunity to enjoy the full college experience with their peers. These programs afford students the opportunity for self discovery, to gain independence, learn life skills, build lifelong friendships and create a greater support network. They also receive the education, support and training needed to not only obtain but maintain employment.

Individuals with disabilities are an untapped resource who make valuable and dependable employees. We need to invest in their education and employability in inclusive and competitive environments just as we do for individuals without disabilities. Everyone deserves a chance to live independently and contribute to their community, and these programs do just that.

[-SB192](#) by Senator Gerald Boudreaux (co-authors include Senators Bouie & Foil) takes steps needed to address this need.