



Alumni Affairs

#6 Plan cycle - 6

Plan cycle 2021/2022

7/1/21 - 6/30/22

Introduction

Unit Mission:

To strengthen alumni ties and encourage lifelong support of McNeese State University so these resources can be used to support the successful education of undergraduate students and provide operational assistance to serve the campus community, donors, employers, alumni, and community members.

Institutional Mission Reference:

Financial support from alumni helps provide academic support, research opportunities, support of student activities, physical plant improvements, faculty support, and scholarships. Alumni also support the University by hiring McNeese graduates, providing internships, and helping to recruit future students.

Performance Objective 1 Connect alumni to their alma mater so that they will want to help financially support the University's mission of providing a successful education of undergraduate students and be able to provide operational assistance.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: >4% yearly increase in McNeese Alumni donations to the Annual Fund.

1.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | Annual Fund Income | % change |
|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| 2013-2014 | N/A | +9.1% |
| 2014-2015 | N/A | +22% |
| 2015-2016 | \$175,990.18 | +13% |
| 2016-2017 | \$186,494.15 | +6% |
| 2017-2018 | \$199,297.79 | +6.8% |
| 2018-2019 | \$211,876.69 | +6.3% |
| 2019-2020 | \$193,289.37 | -9.0% |
| 2020-2021 | \$99,119.85 | -49.0% |
| 2021-2022 | \$76,626.07 | -25.6% |

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

- Exceeded benchmark with a 6.8% increase in the Annual Fund from the prior year.
- Previous donors received a personalized letter solicitation. The non-donor solicitation was sent to all non-donors and lapsed records excluding the class of 2016. 61 new donors were obtained for a total of \$6,535.
- The record updates were also used to determine priority calling during the Annual Phonathon.
- Because the benchmark has been consistently met, we will increase the benchmark to >4% for 2018-2019.

2018-2019:

- Exceeded benchmark with a 6.3% increase in alumni donations over the prior year.
- There were 200 new donors who gave a total of \$13,830 for this fiscal year.
- We ran the classes of 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017. These 38,323 records were run through AlumniFinder and 6,878 of them were updated.
- During the coming year we will be merging the Foundation's database in with ours, which is expected to be a lengthy process. For this reason, I will only increase the benchmark to >4% as we could be limited by times in which we can access the database for fundraising.

2019-2020:

Fell 13% short of the benchmark this year. This can be attributed to the CoronaVirus hitting Louisiana shortly after we completed the annual Phonathon calling and were in the process of receiving the donations from those alumni who had pledged during the Phonathon. Within the next month, we will have merged our alumni records with the Foundation records. I anticipate a learning curve and cleaning of records as we will lose all established queries, batches, reports, imports, exports, and mail merge letters. Staff will set aside time to write and install the new data.

Due to the CoronaVirus, we will change the messaging and timing to our alumni when we are asking for

donations. Will reduce benchmark by 10%.

2020-2021:

- Annual Fund Drive (mail piece) was not sent in fall 2020 as scheduled due to Covid-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta.
- Phonathon 2021 was unable to be hosted due to lack of space since Alumni Center was used as temporary offices for displaced Foundation/Athletics staff.
- Only active solicitation was email for donation renewals, which were solicited prior to the crawfish boil.
- Annual Fund Drive will resume in Fall 2021.
- Phonathon will be re-evaluated and will take place if possible based on facility available due to Alumni Center flooding and reconstruction.

2021-2022:

- Annual Fund Drive was not completed fall 2021 due to flood repairs and building access minimal.
- Phonathon was not completed spring 2022 due to flood repairs of building and change in office personnel.
- Annual crawfish boil was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances within Alumni and personnel changes.
- Annual Fund Drive will begin fall 2022 for tailgating.
- Phonathon will be evaluated and likely replaced with email and mailed flyers.
- Annual crawfish boil fundraiser will be evaluated for spring 2023.

2 Assessment and Benchmark

Assessment: Event attendance for all Ag Alumni Chapter, Black Alumni Chapter, and Greater Houston Alumni Chapter events.

Benchmark: Average of 50 attendees per event.

2.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | # of events | # in attendance* | Average attendance |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2017-2018 | 9 | 580 | 64.4 |
| 2018-2019 | 11 | 776 | 70.5 |
| 2019-2020 | 8 | 441 | 55.13 |
| 2020-2021 | 2 | 400 | 200 |
| 2021-2022 | 5 | 400 | 250 |

2.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Chapter events for the year included six Black Alumni Chapter meetings, the Annual Black Alumni Chapter Trailblazer Awards, Houston Chapter Crawfish Boil, and Ag Alumni Crawfish Boil. Since attendance varies greatly by event, we would recommend a benchmark of an average of 50 attendees per event.

2018-2019:

We have established two years of continued growth in the number of events as well as the number of attendees. Exceeded our benchmark for these two years. Should this trend continue, we will reevaluate our benchmark next year.

2019-2020:

Exceeded benchmark for three consecutive years. Will increase benchmark to 60 attendees per event.

2020-2021:

Events for 20/21 were limited due to COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

- No in-person chapter meetings/events were held from July 1, 2021 - May 15, 2021.

- The Black Alumni Chapter hosted their annual Trailblazer Awards Reception virtually (via zoom) on April 17, 2021. Approximately 75 attended. The chapter also held monthly chapter meetings via zoom from January-May 2021.
- Ag Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil was held in May 2021. Approximately 325 attended.
- Will resume outreach/chapter events in 21/22 and will partner with other campus groups /departments with their events.

2021-2022:

Events for 2021-22 were limited to tailgating due to flood construction going on in Alumni.

- Board meetings did not happen due to unforeseen repairs and flood repairs in building.
- Black Alumni Chapter held 2 fundraisers for scholarship funds. Approximately 150 attended February event and approximately 70 attended June event.
- Ag Alumni held their annual crawfish boil with approximately 300 in attendance.
- Chapter meetings were held via ZOOM.
- Will resume minimal activities for Alumni: tailgating, Grad Fest, and partner with other areas on campus for JCP Dress Up, Career Closet Fundraiser, Black Alumni Scholarship fundraisers, Ag Alumni crawfish boil, and evaluate Alumni crawfish boil.

3 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Obtain annual corporate sponsorships of \$20,000 or greater to help offset event expenses.

3.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | Income from corporate sponsorships |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 2013-2014 | \$23,000.00 |
| 2014-2015 | \$19,000.00 |
| 2015-2016 | \$20,000.00 |
| 2016-2017 | \$23,600.00 |
| 2017-2018 | \$23,500.00 |
| 2018-2019 | \$22,500.00 |
| 2019-2020 | \$20,500.00 |
| 2020-2021 | — |
| 2021-2022 | — |

3.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Sponsorship committee and alumni staff work to renew previous sponsors as well as obtain new sponsors. Sponsorship income decreased by \$100 due to the loss of a corporate sponsor from business closure. The sponsorship committee will actively seek renewals and new businesses for the coming year and will review the sponsorship packet to make it more attractive to businesses.

2018-2019:

While we lost \$1,000 in corporate sponsorships, we still met our benchmark. We may have lost our contact with one of our major \$5,000 corporate sponsors. We will be asking each board member to contact one possible new sponsor over the summer months. We are also reviewing the sponsorship program to see if there are any updates we can make that would make the package more enticing to the sponsors.

2019-2020:

We met our benchmark this year. However due to the CoronaVirus, many companies are struggling financially, and it is very likely that we may not meet the benchmark next year. We will reach out to more companies and work with our Board members to see what contacts they might have.

2020-2021:

Corporate sponsorships were not solicited in 20/21 due to COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Will resume sponsorship program in 21/22.

2021-2022:

Corporate sponsorships were not solicited in 2021-22 due to unforeseen circumstances within office and personnel changes. Also, flood repairs were ongoing with minimal office access.

4 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Host pregame parties in Noland Alumni Pavilion and Alumni Grove for each home game – alumni attendees must possess Rowdy Card which means they have donated \$75.00 or more to the annual fund that year. Average attendance for each game should be >700.

4.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | # of home games | Estimated average attendance per game | Estimated # of Rowdy Card holders per game |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2017-2018 | 5 | >1,000 | 320 |
| 2018-2019 | 5 | >725 | 280 |
| 2019-2020 | 6 | 1079.3 | 409 |
| 2020-2021 | 3 | — | — |
| 2021-2022 | 5 | — | — |

4.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Worked with Petrochem to continue hosting pre-game tailgates in the Alumni Grove and Noland Pavilion. Alumni Association provides volunteers to help staff event and obtains the necessary insurance coverage and special events permit for each game. Average attendance per game is estimated at approximately 1000. The number of Rowdy Card holders is estimated at 320 per game.

2018-2019:

Of the five home games this year, three were down in numbers due to rain. For this fiscal year there were 1,069 Rowdy Card members of which 670 are located within a 20-mile radius of the campus and each Rowdy Card gives a couple and their children entrance into the tailgate. For the previous year there were 1008 Rowdy Cards of which 625 were within 20 miles of the campus.

2019-2020:

Due to strong scheduling and better weather we saw a 45% increase in Rowdy Card holders attending. Due to the CoronaVirus, we do not expect as strong a crowd for tailgates in the fall of 2020.

2020-2021:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, pregames were not hosted for the Spring 2021 football home games. Local and State officials would not approve pregame plans and permitting. Will resume in 2021/2022 however benchmark number will decrease due to game time (12 pm).

2021-2022:

Tailgating was hosted for 2021-22 football season. Due to changes in office personnel, the actual number of attendance nor percentages are available.

5 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Plan >12 alumni events during the year to engage and reconnect with alumni.

5.1 Data

2017-2018:

Hosted 15 events: Golden Scholar Reunion; Distinguished Alumnus Reception; Champagne Bingo Fundraiser; Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament; Holiday Bookstore Sale; Past Alumni President's Reception; five home tailgate parties; Trailblazer Luncheon; Annual Family Crawfish Boil; Washington DC Crawfish Boil; and Houston Chapter Crawfish Boil.

Also assisted with the Pi Kappa Phi Reunion, ADPi Reunion, Ag Alumni Crawfish Boil, and Drums & Drafts Band Fundraiser.

2018-2019:

Hosted 23 events: Golden Scholar Reunion; Distinguished Alumnus Awards; Distinguished Service Awards, Champagne Bingo Fundraiser, Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament; Past Alumni President's Reception; Homecoming Parade Float and Fireworks Show; 5 home game tailgate parties; BAC Trailblazer Awards Banquet; Annual Family Crawfish Boil; Washington, DC/Louisiana Coalition Boil; Ag Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil; BAC Cruise on the Lake Fundraiser; Holiday Bookstore Sale; two Grad Fests; Peerleader Reunion; and Kappa Alpha 50th Anniversary Reunion planning sessions.

2019-2020:

Hosted 22 events: Fall Grad Fest; Homecoming Golf; Champagne Bingo; Past President's Reception; Christmas Bookstore Sale; Distinguished Alumni Awards Reception; J.C. Penney Suit-Up; BAC Dance Off; BAC Lunch with Students; Alumni Lunch for essential campus workers; Six home tailgates; 5 BAC chapter meeting; and hosted the Alliance of Louisiana Alumni Executives Conference. Due to the CoronaVirus, we did not have Spring Grad Fest, Golden Scholars Reunion, or Ag Alumni Crawfish Boil.

2020-2021:

Decrease in number of events due to COVID-19 restrictions and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Hosted 6 events: Fall 2020 Gradfest, BAC Trailblazer Awards (virtual), Spring 2021 Gradfest, JCP Suit Up (virtual), Alumni Annual Crawfish Boil, Ag Alumni Crawfish Boil.

2021-2022:

Decrease in number of events due to return of activities from COVID-19, hurricanes and flooding. In fall 2021 and Spring 2022, a few events were hosted by Alumni: football tailgating, Grad Fest, JCP Suit Up, Ag Alumni crawfish boil, and Black Alumni Chapter held 2 events for scholarship fundraising.

5.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Resumed the Houston Chapter Crawfish Boil, which was not held in the prior year.

The events listed above helped us to connect with a variety of alumni throughout the year. All of the events listed have been rescheduled for 2018-2019 with the exception of the Washington, DC Crawfish Boil, due to the decreasing attendance and increasing cost. We will also be assisting with the Peerleaders' 20-year Reunion in the upcoming year.

2018-2019:

Increase the benchmark from >8 to >12 events.

We did attend this year's 16th Washington, DC/Louisiana Coalition Crawfish Boil as it was agreed by all schools that this would be the final time to host this event. Staff is working on finding a site for a Houston, TX Roundup. Attendance has been good at all events.

2019-2020:

Increase the benchmark to >15 events. Continue to work with campus student leaders.

2020-2021:

Decrease in events due to COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Will resume alumni events in 21/22 and will partner with other campus departments/organizations to assist with their events.

2021-2022:

Will work to increase events across campus with partnerships and Alumni activities to return to normal from COVID-19, hurricanes, flooding, and personnel changes.

6 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Provide planning, staffing, and financial support for student recruitment and development, marketing, athletic programs, campus enhancement, alumni events, and general University needs. Financial support for these

programs will be >\$50,000.

6.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | Other Financial Support |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 2018-2019 | \$63,824.25 |
| 2019-2020 | \$111,166.83 |
| 2020-2021 | \$47,812.12 |
| 2021-2022 | \$4,000.00 |

2017-2018:

- Donated \$2,600 to Admissions & Recruiting for the Sponsorship of Academic Signing Day Lunch; \$2,500 to McNeese Basketball for Season Tickets; \$3,500 to Athletics for Student-athlete of the month; \$1,000 for Social Tables Event Layout Software; \$1,350 Banners Sponsorship; and \$500 CODOFIL Scholarship.
- Sponsored or co-sponsored Homecoming Fireworks Display, Student Alumni Ambassadors, McNeese Peerleaders, Greek Philanthropy Awards, Cowboy Camp, Admissions & Recruiting, and water for Freshman Orientations.
- Hosted fall and spring GradFest on campus for graduating seniors. Host two McNeese Official Ring Sales each year.

2018-2019:

- Funded Student Athlete of the Month (\$3,500); Cowboy Camp (\$500); Homecoming Fireworks (\$6,825); Mascot costume (\$3,380); President's First Choice Campaign (\$40,000); Banners Sponsorship (\$2,500); Student Appreciation Lunch (\$400); Lunch for Academic Signing Day (\$3,719.25); Student Social Tables (\$1,000); and 2 athletic fundraisers (\$2,000).
- Sponsored Student Alumni Ambassadors and water for all Freshmen Orientations. Made the Alumni Coke Wagon available to Men's Baseball during construction of their restrooms and concession stand.
- Hosted fall and spring GradFest and two McNeese Ring Sales.

2019-2020

- Funded Student Athlete of the Month (\$3,500); Alumni Grove Entrance signage (\$2,531.83); Foundation Scholarship (\$30,000); First Choice Campaign (\$40,000); Homecoming Fireworks (\$6,825); Student Employment Appreciation (\$500); Banners (\$2,500); MAF (\$2,500); Campus Golf Cart (\$8,500); Admissions and Recruiting (\$4,865.00); Tip-Off Celebration (\$1,000); various campus departments and scholarships (\$8,445). Several programs were not funded due to Covid-19. Total is \$111,166.83.

2020-2021:

- Student t-shirts (\$1000); Foundation Scholarships (\$31,000); Lunch for commencement staff/stage party in both fall and spring (\$2,481.97); Bookstore Hurricane Relief Fundraiser (\$2,094.59); Baseball Sideline Box Seats + 4 Season Tickets (\$800); Develop the Diamond Campaign (\$1000); Student Orientation Spurs Keychain Giveaways (\$5,000)

2021-2022:

- Lunch for Academic Signing Day (\$1500), Softball season tickets, and Develop the Diamond Campaign (\$1500). Spending is limited due to unforeseen circumstances within Alumni and personnel changes.

6.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Increased amount of endowed scholarships by \$83,140 from the prior year, thus exceeding the benchmark. Sponsored the Student Athlete of the Month, Banners, and CODOFIL. Provided funding for Homecoming Fireworks, Greek Philanthropy Awards, Cowboy Camp, Admissions & Recruiting, and Freshman Orientation. Provided partial funding for the Social Tables event layout software and purchased season basketball tickets. The alumni staff also plans and staffs GradFest and ring sales each semester.

The Alumni Association will continue to support these programs during the 2018-2019 year and will look for additional opportunities to get involved with the University, including a partnership with the Career and Student Development Center

2018-2019:

Total funding is greater than \$63,824.25. This is larger than anticipated due to the \$40,000 My McNeese campaign.

Recommend increasing benchmark to >\$60,000.

2019-2020:

Since the total this year is over \$111,000, I would recommend increasing benchmark to \$90,000, which would be \$30,000 more than last year.

2020-2021:

Decrease funding to University due to decrease in income/annual fund in 2020-2021 due to COVID /Hurricanes.

2021-2022:

Funding has been minimal due to unforeseen circumstances within Alumni and personnel changes. Will work to rebuild Rowdy card annual renewals for future events.

7 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: A member of the Alumni staff should be present at a minimum of 10 student events a year.

7.1 Data

2017-2018:

Alumni staff members attended numerous student activities throughout the year, including: Greek Banquet, Student Government Banquet, Undergraduate Research Day, Performing Arts Showcase, Juried Student Art Show, Fall & Spring Gradfest, Welcome Back Day in fall and spring, Academic Signing Day, Cowboy Camp, and Student Alumni events. Alumni staff member served as a judge at both the Homecoming poster and singing competitions.

2018-2019:

Staff members attended the Greek Banquet, Student Recognition Dinner, Juried Student Art Show, Fall and Spring Grad Fest, Academic Signing Day, Cowboy Camp and Student Alumni Events, Homecoming Committee Meetings, Peerleader Reunion, Homcoming Court dinner, Scholarship Brunch, Phonathon, two Commencements, Spring Court, and Ring Workshop.

2019-2020:

Staff members attended: Black Chapter Student Dance Off Fundraiser; Southern Tailgate; GradFest; Rad Tech Quiz Bowl; JCPenney Suit-Up; BAC Luncheon for students; Commencement; Phonathon; three Homecoming meetings; three Campus Development meetings; University President's Reception; Diamond Dinner Fundraiser; Spring Court dinner, and Homecoming Parade lineup and fireworks.

2020-2021:

Staff attendance at student events decreased due to the lack of student events following COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura/Delta. Staff did attend both Gradfest and Commencement.

2021-2022:

Events have been decreased due to lack of enrollment from hurricanes and flooding, as well as ongoing construction across campus and housing. Grad Fest and commencement were attended by Alumni staff. JCP Suit Event, and Career Closet also had Alumni representatives in attendance.

7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Alumni staff members attended numerous student events during the year that provided us the opportunity to interact with students. By attending these events, students become more aware of the Alumni Association and its purpose. We find that those students who are involved with the Association during their undergraduate study are more likely to join after graduation. The staff will check the campus calendar to view upcoming student events and discuss the possibility of attending. I would suggest increasing the benchmark to 15 events for next year.

2018-2019:

Will spearhead a JCPenney Suit-Up Event in September. Working with campus departments to encourage students to shop one evening after the store closes. Students receive a 30% discount on career dress, shoes, and accessories. Event to be held a couple of weeks prior to Career Fair.

Continue to review campus calendar for student events. Provide MSU Student Alumni with clothing that has their logo for them to wear on-campus. Put McNeese Alumni name on campus video boards for at least four different times of year.

2019-2020:

We could not put info on video boards as this practice has been discontinued, but we did provide Student Alumni with branded clothing. We will change the benchmark to a minimum of 18 annual events for next year.

2020-2021:

Staff will resume presence at student events as they return in 21/22.

2021-2022:

Staff will be in attendance to all activities that Alumni partners with and hosts, such as tailgating, Grad Fest, Career Closet, JCP Suit Up, Academic Signing Day, and other events as needed.

8 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Increase endowed scholarship funds by at least \$50,000 each year.

8.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | Endowed scholarships | Increase from previous year |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2013-2014 | \$497,800 | \$40,000 |
| 2014-2015 | \$527,800 | \$30,000 |
| 2015-2016 | \$665,944 | \$138,144 |
| 2016-2017 | \$817,982.34 | \$32,360.35 |
| 2017-2018 | \$901,122.34 | \$83,140 |
| 2018-2019 | \$948,122.34 | \$47,000 |
| 2019-2020 | \$988,122.34 | \$40,000 |
| 2020-2021 | \$1,055,412.21 | \$57,289.87 |
| 2021-2022 | \$1,055,644.71 | \$232.50 |

8.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

Average of past 6 years is \$61,666 annually which exceeds the \$50,000 a year benchmark. Will give greater emphasis in promoting the State License Plate program which helps generate scholarship funds.

2019-2020:

We finished the fiscal year with an additional \$11,126.93 in License Plate income for endowed scholarships. We will wait until we have a total of \$30,000 to send to the MSU Foundation so that they will

match it with \$10,000 in 2020-2021.

2020-2021:

Successfully completed benchmark of \$50,000 increase despite COVID/Hurricanes. Established the Henry Doiron Scholarship from an annuity bequest to the Alumni Association.

2021-2022:

Despite unforeseen circumstances and changes in roles within Alumni, funds with scholarships still remain closely the same. Will work to improve ongoing changes for next fiscal year.

Performance Objective 2 Continue to support Undergraduate Research Program.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Provide financial support to the following number of students who will work with a faculty mentor on campus research projects and who will attend the annual Academic Summit:

- Five students to make oral presentations;
- Five students to make poster presentations;
- Five student art exhibits; and
- One performing art performance.

Faculty mentors are encouraged to attend and we will cover their costs.

1.1 Data

| Year | Undergraduate research budget |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 2005 | \$10,000 |
| 2006 | \$9,100 |
| 2007 | — |
| 2008 | \$10,000 |
| 2009 | \$35,000 |
| 2010 | \$24,475 |
| 2011 | \$24,416 |
| 2012 | \$10,531 |
| 2013* | \$8,250 |
| 2014 | \$10,930 |
| 2015 | \$7,637 |
| 2016 | \$5,718 |
| 2017 | \$5,684 |
| Total | \$161,741 |

*In 2013, McNeese presented at the National Council on Undergraduate Research concerning the Alumni Association sponsorship of the Undergraduate Research program.

| Year | Undergraduate research budget | # of students participating in undergraduate research |
|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2018 | \$4,685.55 | 16 |
| 2019 | \$3,330.64 | 13 |
| 2020 | \$0 | 0 |
| 2021 | \$0 | 0 |

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018:

Provided 100% of funding for this program by covering all travel, meal, and lodging costs for the students and faculty mentors to attend the annual statewide Academic Summit hosted by the UL System. 16 students and 11 faculty mentors attended the event, which was held in New Orleans, LA, this year.

2018-2019:

Provided 100% funding for this program by covering all travel, meal, and lodging costs for student and faculty mentors to attend the annual statewide Academic Summit hosted by the UL System. This year, 13 McNeese students and ten faculty mentors attended the event, which was held on the Grambling campus. It is likely that McNeese will host this event in 2021, so I suggest that several McNeese staff members attend the 2020 Summit to assist in their planning for the 2021 event.

2019-2020:

2020-2021:

Undergraduate research program did not take place in 20/21 due to COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

2021-2022:

Undergraduate program did not take place due to construction from flooding and personnel changes within Alumni.

Performance Objective 3 Use cost effective ways of communicating with alumni to encourage their support of McNeese; work with campus and community resources to efficiently and effectively support the University mission; and promote the University's mission to alumni, potential students, and community.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Maintain contact with our alumni through the use of printed material and e-communications. Send our monthly e-newsletters and email notices of events when appropriate. Inform alumni of McNeese news, events, and encourage their support of the University.

1.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | # of alumni sent printed newsletter |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2013-2014 | 30,000 |
| 2014-2015 | 30,000 |
| 2015-2016 | 31,600 |
| 2016-2017 | 32,070 |
| 2017-2018 | 32,923 |
| 2018-2019 | 33,636 |
| 2019-2020 | — |
| 2020-2021 | — |
| 2021-2022 | — |

Newsletters, invitations, and solicitations printed:

| Fiscal Year | # of printed pieces* |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 2013-2014 | 63,029 |
| 2014-2015 | 59,647 |
| 2015-2016 | 57,273 |
| 2016-2017 | 39,394 |

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| 2017-2018 | 65,437 |
| 2018-2019 | 66,414 |
| 2019-2020 | — |
| 2020-2021 | — |
| 2021-2022 | — |

*This does not include donation receipts and daily office correspondence.

Emails sent out for Happy Birthday, Holiday Greetings, New Graduate Welcome, Event Notices, Campaigns, Chapter News, E-Newsletters, Athletic News, Board Ballots, and Campus Events:

| Fiscal Year | # of pieces designed | # of emails sent | Open rate | Bounce rate |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2016-2017 | 74 | 303,673 | 23% | 2% |
| 2017-2018 | 80 | 479,192 | 21% | 0.95% |
| 2018-2019 | 65 | 257,729 | 37.1% | .514% |
| 2019-2020 | — | — | — | — |
| 2020-2021 | 53 | 820,409 | 18% | .06% |
| 2021-2022 | — | — | — | — |

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018

- Increased the number of printed mail pieces due to sending a specific non-donor mail solicitation to over 24,000 alumni, which resulted in 61 new donors this year, a significant increase over the prior year. For the upcoming year, a similar solicitation will be used that will also highlight additional ways for alumni to support the Alumni Association (e.g., by attending athletic events, purchasing the McNeese license plate, buying an official ring, or applying for the McNeese credit card).
- Increased use of online communication and giving forms to reduce mailing cost. By sending pre-solicitation emails, we are able to reduce our fundraising expenses. By sending e-newsletters and e-vites, we are able to decrease mailing and event costs.
- Through data research, we were able to update email addresses and decrease the email bounce rate.

2018-2019:

- Our social outreach was markedly less this year, but the open rate and bounce rate was much improved.
- Will need to find a student intern to assist with social media as existing staff does not have the time required for this on a daily basis.
- The University sends out e-newsletters every week. We provided them with every alumni e-mail address, so we need to review the campus e-news each time, so that we can have fresh content in our e-newsletter and are not copying the campus news 100%.
- Will start campaign to take photos of McNeese signage at local businesses and put on our website to encourage others to visibly support McNeese. This should drive more clicks to our site as people want to see their pictures and their business.
- Will continue with alumni Facebook page.

2019-2020:

2020-2021:

- No newsletters or invitations were printed/mailed due to COVID-19 and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. All alumni communication and invitations were done via email and social media.

- Number of emails decreased overall because no alumni events were held between July 1, 2020 and May 15, 2021.
- Increased social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Sent University update emails for Executive Staff.
- Continued birthday emails.
- Provided email marketing for McNeese Athletic Foundation's "Cowboys Country Fest"
- Provided mail list of 24,000+ for Athletics "Cowboy Caravan"
- Provided email marketing for Athletics "Cowboy Caravan"

2021-2022:

- Actual number of emails is difficult to list due to changes in Alumni personnel. I would say approximately 86,000 email communications were sent to Alumni.
- Email correspondence was main communication.
- Continued birthday emails.
- Assisted with email promotion for Cowboy Caravan.
- Began Annual Fund Campaign for membership renewals to participate in Tailgating events.
- Alumni and Petrochem Golf Tournament emails for registrations began.

2 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: At least 5,000 records will be updated each year through Alumni Finder.

Prior to 2019-2020, the benchmark was at least 2,500 records will be updated each year through Alumni Finder.

2.1 Data

| Fiscal Year | # of records submitted | # of records updated | % of records updated |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2016-2017 | 10,525 | 4,237 | 41% |
| 2017-2018 | 16,628 | 3,392 | 21% |
| 2018-2019 | 18,756 | 7,071 | 38% |
| 2019-2020 | — | — | — |
| 2020-2021 | — | — | — |
| 2021-2022 | — | — | — |

2.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2017-2018

The accuracy of the alumni database was improved by updating records with AlumniFinder. Out of the 16,628 records from the class years of 1982-2001, 2004-2006, and 2009-2015 that were sent to AlumniFinder, 3,392 alumni updates were made.

2018-2019:

We ran the classes of 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017. These 18,756 records were run through AlumniFinder and 7,071 of them were updated. This will allow us to know which classes we should allocate our cost of updating records to as we move forward. We will continue to update individual records from alumni contacts such as events, newsletters, ticket sales, walk-ins, web-site, etc.

Effective 2019-2020, we will strive to update a minimum of 5,000 records per year.

2019-2020:

2020-2021:

Mass address updates were not done in 20/21 for a multitude of reasons, including:

- Loss of database manager/administrative assistant

- Decrease in alumni mailings due to lack of events
- Number of temporary mailing changes due to Hurricanes

2021-2022:

Updates have not been completed due to Alumni combining with Office of University Advancement. Data information is in the process of being merged and deleting duplicates. Once this merge is complete, address and email updates will be sent through postal software.