

LSMSA CONNECTIONS WEEKEND – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the past several years, a highlight of the fall semester has been “Connections Weekend.” As the fall required weekend, it has offered current students insights and advice about college and career choices with the benefit of hearing from alumni who are progressing down various college and career paths. The information current students hear has more credibility because the alumni presenting have sat in those same auditorium seats.

We would like to open participation in Connections Weekend to all LSMSA alumni through a Request for Proposals. If you are interested, read on.

Program: Connections Weekend partially fulfills the graduation requirement, “Special Topics.” Friday evening, all students attend an assembly and hear from all alumni who are participating in the weekend. In a panel discussion format, alumni respond to questions posed through a moderator and from the student body. The assembly last about 90 minutes, and typically, some students stay after to have one-on-one conversations with some alumni. On Saturday, alumni are paired based on complimentary career work and meet with seniors in small groups for 50-minute discussions. This occurs at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00, allowing seniors to participate in three different groups. While Friday night’s conversations include some reminiscence or personal stories of the path chosen, Saturday morning should help students understand more about career choices they are considering.

2009 Connections Weekend: This year’s weekend will be held on October 16 and 17 at LSMSA in Natchitoches. A focus will be Alumni as Change Agents. We will be especially interested in bringing back alumni who are involved in work or service to address local, regional, national, or global challenges.

Financial Considerations: Thanks to funding from the *Praecellemus Fund* of the LSMSA Foundation, each participant will receive \$150 to help defray travel and lodging expenses. Participants will be invited to dinner and breakfast in the cafeteria on Friday evening/Saturday morning, and to a parent-sponsored cookout for lunch on Saturday. Unfortunately, we cannot provide a room in Prudhomme or Caddo.

How to Apply: by September 21, please email the following information to pwidhalm@lsmsa.edu

1. Your name, year of LSMSA graduation, and current contact information
2. Colleges attended and degrees attained, or underway
3. Regular service work, or other non-college/career activities.
4. If you are employed, briefly describe what you do.
5. If you have attained special recognition, opportunities, or professional/personal achievements, please mention them.
6. If there is any aspect of your work, research, or service that is motivated by a desire to address challenges being faced in your community, your state, or beyond, please describe it.
7. What do you wish someone would have told you while you were at LSMSA (or that you would have listened to when some ‘old person’ was talking at you)?

In addition to covering a variety of college/career paths, choice of participants will attempt to reflect geographic, ethnic, and age diversity. Participants will be notified by September 25.