



Report Highlights

Higher Education Foundations and Affiliates in Louisiana

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Why We Conducted This Audit

The purpose of this audit is to provide information about higher education foundations and affiliates, including the number of foundations and their total assets, revenue, and dollars expended. State law defines higher education foundations as private nonprofit corporations which support public higher education institutions. According to this law, because private support enhances the programs, facilities, and research and educational opportunities offered by public institutions, the four higher education management boards and higher education institutions are encouraged to promote the activities of higher education foundations.

What We Found

1. What are the different types of higher education foundations in Louisiana, and how much do they have in assets?

We identified at least 75 higher education foundations affiliated with public higher education institutions in Louisiana. In 2020, higher education foundations collectively held approximately \$4 billion in assets across all four higher education systems. In comparison, the fiscal year 2020 enacted budget for higher education institutions was \$2.4 billion across all four systems.

Higher Education Enacted Budgets and Related Foundation Revenues and Assets Fiscal Year-End June 30, 2020 or December 31, 2020*			
System	Enacted FY Institution Budget (Public \$)	Foundation Revenues (Private \$)	Foundation Assets (Private \$)
Louisiana State University System	\$997,690,345	\$281,222,111	\$1,836,774,531
Southern University System	161,964,791	10,056,870	55,394,284
University of Louisiana System	912,163,876	182,938,590	1,586,749,798
Louisiana Community and Technical College System	311,793,350	54,845,094	577,833,344
Higher Education Total	\$2,383,612,362	\$529,062,665	\$4,056,751,957

*For one foundation, revenue and asset amounts came from its 2017 financial audit.
Source: Prepared by legislative auditor’s staff using information from executive budget supporting documents and foundation financial audits/statements.

The most common type of higher education foundations, and those that collectively held the most assets, are university foundations, which broadly support the institution and often focus on fundraising.

The top 10 foundations with the largest amount of assets equal \$2.9 billion (72.1%) of the \$4 billion in foundation assets across all four higher education systems. The two foundations with the largest amount of assets are LSU-related foundations, the LSU Foundation and the Tiger Athletic Foundation, which make up approximately \$1.2 billion, or 29% of all foundation assets.

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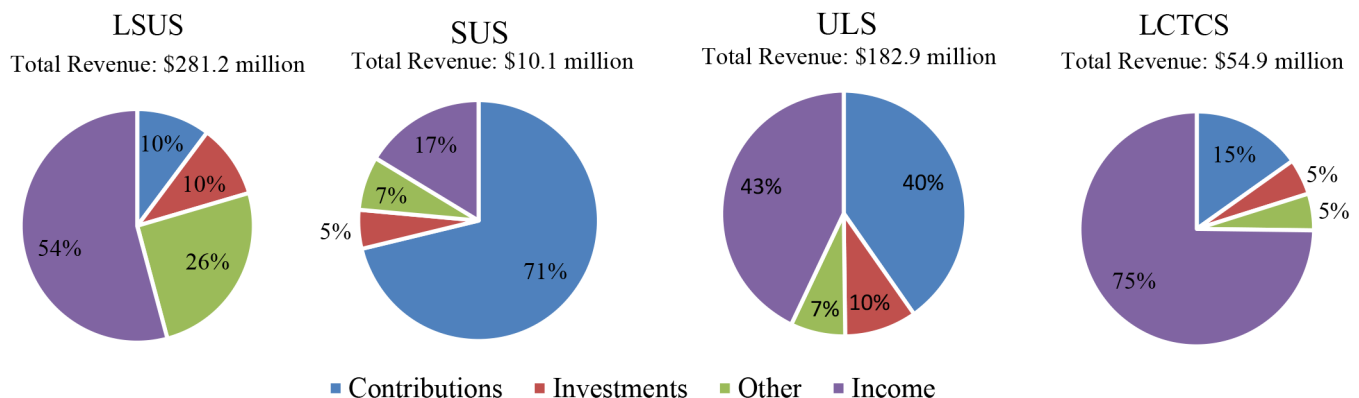
What We Found (Cont.)

2. How much did higher education foundations receive and spend during fiscal year-end June 30, 2020 or fiscal year-end December 31, 2020?

Foundations had approximately \$529.1 million in revenue in 2020. Across all four higher education systems, foundation-generated income, such as rental income, special events, or management fees, made up \$273.6 million (51.7%) of all revenues.

Foundations spent approximately \$476.5 million in 2020. Expenditures are generally categorized as program services – such as scholarships, alumni events, and facility depreciation – and supporting services – such as fundraising, administrative costs, and professional services.

Revenue Type by System
Fiscal Year-End June 30, 2020 or December 31, 2020*



*For one foundation, asset amounts came from its 2017 financial audit.

Source: Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using foundation financial audits/statements.