



Report Highlights

SOWELA Technical Community College

Louisiana Community and Technical College System

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Audit Control # 80190047
Financial Audit Services • September 2019

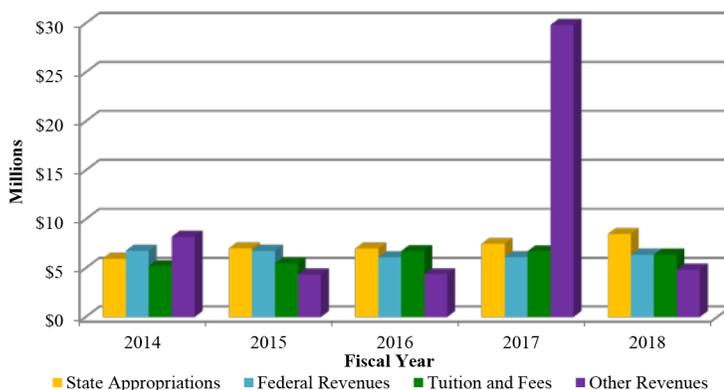
Why We Conducted This Work

We conducted procedures at SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) to evaluate certain controls that SOWELA uses to ensure accurate financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and to provide accountability over public funds for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019.

What We Found

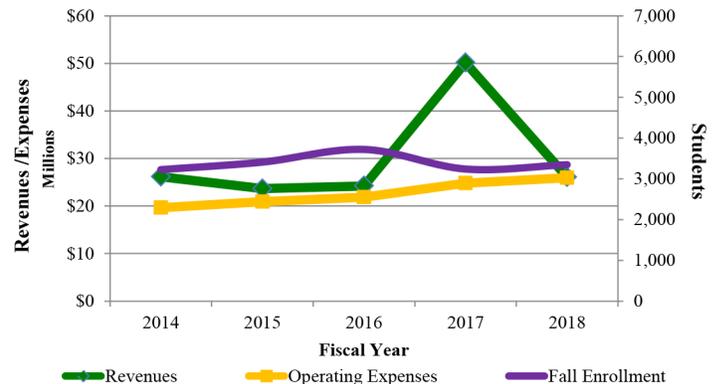
- SOWELA did not maintain adequate controls over its Banner system that processes transactions and maintains data related to student records and registration, financial aid, human resources, payroll, and financial operations. Five employees had access to complete all human resource and payroll functions. In addition, 10 employees had access to various screens within the Banner system without a business need.
- SOWELA may have violated state law when it granted 143 employees a \$1,500 one-time salary supplement as “a one-time monetary reward” in July 2018.
- We evaluated controls and transactions relating to student tuition and fee revenues, non-payroll expenses, payroll expenses, cash, reconciliation of Banner Student Module to Banner Finance Module, and information technology. Except as noted above, we found these controls provided reasonable accountability over public funds for the period examined.
- In analyzing financial trends of SOWELA over the past five fiscal years, student tuition and fees and federal revenues have remained relatively consistent. Enrollment has also remained relatively consistent, with the exception of a drop in fiscal year 2017 related to a decrease in dual enrollment students. State appropriations are increasing as a result of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) applying an allocation formula that has benefitted SOWELA. Other revenue has remained relatively consistent except in fiscal year 2017, when revenues increased as the result of capital grants and capital appropriations related to the new Regional Training Center Building and the new building at the Morgan Smith instructional site in Jennings. Operating expenses increased in fiscal year 2017 due to increases in pension expense recognized and in fiscal year 2018 due to additional costs and depreciation related to the two new buildings.

Five-Year Revenue Trend



Source: LCTCS Audit Reports

Fiscal/Enrollment Trends



Source: LCTCS Audit Reports and Board of Regents enrollment data

View the full report, including management’s responses, at www.la.la.gov.