

Ernest J. Gaines Center Strategic Plan 2020-2025

The Ernest J. Gaines Center is an international research center with a central mission to advance the scholarly research related to Dr. Ernest J. Gaines, his work, and the multitude of topics related to life in Southern Louisiana from the 1860s through the 1970s and how those topics reflect human rights issues globally. Our strategic plan is developed to highlight the center's strengths in supporting the research interests of our patrons and engaging members of the global community who may not be familiar with Dr. Gaines's work and support the strategic plans of the Edith Garland Dupre' Library and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as a whole.

In line with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, our three strategic imperatives are:

1. Faculty: Create a stimulating academic environment supported by the latest innovations in technology and informed by best practices, in which faculty members can realize their full potential as educators and scholars
2. Students: Engage a student body that is intellectually curious in the connectivity of Dr. Gaines's work to their fields of study as they grow into well-rounded global citizens by developing an infrastructure that ensures student success through access to our collections and public programming.
3. Research: Foster a stimulating academic environment, for all members of the university community and Gaines scholar, that supports the development and advancement of knowledge and creative works.

Strategic Imperative-Faculty

Create a stimulating academic environment supported by the latest innovations in technology and informed by best practices, in which faculty members can realize their full potential as educators utilizing the work of Dr. Gaines and Gaines scholars.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI): Intermediate goals that monitor progress toward the achievement of the strategic imperative. KPIs will be listed after each strategic imperative.

SI 1: Significantly upgrade academic facilities and online presence related to instruction in order to meet or exceed the quality of those at peer institutions.

- KPI1: Within the first year, develop a master plan to evaluate and prioritize upgrades to the Ernest J. Gaines Center and its online facsimiles. (Supports Library's Goal #2, Supports Provost Goals P1, P5, P7, and P8, Supports University Imperatives F2, S2, S4, R1, R2, R3, F1, and S3)
- KPI 2: Research and develop open-source platforms to increase access to the collections housed in and public programs hosted by the Ernest J. Gaines Center. To develop better ways to utilize the Edith Garland Dupre' Library's catalog as a discovery tool for the Ernest J. Gaines Center, and create a space to share scholarship based on Dr. Gaines's work and topics within it. (Supports Library's Goal #2, Supports Provost Goals P1, P5, P7, and P8, Supports University Imperatives F2, S2, S4, R1, R2, R3, F1, and S3)
- KPI 3: Allocate sufficient funds to increase the provision of research and information resources to meet or exceed the average of our comparative peer institutions. (Supports

Library Goal 3, Supports Provost Goals P1, P2, P5, P4, P7, Supports University Imperatives F1, F2, F3, F4, G4, S1, S2, S3, S4, R1, R2, and R3)

- KPI 4: Determine and provide the minimum supply budget required to continue our outreach, programming, and research assistance. (Supports Library Goal 3 and 5, Provost Goals P1, P2, P5, P7, P8, Supports University Imperatives F2, S2, S4, F1, F3, F4, G4, R1, R2, R3, S3, and S4)
- KPI 5: Research peer institutions, their space allocation, and staffing needs, and use gathered data to advocate for the expansion of the Ernest J. Gaines Center to better serve the needs of UL faculty and educators worldwide interested in include Dr. Gaines's work in their curricula. This includes but is not limited to advocating for instructional spaces, archival processing spaces, and more staffing of the center itself. (Supports Library Goal 1, Supports Provost Goals P2 and P4, Supports University Imperatives F1, F2, F3, F4, G4, S1, and S4)

SI 2: Outreach to Academic Departments (Supports Library Goal 5, Supports Provost Goals P1 and P5, Supports University Imperatives F2, R1, R2, R3, S2, and S4)

To continue to build and maintain partnerships with teaching and research faculty members across campus and globally and to continue to develop collaborative avenues of communication between the faculty and staff of the Ernest J. Gaines Center, teaching faculty, researchers, and Gaines scholars.

- KPI 6: Faculty of the Ernest J. Gaines Center will serve as departmental librarians and engage with all of the duties associated with that service.
- KPI 7: As requested, faculty and staff of the Ernest J. Gaines Center will assist with the development of courses including works or Dr. Ernest J. Gaines and/or courses related to the faculty/staff member's areas of study.
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SI 3: Provide professional development

- KPI 8: Create an index of sites that offer professional development in library science, preservation, exhibition design, outreach and public programming and social media presence that is accessible for all employed in the Ernest J. Gaines Center
- KPI 9: Provide faculty with the infrastructure needed to observe, evaluate, and provide constructive feedback on their instruction, research assistance, and development of resources, such as Libguides, exhibits, and public programs.

Strategic Imperative - Students

Cultivate a student body that is intellectually curious and civically engaged by developing an infrastructure that ensures student success.

SI 1: Enhance student engagement in co-curricular activities through a vigorous, energetic, and culturally diverse university community

- KPI 1: Develop and institute new ways to engage students in the planning of events and programs within the Ernest J. Gaines Center.

SI 3: Increase student productivity and success through engagement in mentored research, innovative projects, and creative endeavors.

- KPI 2: Continue to provide extended research assistance and mentorship to students in levels of academic programs
- KPI 3: Create student-led research to highlight the versatility of the materials and assist with future research
- KPI 3: Create a resource portal to share student-created research and class projects on Gaines's work and topics related to Gaines's work

Strategic Imperative - Research

Foster a stimulating academic environment for all members of the university community that supports the development and advancement of knowledge and creative works.

SI 1: Enhance supporting infrastructure for the conduct of research and innovation.

- KPI 1: Develop open-source materials
- KPI 2: Work with Gaines Scholars to create open-source materials related to specific books and short stories.