



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452
or Diana Mateo-Hernandez (504) 520-5120

Xavier University Awarded Board of Regents Grant to Create Mobile Performance Studies Laboratory

New Orleans LA – [Xavier University of Louisiana](https://www.xula.edu) (XULA) has been awarded a \$196,854 Louisiana Board of Regents Targeted Enhancement grant to support the creation of a “mobile laboratory” for its [Performance Studies Laboratory](#) (PSL) program.

The PSL is a humanities-based interdisciplinary academic program which views performance as an object to be studied, a creative method of scholarly inquiry and representation, and a tool for community engagement. Working in an interdisciplinary context, the laboratory uses a performance-based lens for experiential learning and research that culminates with sharing creative work with public audiences.

The PSL offers wide-ranging learning and research opportunities for students such as undergraduate courses, research-based performance projects, practice-based workshops, and performance festivals involving multiple levels of community engagement and outreach. On average each year, the lab engages approximately 150 undergraduates in learning and research activities and reaches audiences of 500, including community members.

Xavier’s PSL is the only performance studies program in the nation at a historically black college or university (HBCU).

Dr. Ross Louis, a professor of communication studies and the principal investigator for the grant, said the funding will enable the PSL to create a “mobile laboratory” with a full range of stage, light, sound, and video design equipment which can be organized into smaller, transportable units for use in individual courses and workshops and combined for large-scale performance research presented to campus and public audiences. In particular, the robust collection of easily transportable materials will allow the PSL to expand its collaborative humanities-based laboratory to include more students from various disciplines.

“We are grateful to the Board of Regents for fully funding this initiative,” said Louis. “The mobile laboratory will dramatically expand the technical capacities of performance-based courses offered in various academic departments, while strengthening faculty and student research, interdisciplinary collaborations, and community partnerships.”

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, lead, and care for their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how

Xavier is preparing students for the future at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Diana Matero-Hernandez at (504) 520-5120 or dhernan1@xula.edu.

#