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## Carpooling for LSU-E Students

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**College Kids Carpooling**

With high gas prices a new push is on to make sure college students aren't squeezed out of classes. As prices continue to rise, driving to school is a big chunk of any student's budget. But at LSU-E in Eunice, more than 90% of students commute to class. In just a few weeks, LSU-E is rolling out a carpool network online. Administrators don't want any students to drop out because they can't afford to drive to school.

"Saving on the gas - basically is what we wanted to do and this helped a lot," says LSU-E Nursing student Mildred Narcisse. She meets four other classmates every morning at the Northgate Mall in Lafayette to carpool up to Eunice. "We saved about \$200 and we're grateful," says Narcisse.

The school is hoping to convince more students like Narcisse to pick up a friend and drive together. With many students driving 20 or more miles each way, LSU-E is joining a website called CarpoolWorld.com. It helps arrange joint rides for other colleges and even corporations.

Some students may not be comfortable getting into a car with someone they don't know - so the school is testing the system with faculty and staff for the next few weeks. "I believe carpooling saves gas and helps other people," says student Raushanda Roy. The Student Government Association hopes that's a common feeling on campus. President Jake Trahan says gas prices are the number one student complaint. He's confident people don't mind altering schedules to save some money. "Maybe a little early, leaving a little late, it'll be fine - we should get a good turn out on campus."

Students will be e-mailed when the service is up and running. The target date is August 1st. The University is also studying adding shuttle bus runs from neighboring cities to Eunice.

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