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Freshman Lost on Campus – Meeting First Year Needs in One Package

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Freshman Lost on Campus
Meeting First Year Needs in One Package

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INTRODUCTION

TITLE:
Student Success @ Limestone College
BACKGROUND:

Dr. Randy Nichols , Chair/Assistant Professor and Department of Communications and Interdisciplinary Studies, was asked to devise a method to enhance the Freshman experience at Limestone College. All freshmen at Limestone College are required to take a first-year interdisciplinary course in their first semester. Dr. Nichols asked the Library to write a Web page that would store all the information a first-year student would need to succeed during their freshman year at Limestone College. The Freshman ID 100 Academic Inquiry and ID 201 Student Transition courses are now centered on the Student Success library guide.

We began brainstorming the summer semester of 2013; preparing to go live in fall semester (same year). We decided to use Springshare's LibGuides to develop the Student Success guide because of its user-friendly environment and capabilities to use HTML and embed video scripts, unlike the College Web pages that were controlled by one department on campus.. We first began modeling the Student Success site after the student orientation schedule already in place. We met with each department – Registrar, Financial Aid, Library staff, Testing Center, Student Services, and asked each department to list their ideas, links and resources to be added to the Student Success guide. These resources included suggested page titles, links, scripts, production ideas, text, facts, and graphics.

We began scheduling video filming with outside resources like the local churches, Gaffney Visitor Center, City Hall, Cowpens Battleground, Chamber of Commerce, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Historical Preservation Society, Boys and Girls Club. These videos would give our students a visual tour of activities and volunteer opportunities outside the Limestone College campus.

Before the Student Success @ Limestone College site was formed, students struggled in the following areas:

- Finding information using current Web site
- How to read their audit degrees
- How to contact Financial Aid
- How to register for classes
- How to forward their email
- Information about their meal plans
- List of events, activities on and off-campus
- Completing surveys
- Testing and instructions/links
- Locating links to : Blackboard Learn, LC Portal, Email
- Locating digital copies of exam schedules
- Help with citation guides
- Locating links to important online forms, catalog, and student handbook
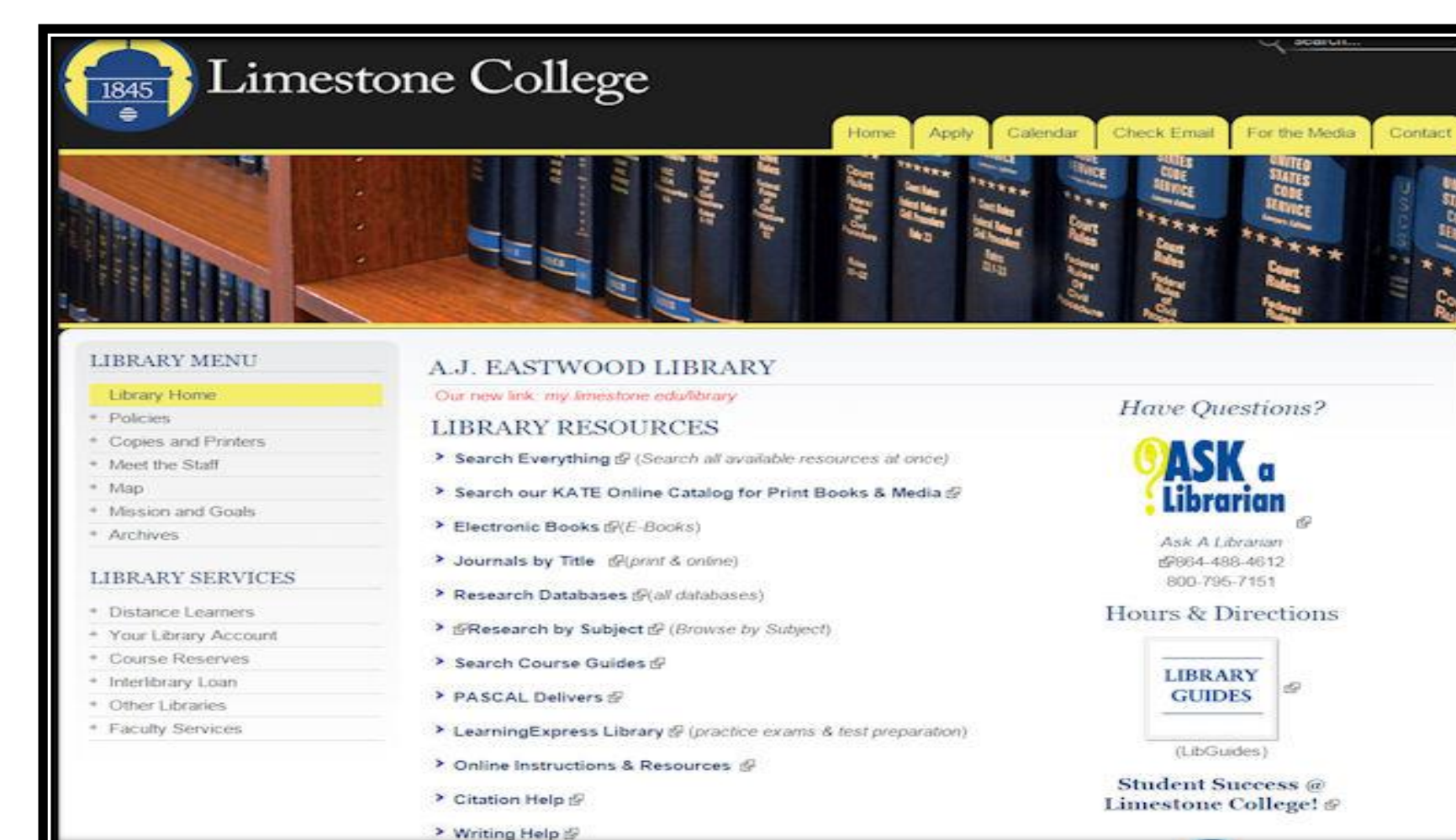- Locating and understanding policies

OBJECTIVES

- Centralize information to ensure success of Freshman at Limestone college
- How to read audit degrees
- All about Financial Aid
- All about Registrar
- How to forward email
- List of events, activities on and off-campus
- Interactive maps of : local churches, campus buildings
- Meal plans
- Surveys
- Testing and instructions/links
- Direct access links to : Blackboard Learn, LC Portal, Email
- Exam Schedules
- Citation and study guides
- Links to online forms, catalog, and student handbook

METHODS

➤ Idea began as a basic Web page
  Web pages had to be approved by too many chain of commands

➤ Developed into a Library Guide
  The guide helped compile information together

➤ Departments on Campus contacted
  Vital information for Freshman from each department added to the Guide

➤ Link consistency
  Links always in the same location and links to Campus Security on each page

➤ Instant Access to Surveys
  Higher percentage rate of survey completion from links located in the Student Success guide vs. survey links sent to their emails

➤ Modeled after the student orientation schedule
  A paper copy totaling 18 pages of information that was unorganized and students were unable to determine links to the resources.

➤ Virtual and Interactive Videos added
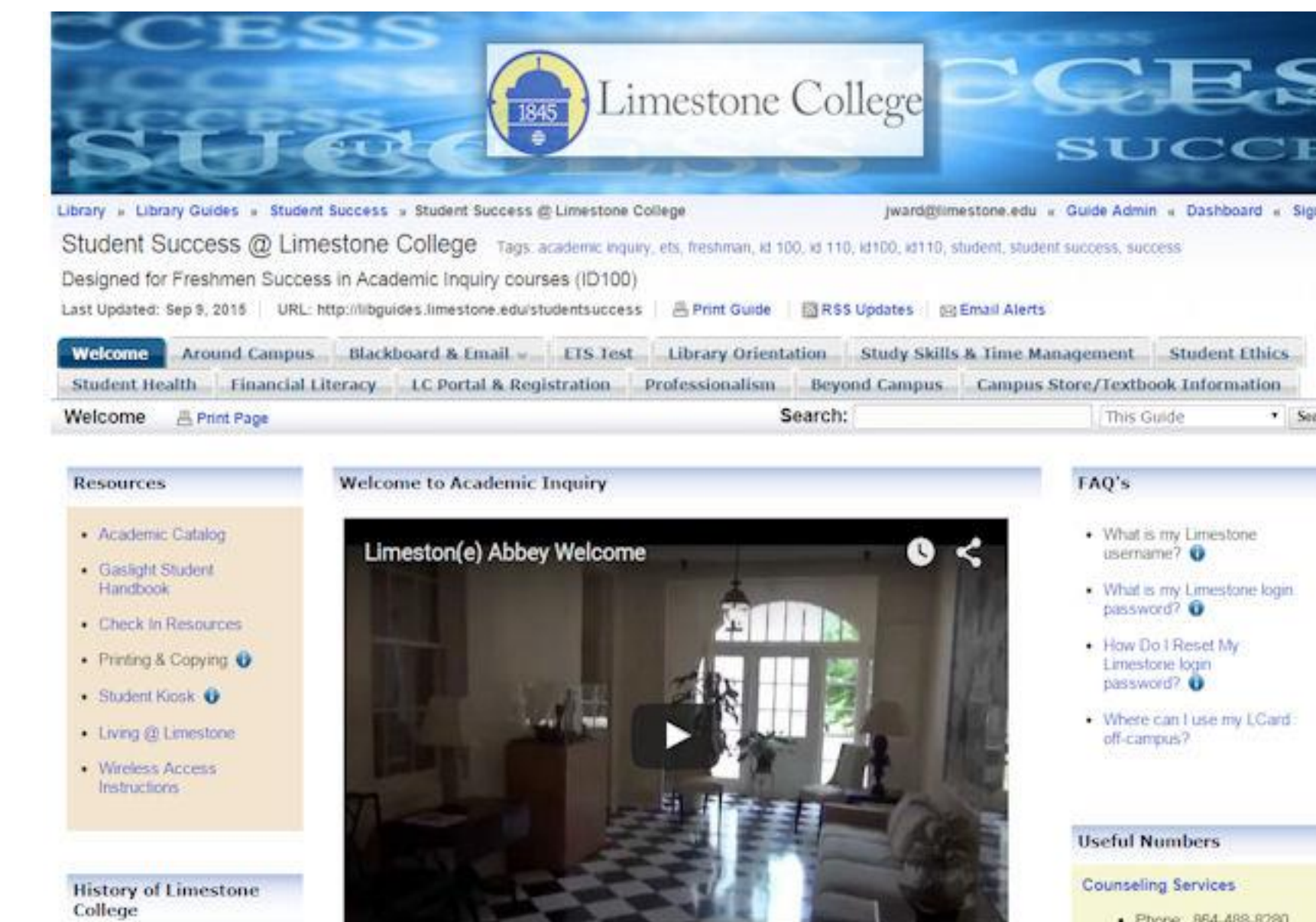 *Visual guides and interactive maps with videos to assist visual learners*

Link to the Student Success @ Limestone College Guide added to Library homepage and main Limestone College marketing web page

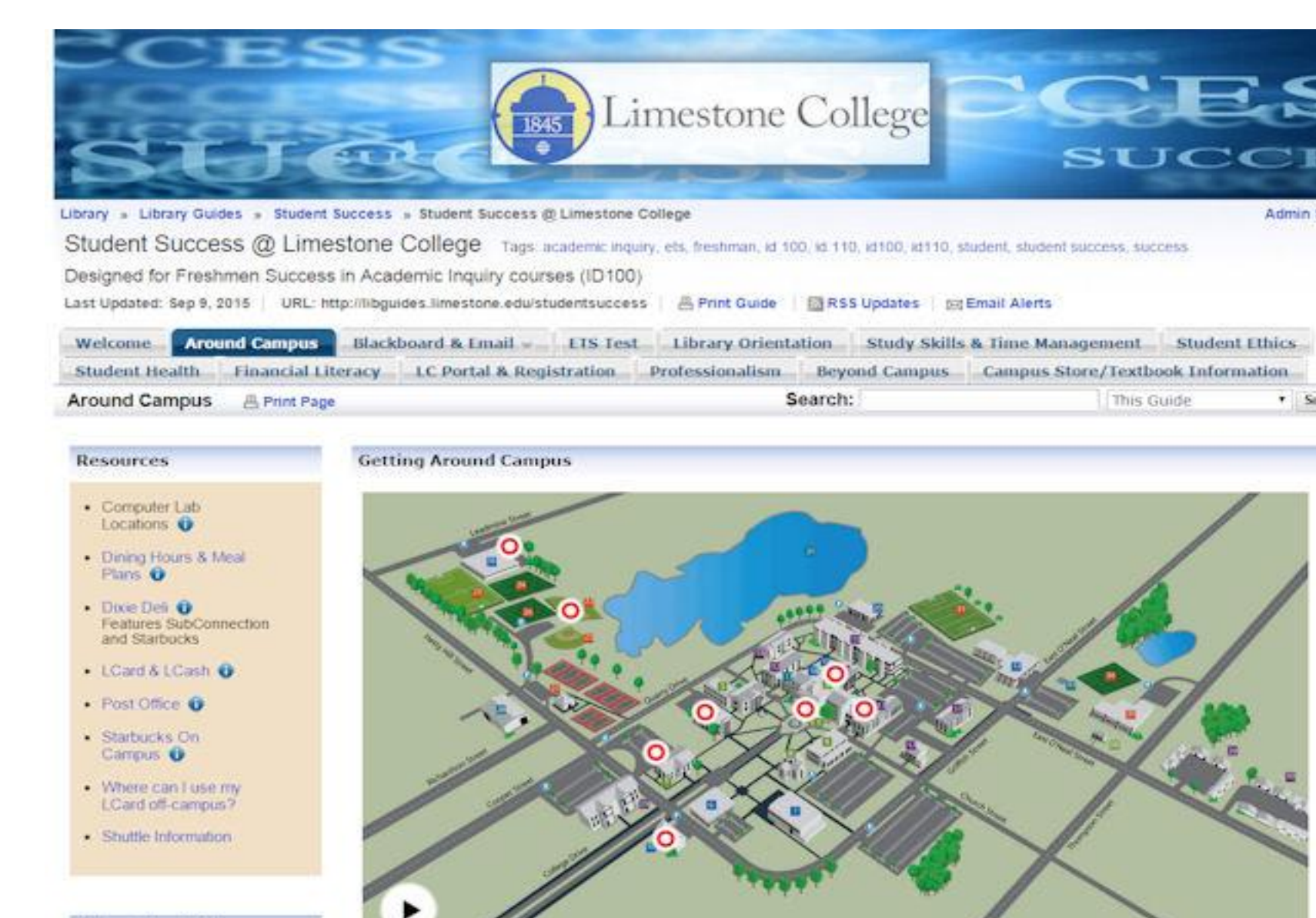

Student Success @ Limestone College Banner Design

RESULTS

Student Success @ Limestone College

➤ Welcome
  - Video from the President of the College
  - Links to Student Handbook & Academic Catalog
  - Check in Resources
  - Printing & Copying on campus
  - Student Kiosk (for username and password)
  - Living @ Limestone
  - Wireless Access Instructions
  - History of Limestone College
  - Online Forms (Library, Registrar, Extended Campus)
  - Exam Schedules
  - Email Instructions
  - Portal Directions
  - FAQ's
  - Useful Numbers
  - Campus Safety
  - Campus Nurse and Counselor

Student Success @ Limestone College

➤ Around Campus
  - ThingLink Virtual Interactive map of campus
  - Links to Student Handbook & Academic Catalog
  - Check in Resources
  - Printing & Copying on campus
  - FAQ's
  - Campus Safety

RESULTS

Student Success @ Limestone College

➤ Blackboard & Email
  - Blackboard Instructions
  - Limestone College Email Instructions
  - Connecting Smartphones to Limestone College Email
  - FAQ's
  - Useful Numbers
  - Campus Safety
  - Campus Nurse and Counselor

Student Success @ Limestone College

➤ Student Ethics
  - Todd and Amy Case Study
  - Academic Honesty & Plagiarism Quiz
  - Honor Code & Academic Misconduct
  - Know Your Rights – Title IX
  - FAQ's
  - Useful Numbers
  - Campus Safety
  - Campus Nurse and Counselor

For additional information please contact:

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