



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION I - 8:30 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Chez Nous Autres, Tout le Monde Peut Réussir: Toward a Model of Culturally Relevant Adult Learning in Louisiana Higher Education**

Jerry Parker | *Southeastern State University*

This presentation aims to present a working model for using cultural relevancy as a tool for teaching adults in Louisiana higher education. Building on the works of previous scholars (Ladson-Billings and hooks), the presenter aims to introduce this approach as one method of teaching and reaching diverse groups of adult learners via their cultural similarities and differences. Additionally, the presenter aims to show how its tenets can be applied to teaching in various Louisiana higher education courses at all levels (2-year, 4-year, and graduate) for better student engagement and overall student success at all levels.

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **Starting “The Most Educated Generation” Off Right – A Pilot Program to Offer High School Students Dual Enrollment Credit in a College Success Course**

Christine Williams and Philip Auter  
*University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

Presenters will discuss a pilot program being offered to high school students – particularly those from underserved communities – Dual enrollment university credit for a college orientation course will be awarded upon completion of the course. Presenters will also discuss the process of developing the pilot and plans for scaling up the program to ultimately reach high school students throughout Lafayette and surrounding parishes.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Strategic Efforts at Improving Student Retention at UNO**

Peter A. Schock  
*University of New Orleans*

Since the 2015-16 academic year, the University of New Orleans has pursued strategic initiatives focused on improving student retention, activity which in its scope is unprecedented on our campus. After a Fall 2015 faculty/staff retreat, where we analyzed the relevant data and discussed potential strategies, we formed the action teams that currently pursue 12 individual retention initiatives. Recently, a new action team has been formed, whose objective is maximizing support for our at-risk student population. Finally, the faculty who teach Freshman English and Math have redoubled their efforts to improve student success rates in the courses that are crucial for student persistence.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **A Working Model in Global Partnership with Latin America and Beyond**

Dr. Minh Huynh, Dr. Aristides R Baraya, and Dr. Tara Burnthorne Lopez | *Southeastern Louisiana University*

At Southeastern’s College of Business, we value the partnership with other countries. Latin American Initiatives (LAI) is one of the success stories on our campus. Hispanic Business and Leadership Institute, Association of Latin American Students, Panama Bilingual Program, Study Abroad in Panama & Costa Rica are among our current active programs. In this proposal, we provide a highlight of these programs and focus in-depth on the Panama Bilingual Program as a case for illustration. Using the LAI as a working model, we are in the process of expanding our global partnership to institutions in Vietnam, Mexico and Italy.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION I - 8:30 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Increasing Institutional Research Capacity by Supporting Faculty Research Activity**

Abby Guillory and Sebnem Cilesiz  
*University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

Increasing university faculty's research activity aligns with states' goals for higher education in many ways, including attracting external funding and enhancing partnerships with industry, providing opportunities for local economic development, boosting universities' reputation and ranking nationally, and enriching the quality of teaching and mentoring of students. In this presentation we synthesize existing literature on intrinsic and extrinsic factors that influence university faculty members' motivation to conduct research and identify future directions for effective faculty development and retention of qualified faculty.

### STEWARDSHIP

Room 2218

#### **Repairing the Ship at Sea!**

Warren Davis and Gregg Lassen  
*University of New Orleans*

The University of New Orleans (UNO) Office of Facility Services' mission is to maintain and enhance buildings, grounds and infrastructure in a cost-effective, safe and environmentally responsible manner. We are responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 40 buildings, which includes classrooms, offices, laboratories and a multi-purpose arena/sports complex.

## CONCURRENT SESSION II - 10:40 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Room 2207

#### **2+2 = Success: Higher Education Partnerships: Connecting the Dots Better**

Dr. Gelnda J. Island, President Rick Gallot and Chancellor W. Dennis Epps  
*Grambling State University*

New Innovations with Articulation and Effective MOUs The purpose of this session is to showcase a unique opportunity that developed through an innovative 2+2 Articulation Agreement that will allow Louisiana Delta Community College students to pursue a career path that ONLY Grambling State University can provide! A discussion will be held regarding the unique dynamics between the local Louisiana Community & Technical college and a state Four Year University.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION II - 10:40 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Light Their FIRE: Faculty Increasing Real Engagement**

LeahAnn Young and Rebecca N. Weston  
*Northwestern State University*

Higher education is continually evolving, and the demands placed on 21st century educators are greater than ever. Today's student population is diverse in nearly every way imaginable. Individuals from every age, race, gender, ethnicity and education level are taking on the challenge of higher education. While this is great for the economy and the State of Louisiana, it presents a difficult challenge for us. These diverse students bring with them a tremendous responsibility to educators who must find some way to inspire, mentor and educate them. The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate how we, the faculty, are the ones who make the difference in the lives and the success of these students, and how we can help them stay engaged and motivated.

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **One-on-One with Workday**

Jason Buckley | Workday

Workday representative Jason Buckley will be available to discuss and answer questions about the Workday product and the process of implementation at Louisiana Tech, Southeastern Louisiana University and University of New Orleans.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Personalized Teaching Strategies for Successful Student Transition from Academia to Professional Life**

Dr. Thomas E. Baril | *McNeese State University*

There are three points in this presentation – although focused on non-traditional student populations, these points apply equally to all students and all majors: (1) The need to develop Critical Thinking, Writing and Reading Skills – development of the rational faculty with the goal of transitioning from (academic) memorization to (real world) understanding and application; (2) The importance of using a Variety of Teaching Strategies in the classroom – not only do adults learn differently than children but they learn differently from each other; and (3) The (often under-emphasized) benefits of individual interaction with students during Office Hours – these visits break barriers for most non-traditional students, motivate them to participate in class and prepare them for interaction in their chosen careers.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **Prevalence of Serial Inventors within Academia**

Dr. Richard Kordal | *Louisiana Tech University*

Much has been written about serial entrepreneurs, those innovative individuals who continuously come up with fresh ideas to start new businesses. Often, these business ideas and new products are based on technology invented by others. Similarly, within the research community, there are scientists and engineers who are particularly inventive and produce patents at a high level or are serial inventors. Though they are key players in the innovation process, less is known about these individuals. It was the aim of this study to determine how prevalent these individuals are among all university faculty inventors. A detailed study of the inventors listed on all the US patents issued to five major research universities over a 23-year period highlights the out-sized contributions of serial inventors. Particularly striking is how similar these contributions were among the five universities studied.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION II - 10:40 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Keeping Louisiana a Global Leader in the Energy Markets**

Dr. Mark E. Zappi  
*University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

Louisiana has many assets that historically have placed it as one of the world's key energy centers for both products and technology. However, global challenges and technology development has very much recently changed the landscape. The presentation will focus on how global events are reshaping the energy markets and how Louisiana can remain a global leader in both energy production and technology development. The presentation will lay out challenges to universities and industries to enhance our competitiveness through applied research.

### STEWARDSHIP

Room 2218

#### **Recommendations for Financial Stewardship and Accountability Across University of Louisiana System Institutions**

ULS Management and Leadership Institute Group

How do we shift the narrative surrounding higher education from "costs" to "return on investment?" One answer, we believe, is increasing and demonstrating that return on investment through financial stewardship and accountability. Elevate, which is one-third of the inaugural class of the University of Louisiana System Leadership and Management Institute will present its progress of working ideas regarding the aspirations of financial stewardship and accountability as described in the University of Louisiana System Strategic Framework. While the challenges we face are real and can feel overwhelming, there are clear opportunities awaiting us if we understand those challenges, adjust our approach, and remain focused on what we do best.

## CONCURRENT SESSION III - 1:05 P.M. - 1:55 P.M.

Room 2207

#### **Online Learning: Current Challenges & Future Opportunities**

Dr. Luke Dowden | *University of Louisiana at Lafayette*  
Darlene Williams | *Northwestern State University*

Two veterans of online learning will share their thoughts on the current state and the future of online learning. Chief online learning officers face ongoing challenges growing, sustaining, and innovating online programs. Now that online learning has entered the mainstream, what is its future? What fads will fade? What trends will be sustained? The audience will be engaged throughout the presentation with opportunities to discuss the impact online learning has on technological infrastructure, faculty support, course design, quality assurance / quality control, organizational structures, funding and grants, and research. By sharing their experiences and insights into the current challenges and future state of online learning, the presenters will discuss strategic and operational approaches to navigate current and future realities of online learning.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION III - 1:05 P.M. - 1:55 P.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Experiential Education: The Future Is Now!**

Dr. John Dollar, Dr. Valerie Salter and Ramona Wynder | *Northwestern State University*

Oral presentation, using Power point slides to present the growing developments in experiential education, specifically internships, and the essential links between the academic curricula and the business stakeholders. This symbiotic relationship can generate phenomenal growth and development for industrial stakeholders as well as the student interns who participate with cutting-edge academic training. Experiential education is a fertile bed for planting seeds of future leadership and industrial development. From where will your next company leader originate? What degree will she/he have completed? Sometimes the interview is not enough; you want a test drive? How about an internship?

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **Communicating Success**

Lisa Merritt, Jenn Carter, JoAnn Dauzat, and Stacy Gilbert | *Louisiana Tech University*

Presents an interdisciplinary, developmental, and multi-faceted approach to develop and assess student learning outcomes relative to communication proficiency. The initiative provides a robust set of first-year experiences collaboratively designed and implemented by a team of student development and communication studies specialists to improve communication and interpersonal skills of first-year students and to promote student success throughout their university curricula pursuits and into their future careers. Interdisciplinary experiences are delivered through highly engaging, research-based strategies providing content competence and improved abilities in collaboration, team building, project-based learning, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and innovation.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Increasing the STEM Teacher Pipeline**

Glenn Larson and Chris Campbell  
*Louisiana Tech University*

UTeachTech is a relatively new program at Louisiana Tech University, but has already shown the potential for a significant increase in the number of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers graduating from this university. In the first 3 years, we have already enrolled 350 students in the introductory course work. The program was originally expected to produce it's first graduates in the Spring of 2019, but has five (5) future Math teachers on course to graduate in 2018. Given that only one of the five originally came to the University intending to be a teacher, there is some promising evidence that the UTeach concept can effectively increase the STEM teacher pipeline.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **Securing Intellectual Property: Fostering Development, Research and Innovation**

Dr. John W. Sutherlin  
*University of Louisiana at Monroe*

This discussion will trace the process of developing intellectual properties through research and then commercialization. The presentation will include research assessment and evaluation, faculty buy-in, securing and leveraging grant dollars and protecting intellectual property (including those from the creative arts). Next, discussions will include where to solicit start-up and venture monies. Innovative projects, including ULM's first licensing agreement in the health care sector, will be analyzed. Finally, a review of collaborative projects and potential projects will be discussed.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION III - 1:05 P.M. - 1:55 P.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Re-Inventing and Expanding a Successful Professional Development Program for Business and Industry**

Dr. Nikos Kiritsis | *McNeese State University*

In 1990, the College of Engineering and Computer Science at McNeese State University proposed a professional development program for local registered professional engineers. Industry welcomed the idea and the Lake Area Industry/McNeese Engineering Partnership (LAI/MEP) was born. LAI/MEP focused its efforts in providing registered professional engineers in the area with 4 to 6 courses per year ensuring that registered engineers in all disciplines had an opportunity to earn the professional development hours needed in order to maintain their engineering registration. LAI/MEP has been operating successfully by the College of Engineering and Computer Science since then at no additional cost to the Board. Since its inception, IIEC has brought Southwest Louisiana more than 130 courses, and has saved local industry millions of dollars in training costs.

### STEWARDSHIP

Room 2218

#### **A Case Study in Collaboration: Workday Deployment**

Greg Lassen, Dr. Edwin Litolff, Lisa Cole, and Sam Domiano

Recognizing the emphasis that leadership in the legislature and the board of regents has made on university collaboration, our team is experiencing first-hand the challenges and opportunities of working closely together to deliver a large scale, important project. This session will introduce the concept of three universities working with the system office to collaborate on deploying a new ERP. People anticipating being involved in future collaborative efforts will benefit from our sharing our experiences learning to work together in a new way. In an open, candid conversation, we will discuss the stages we have been going through and bring attendees along for an inside view on this paradigm shift – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

## CONCURRENT SESSION IV - 3:25 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

Room 2207

#### **Legal Issues Challenging Higher Ed -- and our Economy**

Winston DeCuir, Jr

One of our System attorneys will share his expertise on the legal aspects of higher education. Topics will include when to call the lawyer; understanding recent revisions to Title IX; ADA accommodations, the most expensive problem on every university campus; and balancing free speech and campus safety in a polarizing political climate.





UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION IV - 3:25 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Call Me Mister at Louisiana Tech**

Dr. George Noflin | *Louisiana Tech University*

In 2017 Davis and Nicholas from John Hopkins published an article called Having Just One Black Teacher Can Keep Black Kids in School. The Digest of Education Statistics indicates that 2% of the American teachers are African American males. When Louisiana Tech was confronted with this information, we strategically put into action a plan to address it. This plan included the Call Me Mister program which involves the recruiting and retention of African American Males into the Elementary and Middle schools in Louisiana. This program is in its infancy phase and has had some successes as well as its challenges. We are proud to be the first university in the state of Louisiana to have the Call Me Mister program. This session will discuss the details of this program and the process that we went through to have it at Louisiana Tech University, actions to increase student-faculty interaction outside the classroom.

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **Academic Success and Academic Freedom: Can Colleges Insist that Instructors Provide Students With a Welcoming and Supportive Learning Environment?**

Nathan Roberts and Richard Fossey  
*University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

Everyone agrees that students learn best when they are in a supportive and nonthreatening atmosphere, yet some instructors believe their right to academic freedom allows them to bully or harass their students in the classroom. Academic freedom is not a license for instructors to say or do whatever they please in the classroom environment. This session will address current decisions that provide guidance regarding academic freedom.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Impact of Active Learning Environment in Freshman Mathematics courses on Students' Success and Persistence**

Lisa Crespo | *University of New Orleans*

Student performance in UNO's Math 1115 (Applied Algebra) course had been lacking. Drop rates were high and the number of students, passing with a grade of C or better, had been unimpressive. As a result, the Mathematics faculty at UNO instituted an enhanced student active learning environment that increased student engagement in the classroom and improved productivity. The implementation of an active learning environment in freshman mathematics courses has resulted in over 15% improvement in student success and over 100% decrease in the withdrawal rate. The active learning environment has also impacted the student persistence rate significantly.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **The Multifaceted Role of Research Centers in Regional Economic Development**

Dr. Niel Crews | *Louisiana Tech University*

Specialized research centers exist at several universities within the UL System. Each represents a significant state investment with a primary mission to enhance research productivity. However, maximum effectiveness in this area can be achieved by supporting the economic development of community and regional companies. Much of the infrastructure and expertise found in these research centers is essentially dual-purpose, and can be leveraged to advance industrial interests in addition to research activity. In return, such partnerships will better position these centers to compete for additional federal research dollars.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION IV - 3:25 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Louisiana REDI: Solutions for Our Future**

M&LI Team | UL System

This session is lead by the ML&I Leadership team and represents our recommendations for developing a strategy to tackle the President's Economic Development, Research and Innovation strategic goal.

### STEWARDSHIP

Room 2218

#### **How Does Math/College Algebra Impact Student Retention?**

Dawn Melancon | UL System

Recognizing the emphasis that leadership in the legislature and the board of regents has made on university collaboration, our team is experiencing first-hand the challenges and opportunities of working closely together to deliver a large scale, important project. This session will introduce the concept of three universities working with the system office to collaborate on deploying a new ERP. People anticipating being involved in future collaborative efforts will benefit from our sharing our experiences learning to work together in a new way. In an open, candid conversation, we will discuss the stages we have been going through and bring attendees along for an inside view on this paradigm shift – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

## CONCURRENT SESSION V - 8:30 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.

Room 2207

#### **Boosting On-time Graduation Rates through Game Changer Strategies**

Dr. Dhanfu E. Elston

Complete College America, alongside our 44-member Alliance, has been a leading voice in college completion efforts since our founding in 2009. We believe our students – of every race, gender, age and income level – aspire to complete college credentials of value and purpose. At CCA, we leverage our Alliance and implement Game Changer strategies across the nation to close achievement gaps, boost graduation rates and ensure every student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams. During this interactive session, participants will learn about how CCA's Game Changer strategies have significantly moved the needle with on-time graduation rates and student success. Participants will gain an understanding of CCA's mission and beliefs, how we do our work, the strategies we champion, and provide clear path for how to engage with the college completion movement.





UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION V - 8:30 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Nursing Faculty Perceptions with Student-Faculty Interaction Outside the Classroom in Relation to Office Hours**

Dari Calamia

*Southeastern Louisiana University*

Student-faculty interaction outside the classroom has been proven to have positive academic outcomes for students. This is especially important in schools of nursing where student success on high stakes NCLEX testing reflects the integrity of the school itself. Regardless of the advantages to students, there is still a lack of interaction occurring in higher education.

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **Think Like a Librarian**

Ben Bell | *Southeastern Louisiana University*

Librarians are skilled in the logic of organizing, finding, and evaluating information for student and public use. Students greatly benefit from the higher education practice of doing the same. In a world where it is increasingly important to “do it yourself,” teaching the skills, values, and virtues to “Think Like a Librarian” allows students to find, evaluate, and use all different types of information, from tweets to encyclopedias, and develop as information literate leaders in their fields and in society.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Access, Progress, and Success: Expressing the DNA of the ULS Strategic Framework**

ULS Management and Leadership Institute Group | UL System

Louisiana is challenged by having one of the lowest adult educational attainment rates in the U.S. while at the same time the highest percentage reduction in higher educational funding over the past decade. Acknowledging the importance of reinvestment in university education toward empowering the state's citizens and growing its economy, the University of Louisiana System as the largest post-secondary system in Louisiana has established a strategic framework that aspires to increase (1) participation and success among all populations and (2) the number of career-ready graduates by 20% in eight years.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **Community Partnership to Enhance Mental Health Care**

Connie Hale | *Northwestern State University*

Nationally, 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness. The economic burden of mental illness is estimated to outweigh the costs of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cancer. Serious mental illness results in \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings. Disability, social welfare, homelessness, accidents, and crime also contribute to costs related to mental illness. Louisiana has very low access to mental health care. In January 2017, the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce, reported Louisiana had 118 Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's), and indicated only 40.61% of Louisiana citizens' mental health needs are met. NSU partnered with The Rapides Foundation to enhance mental healthcare access, delivery, and workforce development within our mutual service sectors of Louisiana.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION V - 8:30 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Formation of a Statewide University Research Network in Disaster Response and Recovery**

Dr. Michael Dunaway and Dr. Liz Skilton  
*University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

This session proposes to establish a collaborative network of researchers, scientists, engineers, and scholars among Louisiana Universities as a standing resource for state disaster response and recovery. The program will identify faculty within the University System to develop a program of scientific research and analysis, teaching and workforce development, public/private partnerships, and public outreach and education to improve the economic and societal resilience of Louisiana and its communities, and protect the national critical infrastructure systems within the state. The presentation will include a history of disasters in Louisiana, and discuss research priorities identified by the Governor's Louisiana Recovery Task Force from the 2016 statewide flood recovery.

### STEWARDSHIP

Room 2218

#### **Sustainable Practices**

Byron Patterson  
*Southeastern Louisiana University*

A university is a learning and living laboratory. Southeastern has embraced this reality in efforts to build a sustainable campus. The results are financial savings, educational opportunities and outreach programs. Financial success is key to the health of a university. Progressive energy management controls have resulted in significant savings for the university, and additional savings have been realized through renewable energies including the utilization of solar photo-voltaic, solar-thermal and geothermal systems. While renewable energy savings may ride the roller coaster of market prices, the benefits of educational programs in sustainability continue to grow. These educational programs deliver hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for university students, preparing them to be "Real World Ready."

## CONCURRENT SESSION VI - 9:30 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.

Room 2207

#### **Conflict Resolution in Higher Education Context**

Dr. Caprice Ieyoub | UL System

Check your troubles at the door. Dr. Caprice Ieyoub will share conflict resolution skills that she learned conducting over 300 mediations to help you implement reframing skills and techniques to manage and minimize the conflicts that interfere with your personal productivity and peace.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION VI - 9:30 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.

### SUCCESS

Room 2202

#### **Maximize Student Engagement through Online Experiential Learning**

Cherissa Vitter and Amber Narro  
*Southeastern Louisiana University*

The landscape of higher education in Louisiana is transforming to incorporate the advancements in digital technology. There is concern that students in the online environment are not engaged in the same experiences as those in the brick-and-mortar classroom. By creating a virtual classroom through the lens of experiential learning, students will experience real-world engagement in an online environment. This session will address perceived obstacles associated with developing and converting online courses including professor interaction, differentiation, and expectations. Presenters will share techniques not limited to Google Suite, pod casting, videos, discussions, netiquette, and objective writing.

### SUCCESS

Room 2203

#### **Pushing Students to New Academic Heights Using Active-Learning in a Fluid Classroom**

Dr. Lindsay M. Porter and Dr. Francene Lemoine  
*Northwestern State University*

In today's world, students need more than knowledge to be competitive for professional/graduate school or the workforce. Critical thinking, knowledge application, teamwork, and oral communication skills are valuable commodities and teaching them to students using traditional approaches is difficult. We will discuss our experience in the teaching transition to an active learning environment that allows in-class time for pushing students to new academic heights. This dynamic learning space has facilitated paired, group, and applied student learning and has promoted peer-to-peer instruction and problem-based learning in the classroom. We will address technologies included in classroom design, examples of classroom activities, and tips for implementing active learning.

### SUCCESS

Room 2215

#### **Growing More and Better Biologists for Louisiana**

Phyllis Baudoin Griffard and Dr. Sherry Kravesky-Self | *University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

This session will share recent progress made by the UL-Lafayette Biology faculty in a variety of initiatives to support our > 900 undergraduate majors. As our enrollment continues to rise, we recognize our responsibility in educating Louisiana's future biologists for their roles in wildlife and fisheries, healthcare, environmental protection and education. To that end, we have adopted a national AAAS/PULSE model to align our curriculum to recommended core concepts and competencies, expanded academic support via a large, volunteer peer mentor network, expanded access to biology work through internships with local, state and national labs and agencies, and have begun integrating authentic research experiences into all levels of our four-year curriculum.

### INNOVATION

Room 2216

#### **Assessing Safety Culture in the Manufacturing Arena: A Structured Equation Modeling Approach**

Dr. Nabin Sapkota and Dr. Macia Hardy  
*Northwestern State University*

Safety is directly related to productivity while productivity directly impacts market competitiveness, costs, and response time. These factors are essential to the survival of a business. This session presents recent international manufacturing safety measure discoveries and a proposed Louisiana manufacturing industry collaboration. Structured equation modeling is employed within the research design. This statistical measurement model analyzes and measures the strength of the relationship between measured variables and unobserved variables responsible for safety culture in the industry. This case study explores safety culture variables using collected survey data and analysis to understand indirect safety measures impacting the manufacturing work environment.



UNIVERSITIES OF LOUISIANA

## CONCURRENT SESSION VI - 9:30 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.

### INNOVATION

Room 2217

#### **Expanding the Research Capacity at Grambling State University through the establishment of Partnerships**

Dr. Connie Walton, Carolyn Hester, and Teresa Jackson | *Grambling State University*

This session will focus on a strategy that Grambling State University (GSU) is implementing that is meant to expand the Research Infrastructure in key areas that are of importance to the local community and aligned with funding opportunities. Establishing partnerships, both internal and external, is critical to success. A partnership with the Concerned Clergy of Monroe will be examined. This partnership targets addressing the Long Term Recovery Needs of the city of Monroe that are associated with the March 2016 Flood. Grambling State University Faculty along with staff in the Office of Sponsored Programs are working closely with the Concerned Clergy on projects that address the needs of citizens; social, behavioral, and those associated with infrastructure.

### SUCCESS

Room 2218

#### **Establishing Change with Limited Assets**

Joshua Chovanec and Ashley Johnson  
*Louisiana Tech University*

Limited budgets/resources should never be used as an excuse to keep operations in a stagnant state. Encourage change and improvements toward a more efficient office and that provides better service to the students and university operation. A scope and review of what the La Tech University Registrar's Office has accomplished within the last 3.5 years.

## COLLABORATIVE PEER SESSIONS - 10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

- 2202 Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Faculty
- 2203 Finance & Business Affairs
- 2215 STEM Faculty
- 2216 Research/Partnerships/Development
- 2217 Allied Health Faculty
- 2218 Complete College America (CCA) Working Session (Invitation Only)
- 2207 Student Support Services
- 2209 ULS Communications Directors
- 2210 ULS Chief Financial Officers

### SUCCESS

Academic Success, Student Success and Educational Attainment

### INNOVATION

Economic Development, Research and Innovation

### STEWARDSHIP

Financial Stewardship and Accountability