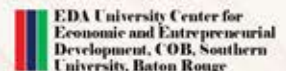


LOUISIANA RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



September 10-12, 2023
Paragon Casino Resort | Marksville, Louisiana

 **BRIDGING** 
THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE   **CONNECTING** 
RURAL COMMUNITIES



GREETINGS FROM: THE TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBAL COUNCIL



Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Council: From top left- Council Member James Craig, III, Vice-Chairman Marshall Ray Sampson, Sr., Council Members Bobby Pierite, Harold Pierite, Paulette Voiselle, Chairman Marshall Pierite, and Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Rachal.

The Council Members and Citizens of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana would like to welcome you to Marksville, Louisiana, the home of the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation. With origins tracing back to the late 1700s, our people settled near Marksville, showcasing their expertise as traders and entrepreneurs. Presently, our tribe consists of over 1,700 citizens residing primarily in Louisiana, Texas, and Illinois.

In 1981, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe received federal recognition for its reservation situated within Louisiana's boundaries. Notably, we take pride in owning and operating the Paragon Casino Resort, a prominent employer in Central Louisiana. Our tribe remains committed to making a positive impact on the community, cultivating economic growth, empowering future generations, and preserving our language and culture.

As part of our ongoing efforts, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe will continue to organize the Louisiana Rural Economic Development Summit. This event aims to foster strategic partnerships with individuals from all walks of life, particularly those residing in rural communities across our state.

GREETINGS FROM: SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY L A W C E N T E R



John K. Pierre

Chancellor
Southern University Law Center

Greetings:

I am honored to extend my heartfelt greetings to this year's attendees for the LaRue Development Summit. This event holds immense significance as we engage in conversations on crucial topics such as workforce development, job training, technology, government contracting, tribal government, and other pivotal aspects of rural development.

The significance of this conference cannot be overemphasized. In rural areas across our nation and beyond, communities face challenges that require innovative solutions. During this year's summit, our hope is that the attendees will learn more about how rural communities and businesses can benefit from building relationships and creating strategic partnerships with local, state, and national leaders, federal agencies, corporate America and Native American Tribes. As we convene to exchange ideas, expertise, and experiences, we recognize that the solutions we generate here will have a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals living in rural areas.

I applaud each of you for your commitment to this cause and for joining us on this journey of progress and transformation. Together, we can pave the way for a sustainable ecosystem and the betterment of society.

Thank you for your presence, and I eagerly anticipate the advantageous discussions and collaborations that will unfold in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John K. Pierre".

Chancellor
Southern University Law Center

GREETINGS FROM:



Dennis J. Shields

President-Chancellor
Southern University and A&M College System



Dear Esteemed Guests,

On behalf of the Southern University System, I extend a welcome to all participants of the Louisiana Rural Economic Development (LaRue) Summit. This summit brings together a diverse group of visionaries, innovators, and experts from various fields with a common goal of fostering growth and progress in our communities.

Thank you, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and Southern University and Law Center, for your solid display of partnership in hosting this much-needed summit. Organizing committee and event partners, thank you for meticulously curating a solid panel of individuals to provide valuable insight and tools. As the president of our five-campus system, I am especially excited to see so many of our alumni represented on the agenda.

In addition to the enriching discussions, I encourage all attendees to take advantage of the networking opportunities this summit provides. Establish connections, share your expertise, and collaborate with like-minded individuals who are passionate about driving positive change.

Again, I extend my warmest welcome and best wishes for a successful and fruitful summit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Shields". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "S".

Dennis J. Shields, President Chancellor

AGENDA

Louisiana Rural Economic Development Summit

Paragon Casino Resort

Sunday, September 10 – Tuesday, September 12

Hosted by: The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and Southern University Law Center



BRIDGING THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE BY CONNECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday, September 10 2:00PM – 5:00PM	LaRuE Health Fair Free and Open to the Public Special Musical Show by: Southern University Human Jukebox	Mari Showroom PARAGON CASINO RESORT Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Convention Center
1:00PM – 5:00PM	Exhibit/Vendor Booth Set Up All vendors will be able to set up their booths in advance at this time	Grand Hallway Outside of Mari Showroom
6:00PM – 8:00PM	Chairman's Welcome Reception VIP Event for all Sponsors, Hosts, Speakers, Panelists, Staff and Special Guests Join us in the Draft Room for Food, Drinks, and Special Entertainment by TopGolf Swing Suites Special Guests: LA Senator Gerald Boudreaux and LA Representative Vincent J. Pierre	The Draft Room Located inside of Paragon Casino Resort
Monday, September 11 7:15AM – 6:30PM	DAY ONE Registration will open at 7:15AM	PARAGON CASINO RESORT Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Convention Center
8:00AM – 4:00PM	EXHIBIT/VENDOR BOOTHS OPEN	Grand Hallway
8:00AM – 9:00AM	Welcome Breakfast OPENING CEREMONY 9/11 Tribute: Russel Honore' Lt. Gen., United States Army (Ret.) Hear from our hosts, sponsors, special guests and staff. Special Guest: Dr. Shawn Wilson, Former Secretary of LA Dept. of Transportation & Development and Candidate for LA Governor	Mari Showroom
9:00AM – 10:15AM	Session 1- Technology Advancements, Opportunities and Innovation Technology is constantly changing and affects the way we work, socialize, live, and learn. This session will be geared towards what Louisiana is doing to strengthen our technology via broadband connectivity, 5G expansion, digital literacy, and more! Moderator: Lee Fine, Broadband Manager, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Panelists: 1. LA State Representative Daryl Deshotel, Avoyelles Parish 2. Veneeth Iyengar, Executive Director, LA Office of Broadband Development & Connectivity 3. Greg Clinton, President/CEO, VirtualJustice.us 4. Stephanie Doiron, Director, AT&T Louisiana 5. Robert Hahn, Sr., Higher Education Executive, T-Mobile for Education-Louisiana/Texas	Ballroom

	DAY ONE CONTINUED	
10:15AM – 11:30AM	<p>Session 2- Healthcare & Mental Health Health is wealth. Which is why in this session we will cover what healthcare currently looks like in the state of Louisiana including rural/underserved communities, how to take advantage of healthcare services, education, and opportunities in telehealth including bringing awareness to mental health and the services offered in that arena. Moderator: Cameron Chase, Health Director, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Panelists: 1. Secretary Steve Russo, Louisiana Department of Health 2. Dr. Marcus Jones, President, Northwestern State University 3. Dr. Sandra Brown, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Southern University 4. Dr. Karen Wyble, Asst. VP of Community & Public Affairs, Ochsner Lafayette General 5. Charles Ayles, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Dept. of Health/OCDD</p>	Ballroom
11:30AM – 12:45PM	<p>LUNCHEON Keynote Speaker: Donald R. Cravins, Jr. - Under Secretary, Minority Business Development Agency; U.S. Department of Commerce Special Guest: Jeff Landry, LA Attorney General and Candidate for LA Governor</p>	Mari Showroom
12:45PM – 1:45PM	<p>Session 3- Housing Safe and affordable housing are two variables that people in rural Louisiana want and need. This session will cover information about assistance programs, funding resources, energy efficiency, and other ways to help the people of Louisiana put a roof over their heads without breaking the bank. Moderator: Stephanie Stiles, Housing Director, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Panelists: 1. Deidre Robert, LA State Director, USDA Office of Rural Development 2. Josh G. Hollins, Executive Director, Louisiana Housing Corporation 3. Mandy Ports, President, Louisiana Affordable Housing Management Association</p>	Ballroom
1:45PM – 2:45PM	<p>Session 4- Workforce Development and Job Training This session will provide you with information and strategies around how to rebuild the workforce in your community and arm employees with the training, skills, education, and services needed to not only better themselves but better their families and communities. Moderator: Wendy Barbry Lemoine, Chief Administrative Officer, Tunica-Biloxi Industries Panelists: 1. Dr. Arlanda Williams, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Institutional Advancement, Delgado Community College 2. Matthew Campbell, Strategic Partnerships Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority 3. Lea Bogle, President/CEO, Premier Wireless</p>	Ballroom
2:45PM – 3:00PM	BREAK	
3:00PM – 3:15PM	Special Guest: Sharon Hewitt, LA State Senator and Candidate for LA Governor	

	DAY ONE CONTINUED	
3:15PM – 4:30PM	<p>Session 5- Renewable Energy Initiatives & Development Renewable energy is clean, green, and a growing trend. Use this session to learn about the state of Louisiana's renewable energy initiatives, how to access these resources, and create a green economy in your community by decreasing unemployment and increasing innovation.</p> <p>Moderator: Brian Hanks, CEO/President, Beta Land Services</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Mark Zappi, Director, Energy Institute of LA; Professor, University of Louisiana 2. Monique M. Edwards, Esq., Commissioner of Conservation, LA Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Conservation 3. Jin Kang, Partner, Anarock Global Partners 	Ballroom
5:00PM – 6:30PM	<p>Networking Reception Public Service Leadership Awards Hors d'oeuvres; Cash Bar; DJ</p> <p>Special Guest: John M. Schroder, LA State Treasurer and Candidate for LA Governor</p>	Club Mezazz Paragon Casino Floor
	<p>Dinner on your own Legend's Steakhouse, Roxy's, and The Draft Room are Open. Reservations are recommended for Legend's Steakhouse.</p>	
Tuesday, September 12 7:15AM - 4:00PM	<p>DAY TWO Registration will open at 7:15AM</p>	PARAGON CASINO RESORT Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Convention Center
8:00AM - 4:00PM	EXHIBIT/VENDOR BOOTHS OPEN	Grand Hallway
8:00AM – 9:00AM	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Michelle Purl, CEO, United Way of Central Louisiana Special Presentation by: Premier Wireless & T-Mobile for Business</p>	Mari Showroom
9:00AM - 10:15AM	<p>Session 6- Small Business Development and how to navigate State and Federal Resources We all know the saying; small businesses are the backbone of the economy. In this session, learn all about how to access state and federal resources to build up small businesses in your community all while bringing strength, stability, and opportunity back to rural Louisiana.</p> <p>Moderator: Ileana Ledet, Economic Development Representative, EDA</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ted James, Regional Administrator, Small Business Administration (SBA) 2. Brenda Guess, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) 3. Keith Moore, Operator, Minority Business Development Agency, Federal Procurement Center 4. Dr. Geoff Stewart, Director, LA Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center (LEED); Associate Professor of Marketing, University of Louisiana 	Ballroom
10:15AM – 11:30AM	<p>Session 7- Creating and Improving Relationships with Native American Tribal Governments through creating economic development, etc. Economic development opportunities are not just about the opportunity itself, it's about the relationships you can create that will help everyone reach a common goal. This session will help in understanding how to work with Native American communities to utilize each of your resources to create lasting businesses and workforces to propel your community into the next generation of innovation, success, and partnerships.</p>	Ballroom

	DAY TWO CONTINUED	
	<p>Moderator: Jessica Myers, Chief Operating Officer, Tunica-Biloxi Industries</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeff Grubbe, Former Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla 2. Kevin Killer, Former President, Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe 3. Roy Holleman, CEO, Tunica-Biloxi Industries 4. George Rivera, Tribal Solutions Group 	
11:30AM – 1:00PM	<p>Luncheon</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mike Strain, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture</p> <p>Special Presentation by: T-Mobile, Business Continuity/Emergency Preparedness Response</p>	Mari Showroom
1:00PM – 2:15PM	<p>Session 8- Agriculture in Louisiana</p> <p>Agriculture is more than just crops and livestock, it encompasses everything that people in our communities, state, and the world need in order to live. Join this session to learn about the economic growth opportunities/resources in agriculture and how our rural communities in Louisiana can create strategies and infrastructures to overcome the hurdles that we are experiencing within the world of agriculture today.</p> <p>Moderator: Ron Bordelon, Director of Land, Facilities, & Maintenance, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Brian Keith Phillips, Associate Small Farm Specialist, Southern University Agriculture Center 2. Lisa Couvillion, County Executive Director for Avoyelles Parish, USDA LA Farm Service Agency 3. Tom Graves, Chief Strategy Officer, Premier Wireless 	Ballroom
2:15PM – 3:30PM	<p>Session 9- Grant Funding and How to Navigate the Grants Process</p> <p>Grant funding equals financial, economic, and business opportunities. This session will walk you through the process of how to find grants that are right for you, how to apply, and how to best utilize this state/federal funding to take your business and economic goals from dream to reality.</p> <p>Moderator: Rachel Allgaier, Grant Communications Manager, Premier Wireless</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Gallagher, Executive Director, Louisiana Municipal Association 2. Leslie Durham, Executive Director, Louisiana Infrastructure Technical Assistance Corporation 3. TBD 	Ballroom
3:30PM – 4:00PM	<p>Concluding Comments</p> <p>Thank you to all of our wonderful Sponsors!</p>	Ballroom
<p>www.sulc.edu/larue Facebook.com/LarueDevelopment</p>		

Buyers & Sellers
MATCHMAKING
SESSION
SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 4PM

PRESENTED BY





FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



With 37 years of enlisted service in the US Army, and continued service after retirement; Gen. Honoré will offer perspective and reflection during our 9/11 tribute.

September 11th 8:00 AM

Gen. Russel Honoré

Lieutenant General (Ret.)
United States Army



Having served Louisiana as a former State Senator and member of the House of Representatives, Don R. Cravins, Jr. now serves in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

September 11th 11:30AM-12:45PM

Don R. Cravins, Jr.

Under Secretary
Minority Business Development Agency
U.S. Department of Commerce



Michelle's nonprofit career includes working with delinquent youth, Boys & Girls club, and was a Child Protection Investigator. She's been with United Way for 9 years, and became CEO of United Way of CENLA in 2021, working to create solutions for families.

September 12th 8:00 AM

Michelle Purl

CEO
United Way of CENLA

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES & INNOVATION

September 11th 9:00-10:15AM



Moderator

Lee Fine

IT Manager
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe



Veneeth Iyengar

Executive Director
LA Office of Broadband
Development & Connectivity



Robert Hahn, Sr.

Higher Education Executive
T-Mobile for Education
Louisiana/Texas



Stephanie Doiron

Director
AT&T Louisiana



Greg Clinton

President & CEO
VirtualJustice.us



Daryl Deshotel

State Representative
LA House of Representatives
District 28

HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

September 11th 10:15-11:30AM



Moderator

Cameron Chase

Health Director
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe



Sec. Stephen Russo

Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health



Dr. Marcus Jones

President
Northwestern State University



Dr. Sandra Brown

Dean of Nursing
and Allied Health
Southern University



Dr. Karen Wyble

Asst. VP of Community
and Public Affairs
Ochsner Lafayette General



Charles Ayles

Deputy Assistant
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health/OCDD

HOUSING

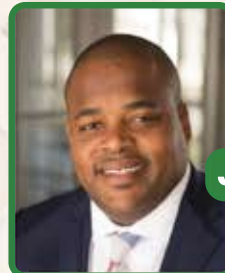
September 11th 12:45-1:45 PM



Moderator

Stephanie Stiles

Housing Director
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe



Joshua G. Hollins

Executive Director
Louisiana Housing Corporation



Deidre Robert

LA State Director
USDA
Office of Rural Development



Mandy Ports

President
Louisiana Affordable Housing
Management Association (LAHMA)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB TRAINING

September 11th 1:45-3:00 PM



Moderator

Wendy Barbry Lemoine

Chief Administrative
Officer
Tunica-Biloxi Industries



Dr. Arlanda Williams

Vice Chancellor for
Workforce Development
Delgado Community College



Matthew Campbell

Strategic Partnerships
Program Manager
Delta Regional Authority



Lea Bogle

President/CEO
Premier Wireless

RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES & DEVELOPMENT

September 11th 3:00-4:00 PM



Moderator

Bryan Hanks

CEO/President
Beta Land Services



Monique M. Edwards, Esq.

Commissioner
of Conservation
Louisiana Department of Natural
Resources Office of Conservation



Dr. Mark Zappi

Director
Energy Institute of Louisiana
Professor
University of Louisiana



Jin Kang

Partner
Anarock Global Partners

RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES: NAVIGATING STATE & FEDERAL RESOURCES

September 12th 9:00-10:15 AM



Moderator

Ileana Ledet

Economic Development
Representative
Economic Development Administration



Ted James

Regional
Administrator
Small Business Administration (SBA)



Keith Moore

Operator
MBDA Federal
Procurement Center



Brenda Guess

Assistant
Secretary
LA Economic Development (LED)



Dr. Geoff Stewart

Director/Associate
Professor of Marketing
LA Entrepreneurship & Economic
Development Center (LEED)
University of Louisiana Lafayette

CREATING AND IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

September 12th 10:15-11:30AM



Moderator

Jessica Myers

Chief Operating Officer
Tunica-Biloxi Industries



Kevin Killer

Former President
Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe



Jeff Grubbe

Former Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of Cahull



George Rivera

Former Governor
Pueblo of Pojoaque



Roy Holleman

CEO
Tunica-Biloxi Industries

KEYNOTE - AGRICULTURE IN LOUISIANA



September 12th
11:30AM-1:00PM

Dr. Mike Strain

Comissioner
of Agriculture
State of Louisiana

AGRICULTURE IN LOUISIANA

September 12th 1:00-2:15PM



Moderator

Ron Bordelon

Director of Land,
Facilities, & Maintenance
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe



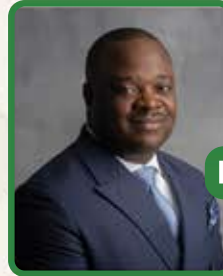
Tom Graves

Chief Strategy Officer
Premier Wireless



Lisa Couvillion

County Executive Director
for Avoyelles Parish
USDA LA Farm Service Agency



Dr. Brian Phillips

Associate Small
Farm Specialist
Southern University AgCenter

GRANT FUNDING & NAVIGATING THE GRANTS PROCESS

September 12th 2:15-3:30PM



Moderator

Rachel Allgaier

Grant Communications
Manager
Premier Wireless



Leslie Durham

Executive Director
Louisiana Infrastructure
Technical Assistance Corporation



John Gallagher

Executive Director
Louisiana Municipal Association

PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Proudly presented to:



Donna Desoto

Executive Director
Avoyelles Community & Youth Coalition



Wilbert Carmouche

Executive Director
Avoyelles Commission of Tourism

Thank you for your outstanding service and dedication to
Community Development Projects and Programs for
Central Louisiana. Congratulations!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Our Sponsors

Without our sponsors, this event would not be possible. We'd like to express our gratitude for helping to make this event a reality.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Megan Guillot, Event Coordinator

Chairman Marshall Pierite

Chancellor John Pierre

President Dennis J. Shields

Dean Donald Andrews

Vice Chancellor Marla Dickerson

Amy Sampson

Blake Barbre

Nick Gautreaux

Don Cravins, Sr.

Dr. Toni Myer

Kieki Jacobs

Jasmine Hunter

Elisabeth Pierite Mora

Terryl Pierite

Robbin Thomas

Marilyn Doherty

Ashley Love

Southern University Human Jukebox

Paragon Casino Resort

Ryan Lopez

The Ehrhardt Group

Cornerstone Public Affairs

Darrian Pierite

Ross Conner & The Conner Agency

Tunica-Biloxi Elders Council

Joanie Arteta

Jacob Ducote Photography

Shelly Rabalais & Poppy Balloons

All Speakers, Panelists, Moderators, and Special Guests

All Vendors and Exhibitors

Tunica-Biloxi Government Staff

Southern University Staff and Students

Phillips Sublimation

Honor Guard Tony Pierite, Lonnie Bridges, & Al Watts

Tunica-Biloxi Public Health & Sanitation Department



Proudly Presented By:

