



*Improving life in rural Louisiana while building the next generation entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting and creating strategic partnerships*

**LaRuE Development Summit Program Draft  
Paragon Casino Resort  
Sunday, July 7-Tuesday, July 9, 2019**



**EDA University Center for  
Economic Development  
Southern University, BR**

**Sunday, July 7, 2019**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Chairman's Welcome Reception-Tunica-Biloxi  
Reservation –CERC Building  
Greetings from: Chairman Marshall Pierite  
Chancellor John Pierre  
Dean Donald Andrews  
TBTLA Council Members  
Congressman Steven Horsford

**Monday, July 8, 2019**

7:15 – 4:00PM

Registration

8:00 – 9:00AM

Welcome Breakfast- Mari Showroom  
Jeremy Zahn (TBTLA Council Member) - Tunica-Biloxi History  
Chancellor John Pierre- Southern University Law Center  
Dean Donald Andrews- EDA University Center for Economic  
Development, Southern University College of Business

Chairman Marshall Pierite, TBTLA- Opening Prayer & Greetings

9:00 – 9:15AM Break

**Welcome:** Summit Moderator: Former State Senator Nick Gautreaux

9:15 – 10:15AM **Developments in Financial Services Affecting Rural Communities**

Moderator: Jerry Prejean-Senior Vice President, Iberia Bank  
Panelist:

1. Marshall Pierite-Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of LA Chairman and CEO/Owner of The Pierite Group, LLC
2. Congressman Steven Horsford-Nevada
3. Will Campbell-VP of Commercial Services/Mortgage Retail-Essential Federal Credit Union
4. Bryon Garrety- CPA, Garrety and Associates

10:15 – 10:30AM Break

10:30 – 11:30AM **5G Expansion & Broadband Opportunities in Rural Communities**

Moderator: John Gallagher- Executive Director, Louisiana Municipal Association

Panelists:

1. Greg Clinton-Director of Information Technology & Facilities  
North Carolina Central University School of Law
2. Leslie Durham- Governor's Designee to the Delta Regional Authority
3. Clint Odom- Senior Vice President of Policy & Advocacy for the National Urban League

11:45AM – 1:00PM LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker: Congressman Ralph Abraham  
Introduced By: Senator Neil Riser

1:00 – 1:15AM Break

1:15 – 2:15PM **Healthcare Access in Rural Communities**

Moderator: Charles Kennedy Jr. - President/CEO Kennedy Financial Services

Panelists:

1. Dr. Bhaskar Toodi-Health Economist-LA Dept. of Health
2. Ron Henderson- Deputy Commissioner-Office of Consumer Advocacy & Diversity for the LA Dept. of Insurance
3. Rod Teamer- Director Diversity Programs and Business Development- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of LA
4. Dr. Arthur Webb- Medical Director for Metropolitan Medical

2:15 – 3:20PM

### **Workforce Development Opportunities**

Moderator: Kevin Billiot- Consultant, K&L Management

Panelists:

1. Jason Green, SkillSmart
2. Congressman Steven Horsford-Nevada
3. Clair Marceaux, Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal- Port Director
4. Randall Domingue- Assistant Secretary, LA Workforce Commission

3:20 – 3:30PM

Break

3:30 – 4:30PM

### **Small Business Opportunities**

Moderator: Dr. David Alijani- AT&T Endowed Professor and Chair of the Computer Information Systems at Southern University at New Orleans.

Panelists:

1. Jo Ann Lawrence- Deputy District Director, LA SBA
2. Dr. Harold Langford- Professor of Business Administration- LSUA
3. Dr. Louis Mancuso- Managing Partner-The Q Marketing Group, LLC

4:45 – 5:45PM

Networking Reception – Big Daddy E's  
Featuring- Southern University Brass Band Ensemble  
Special Ceremony- Public Service Leadership Award

6:00 – 8:00PM

Dinner – Mari Showroom  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ralph Christy- Professor of Emerging Markets at Cornell University  
Introduced By: Dr. Curman Gaines

**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

7:30AM – Noon	Registration
8:00 – 9:00AM	Breakfast- Mari Showroom  Guest Speaker: Governor John Bel Edwards Introduced by: Representative Robert Johnson
9:00 – 9:15AM	Break
9:15 – 10:15AM	<b>New Market Opportunities in Agriculture</b>  Moderator: Dr. Shantel Hebert-Magee - Commonwealth Fund Fellow, Harvard Medical School  Panelists: 1. Tony Gobert-Lead Instructor, Horticulture Department Gwinnett Technical College 2. Calvin Walker-Southern University Ag Center 3. Dwight Bertrand- McNeese State University Agriculture Economics Professor 4. Lee Jones-Assistant State Director for USDA Rural Economic Development
10:15-11:30AM	<b>Creating and Improving Economic and Business Relationships with Tribal Governments</b>  Moderator: Eric Tober – Principal & Director, Cornerstone Government Affairs  Panelists: 1. Heather Urena, Executive Director, Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning & Development District 2. Bailey Walker- President-American Indian Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma 3. Earl Evans- Tribal Administrator, TBTLA 4. Rick Ranson- Manager, Economic Development North-Cleco Power, LLC 5. Jody Cummings- Steptoe
11:30-11:45AM	Break
11:45 – 1:00	LUNCHEON- Mari Showroom

Speaker: Dr. John Butler-University of Texas at Austin-  
Management Professor  
Introduced by: Introduced by Dr. Bijoy Sahoo the Senior  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Southern  
University in Baton Rouge

1:00 – 1:15PM

Break

1:15 – 2:15PM

### **Community Development in Louisiana**

Moderator: Former State Senator Donald Cravins, Sr.  
Panelists:

1. Bill Rodier- Executive Director, St. Landry Economic Development
2. Larkin Simpson- Vice President of the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA)
3. Honorable Sharon Weston Broome-Mayor-President East Baton Rouge Parish
4. Patrick Witty- Louisiana Economic Development
5. Mayor Jamie Mayo, City of Monroe

2:15-3:00PM

Concluding Comments