



FUTURE FORWARD

STATE OF THE STATE

FOR OUR FUTURE PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT



HILTON BATON ROUGE CAPITOL - RIVERVIEW BALLROOM



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

12:45 P.M.

Networking

1:15 P.M.

Welcome:

Rick Gallot, President & CEO, UL System

1:30 P.M.

Shaping the Future:

Legislative Perspectives on Higher Education & Workforce Readiness

Moderator: Barry Erwin, Chief Policy Officer, Leaders for a Better Louisiana

Laurie Schlegel, Chair, House Committee on Education

Jack McFarland, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

2:30 P.M.

Access, Innovation & Impact:

Higher Education Leaders Thoughts on the Roles of our Colleges & Universities

Moderator: Drew Brown, Student Member, Board of Supervisors for the UL System

Rick Gallot, President & CEO, UL System

Dennis Shields, President, Southern University System

Eric Turner, President & CEO, Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU)

3:30 P.M.

Bridging the Gap:

Business & Industry Insights on Economic Growth & Workforce Needs

Moderator: Will Green, President & CEO, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (LABI)

Regina Wilson Davis, Refinery Manager, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Complex

Missy Hopson, System Vice President, Chief Learning & Workforce Development Officer, Ochsner Health

Lee Jackson, Founder & Owner, Jackson Offshore

Cade Young, Vice President of Land & Timber, Roy O Martin

4:30 P.M.

Future-Proofing Louisiana:

Aligning Education & Talent Development

Moderator: William Wainwright, President, Southeastern Louisiana University

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff, Louisiana Department of Education

Drew Brown, Student Member, Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System

Rick Edmonds, Chair, Senate Education Committee

Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education

Susie Schowen, Secretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission

5:15 P.M.

Closing Remarks:

Rick Gallot, President & CEO, UL System