

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Ivye L. Allen

President,
Foundation for the Mid South
(Arkansas, Louisiana and
Mississippi)



Ivye L. Allen is President of the Foundation for the Mid South, a regional foundation serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation funds programs and initiatives that focus on community development, education, health and wellness, and wealth building. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has leveraged more than \$750 million to the region. Prior work experience includes serving as Chief Operating Officer for MDC Inc. and Director of Fellowship Programs for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Before working in the nonprofit arena, Ivye's early experience was in finance and marketing positions in fortune 100 corporations. Her education includes a Ph.D. in social policy from Columbia University; a M.S. in Urban Affairs from Hunter College; a M.B.A. in marketing and international business from New York University; and a bachelor's in economics from Howard University. She serves on numerous board and advisory groups and is a member of several professional and social organizations.

Through the Foundation for the Mid South, she brings together community stakeholders and institutions in the public and private sectors to address the Mid South's most complex and challenging issues, including education, health, financial security, and workforce and economic development. At the core of the Foundation's beliefs is the need for individuals, organizations, and communities to expand their knowledge and skills—their capacity—to bring about change. The Foundation leads efforts to increase capacity and civic engagement as well to improve racial, social, and economic outcomes throughout the Mid South. Examples include:

- (1) Financing loaned executives for the City of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to provide specific expertise and to institutionalize systems and processes geared toward long-term sustainability,
- (2) Improving the effectiveness of administrators in school districts to ensure teachers receive high-quality training and districts access critical resources to improve student academic achievement
- Supporting local communities and organizations providing residents access to physical and mental health services,
- (3) Expanding financial knowledge and programs in the region that have helped move over 60,000 people toward financial security.



2016

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Donald Andrews

Dean, COB, Southern University
and A&M College



As an economist, Andrews has over 30 years of experience in teaching, research and service in this discipline. Andrews was selected as a Nissan Fellow in 1995 to study entrepreneurship and participated in the Carnegie Mellon Fellows - Program Scholar Project with the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research in the summers of 1995-1997 at the University of Michigan. He was an investigator on the Morehouse Research Institute/Ford Foundation 1998-2000 project to strengthen the economics education program at Southern University in Baton Rouge. In addition, he has participated in faculty development programs such as serving as Industry Economist for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Service in Seattle, Washington, the Master Teacher project at Georgia State University, the International Business Program at the Universities of Memphis and South Carolina, the Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality at the University of Michigan, the Personnel Economics Program at Stanford University, the 2003 Price Babson Entrepreneurship program at the University of California at Berkeley, the 2003 Reflect and 2004 and 2005 Entrepreneurship Summit Programs at Babson College in Boston, Massachusetts. In May of 2011 he was a member of the Indiana University Study Tour to Brazil and the 2014 University of Connecticut Study Tour on Sustainability in Australia.

Donald R. Andrews received a bachelor of science in Business Administration, majoring in Economics from Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1971. He continued his education and completed a master of science in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida at Gainesville in 1974. In 1980, Andrews completed a doctor of philosophy in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University in College Station with fields in economic theory, finance and resource economics.



DAMON J. BATISTE

South Africa Connection (NOSACONN)

2016

Distinguished
Speaker



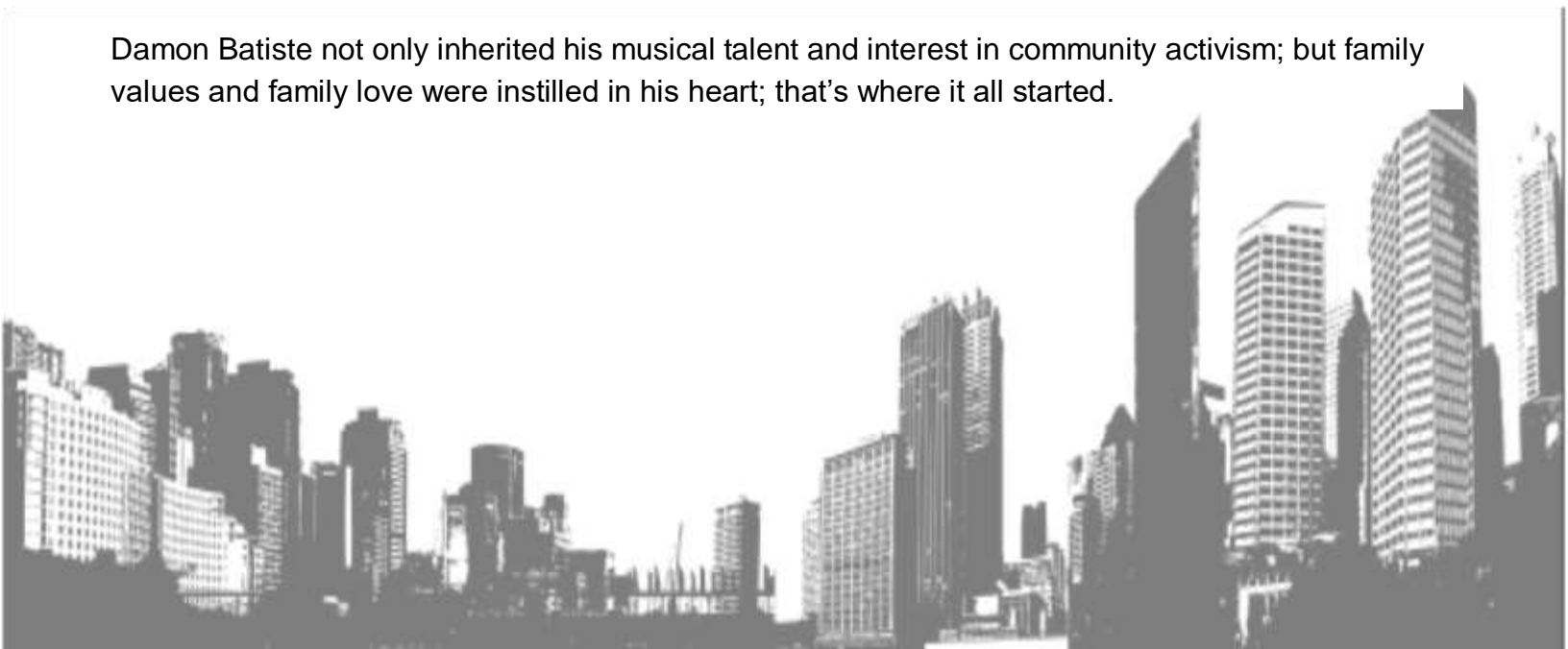
Damon J. Batiste is president, founder and cultural ambassador of the New Orleans South Africa Connection (NOSACONN). He is also an active member of New Orleans Arts and Education Initiative and founder of Batiste Cultural Arts Academy, now called the Re New Cultural Arts Academy. This initiative focuses on the development of at risk youth by introducing them to community resources interested in educating of the total student.

Mr. Batiste has been involved in the music business and cultural wellness projects internationally. He is the founder of an after school literacy program, Arts, Music, which is referred to as AMPM. He has traveled to South Africa promoting business initiatives since 1998. His efforts are concentrated on international economic development through education, trade, music, art & tourism. In 2004, he was the driving force behind South Africa's 10th anniversary celebration in the USA. NOSACONN will also be the first US Company to enter the primary installment of South Africa's Walk of Fame in March 2015.

He has been a part of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival since 1990 and Essence Music Festival, since 1996 as a producer.

The Batiste family is recognized locally as music icons, with over 40 year of experience. Damon J. Batiste is a devoted family man. He is married to Johanna Maison and is the proud father of three children, daughters, Leilah, Nala and son, DJ. A personal passion for Mr. Batiste is caring for his son, who has cerebral palsy. For the last 3 years, he has partnered with Ochsner Hospital, Northshore for an annual fundraiser for special needs children and their families.

Damon Batiste not only inherited his musical talent and interest in community activism; but family values and family love were instilled in his heart; that's where it all started.



2016

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Speaker

Ray Belton

President/Chancellor,
Southern University System,
Baton Rouge



Dr. Ray L. Belton is the President-Chancellor of the Southern University, the nation's only historically black university system. Belton has served in national leadership positions including serving on the Board of Trustees of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (COC- SACS), as a Commissioner on Diversity and Inclusion for the American Association of Community Colleges, the Executive Board of the Louisiana Campus Compact, and the National Advisory Board of Community Renewal International. His statewide affiliations include serving in senior leadership roles with the Consortium for Education, Research and Technology (CERT).

Previously, Belton served in administrative roles, including director, department head, associate professor, vice chancellor for student affairs. Early in his career, he served on active duty in the United States Army for eight years on assignments stateside and abroad and was recognized as one the top non-commissioned officers of his brigade. He also endeavored to serve as a licensed professional counselor while engaging with individuals, groups and families in various therapeutic settings prior to venturing into higher education.

Belton has received numerous awards, to name a few, they include: the Leader of the New Century, from the Shreveport Times and the Distinguished Achievement Award, from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is also the recipient of the Thurgood Marshall Community Service Award sponsored by the Black Lawyers Association and is recognized as the "2001 Distinguished Graduate," University of Texas at Austin, Community College Leadership Program, Austin, TX. Further, in acknowledging his scholarly work, he was the Recipient, W. K. Kellogg Graduate Fellowship 1996, 1997, 1998; Recipient, League for Innovation Graduate Scholarship 1996, 1997; Recipient, C. C. Colvert Scholarship 1997, 1998; Recipient, John and Suzanne Roueche Scholar 1997, 1998 and Recipient, Community College Leadership Program Fellowship 1996, 1997.

Belton, is a native of Shreveport who graduated from the very institution he previously headed (Southern University at Shreveport). He continued his studies at Southern University A&M College where he graduated first in his class. He further earned a master of arts in counseling from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Carl Bourque

Louisiana State Licensing Board for
Contractors



- Residential Compliance Supervisor

Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

October 2004 – Present (11 years 9 months) Louisiana

- Complex Supervisor

BCP

August 1967 – February 2002 (34 years 7 months) Geismar, La.

Chemical Plant Complex Supervisor August 2010 – July 2011 (1 year)



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Adell Brown, Jr.

Interim Chancellor,
Southern University Agricultural
Research and Extension Services



Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. has over 42 years of experience in higher education and agriculture, with 39 of those years at Southern University. .Since 2012, Brown has held the title of Executive Vice-Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research at the Southern University Ag Center. Prior to this he has held several positions within the SU Ag Center and the SU Baton Rouge (SUBR) campus. These positions included Adjunct Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance in the College of Business; Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the SU Ag Center; Associate Specialist and Specialist/Extension Economist; Assistant Administrator and Specialist for Agriculture; Acting Administrator and Assistant County Agent for the Cooperative Extension Program at the SUBR campus. Dr. Brown also served as Small Farm Coordinator for the College of Agriculture at SUBR.

Apart from of his employment with the Southern University System, Brown has been Vice President for Research, Planning, Community and Economic Development and Tenured Associate Professor in Business for the College of Business at Mississippi Valley State University; Program Manager for the USDA's Cooperative State Research Services Office of Small-Scale Agriculture in Washington D.C.; USDA Visiting Professor for Farmer Home Administration and Research/Teaching Assistant for the Department of Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Brown earned a Doctorate in Agricultural Economics with concentrations in Production Economics, Statistics and Management from Louisiana State University, a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Management and Finance from the University of Southwest Louisiana and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business from Northeast Louisiana University.



2016

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Speaker

Byron Clayton

CEO,

Research Park Corporation
(Nexus-LA)



He has established and continues to build an outstanding record of leveraging advanced and emerging technologies to accelerate success for:

- ▶ Nonprofit organizations specializing in technology based economic development (TBED)
- ▶ Innovation focused companies targeting high-growth global markets
- ▶ Research universities seeking new revenue streams via technology transfer and start-ups

Experience:

President & CEO

- ▶ Research Park Corporation

January 2015 – Present (1 year 6 months)Baton Rouge, Louisiana Area

Research Park Corporation (RPC) is a public nonprofit organization that is committed to simplifying how Louisiana entrepreneurs, innovators and growth-oriented companies access the resources and opportunities they need to prosper. RPC owns and operates the Louisiana Technology Park (technology incubator) and is the founder of Innovation Catalyst (venture development organization), both located in Baton Rouge.

Principal

- ▶ XDI Healthcare, Inc.

May 2009 – Present (7 years 2 months)Cleveland/Akron, Ohio Area

Co-founder of XDI Healthcare, Inc., a Cleveland Clinic spin-off company that provides software systems to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery. Specifically, the software enables frontline healthcare teams to generate, evaluate and validate best practices.

Vice-President, Cluster Acceleration

- ▶ NorTech

January 2010 – December 2014 (5 years)Cleveland/Akron, Ohio Area

Responsible for leading NorTech's focus on accelerating commercial activity and job creation in key emerging technology clusters in Northeast Ohio including Flexible Electronics, Advanced Energy and Water Technologies. In this role, I organize public-private partnerships consisting of small, medium and large cluster companies, research institutions, universities, community colleges, serial entrepreneurs, start-ups and government agencies. This includes building relationships with regional, state and federal policymakers as well as economic development organizations across the United States. My focus on helping organizations succeed and grow via technology transfer, new product commercialization, market development, open innovation and collaboration, capital attraction and workforce development have resulted in significant measurable outcomes for the region.

2016

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Speaker

Christopher Brown

Executive Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Provost,
Southern University,
Baton Rouge



Christopher Brown has more than 10 years experience in higher education administration including serving as president of Alcorn State University in Mississippi, and as executive vice president and provost at Fisk University in Tennessee. Brown is a senior fellow, Division of Academic Leadership and Change, for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC. In addition, he served as dean of the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, vice president for programs and administration at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, director of social justice and professional development for the American Educational Research Association, as well as executive director and chief research scientist of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the United Negro College Fund. Brown has held faculty appointments at Pennsylvania State University, George Mason University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Bowie State University, West Virginia University, Indiana University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Brown is the author/editor of 17 books and monographs. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and publications related to education and society.

Brown is the recipient of the 2001 Association for the Study of Higher Education's Promising Scholar/Early Career Award, the 2002 AERA Committee on Scholars of Color Early Career Contribution Award, the 2007 Philip C. Chinn Book Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education, the 2008 Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Educator Award, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Commission on Access, Diversity, and Excellence 2013 Distinguished Service Award. He also was recognized with a 2013 Trofeu Raca Negra (Black Race Trophy) from the Honors Council of the Society of Afro-Brazilian Socio-Cultural.

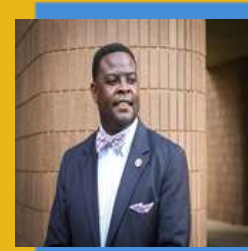
A former member of the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees, Brown is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the 100 Black Men of America, Rotary International, a 33rd degree Free and Accepted Mason Prince Hall Affiliation, and an ordained Baptist minister. The Charleston, South Carolina native holds a Ph.D. in higher education from The Pennsylvania State University, a master of science in education policy and evaluation from the University of Kentucky, and a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from South Carolina State University.

2016

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Speaker

Will Campbell

SBA Manager, Vice President
Louisiana at Capital One Bank



Mr. Will Campbell is currently SBA Manager Vice President Capital One Bank at Capital One Bank, SBA Manager Vice President Louisiana at Capital One Bank, Managing Partner.

He was 2014 State Champion Award Winner for Louisiana SBDC Service Excellence and Innovation Center. He is a small business owner and the Director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southern University. Will is responsible for overseeing and managing the center and providing business consulting for 7 parishes. The center has a strong focus in creating entrepreneurs in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas with a strong emphasis on contractual services.



2016

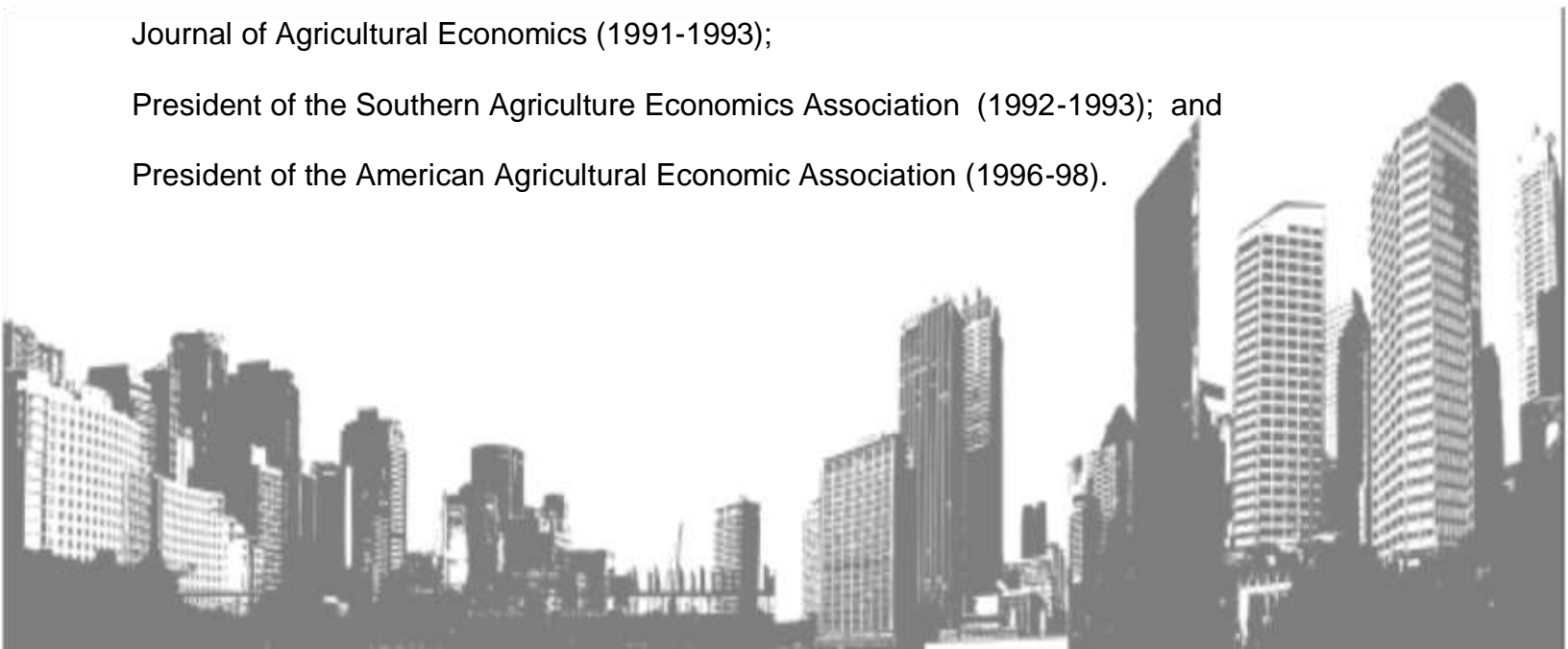
Distinguished
Speaker

Ralph Christy

Professor of Entrepreneurship,
Cornell University



Ralph D. Christy is professor of marketing management and economic development within the Department of Applied Economics and Management (AEM) at Cornell University. He has worked in several countries as an applied economist where he has conducted marketing research and educational programs with industry and public policy makers related to the economic performance of markets and distribution systems. He lent technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nairobi, Kenya (Harvard Institute for International Development, 1984 completed two assignments at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in Port Antonio Jamaica (USAID, 1986&1987); and established research and educational programs through Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development and the Mellon Foundation in Zimbabwe, Slovakia, and Hungary (1991-present). Since 1998, he was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Rockefeller Foundation, consultant to theTVA Rural Studies Center, and member of the U.S Department of State, Food Security Task Force. Christy has served as the Associate Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (1991-1993); President of the Southern Agriculture Economics Association (1992-1993); and President of the American Agricultural Economic Association (1996-98).



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Janyce Fadden

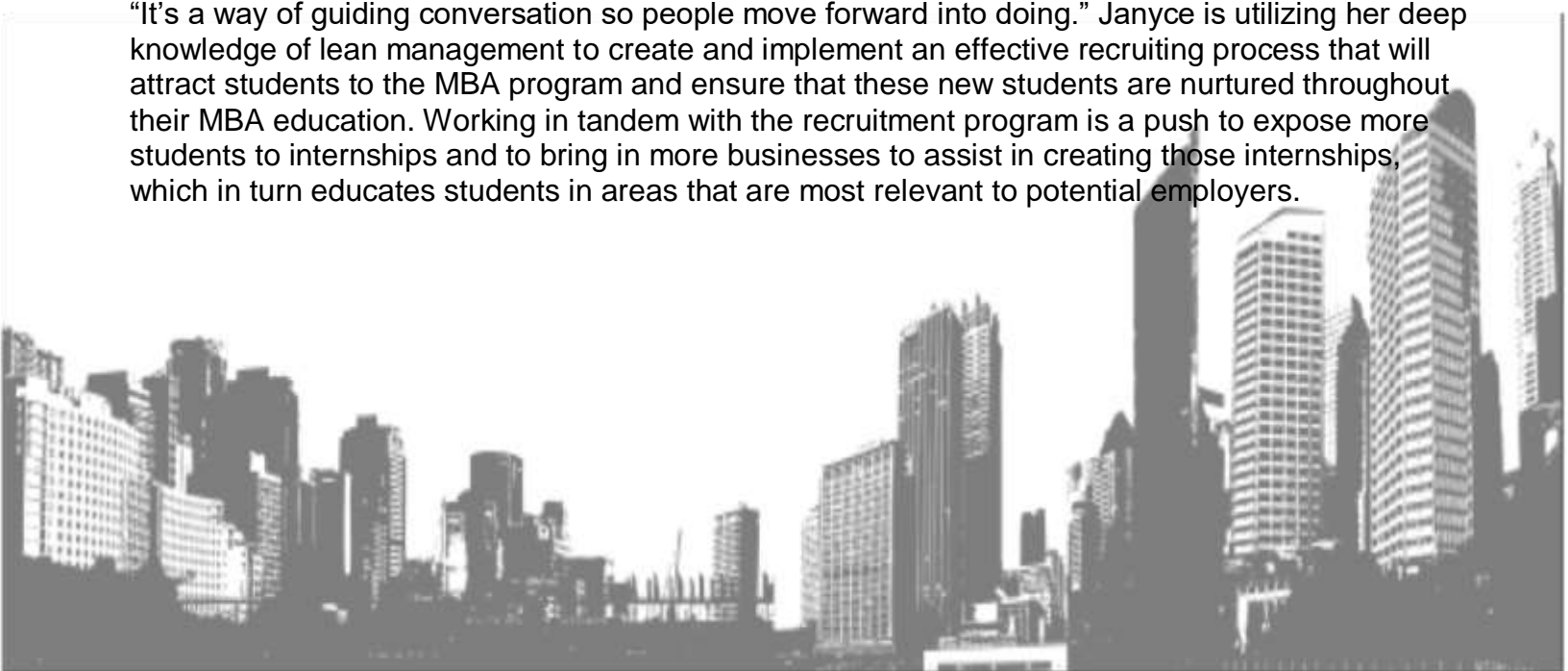
Executive in Residence University
of North Alabama (UNA)



Janyce Fadden joined the UNA staff in September 2013 as the College of Business Executive in Residence with, among others, the goal of introducing and implementing successful business engagement strategies. She previously served as President of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council in Rockford, Illinois, and was responsible for managing business retention and expansion, new business recruitment, business startup and entrepreneurship, and improving the business climate in that region. Additional experiences as President, Vice President, and General Manager for major multinational corporations including Honeywell, General Signal, Applied Power, Pacific Scientific, and Danaher make her a welcome and valuable asset to UNA and its community. Janyce earned her Bachelors of Science in Engineering and Management from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, and her Masters of Business Administration from Northern Illinois University.

“We are really looking for goals that incorporate the College of Business with what modern industry is doing and giving it a place for businesses to help shape the curriculum and UNA students, while also fostering local business,” she said. “Many of our graduates have to travel beyond a 75 mile radius to find a job. We want to help them stay local. Part of Strategic Doing is figuring out how to bring the region prosperity to keep people and jobs in the area.”

As a certified Strategic Doing leader, Janyce helped organize the first Strategic Doing conference held at UNA, which attracted local business owners interested in engaging and facilitating economic growth in the area. “I enjoy Strategic Doing because it’s more than facilitating,” she said. “It’s a way of guiding conversation so people move forward into doing.” Janyce is utilizing her deep knowledge of lean management to create and implement an effective recruiting process that will attract students to the MBA program and ensure that these new students are nurtured throughout their MBA education. Working in tandem with the recruitment program is a push to expose more students to internships and to bring in more businesses to assist in creating those internships, which in turn educates students in areas that are most relevant to potential employers.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Louis Freeman

CEO,
Innovation Catalyst, Inc.
Baton Rouge



Innovation Catalyst is a Louisiana non-profit venture development organization, formed by community leaders to strengthen and broaden Louisiana's entrepreneurial ecosystem and drive new high-tech company formation through education, connections, and capital. We collaborate with existing resources throughout the state to identify, engage, educate and connect Louisiana entrepreneurs to the right resources to accelerate their business.

Extensive business development and sales experience. Advanced practical knowledge of sophisticated products. Development, marketing and sales of technology products and systems. Consulting, design and project management of sophisticated electronic systems, automation systems, communication systems.

Specialties: New business development and venture equity fund management. Highly technical knowledge of mechanical and electronic systems.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Bryan L. Greenwood

Associate Director,
LSBDC & LSU Innovation Park,
Baton Rouge



Business Consultant, Mentor, Coach and Advisor to Louisiana's Entrepreneurs. My role is to assist entrepreneurs with solving business problems, developing new strategies, and building a plan to take their companies to the next level of sales growth and profitability.

I have successfully assisted entrepreneurs with developing packages to raise debt or equity for their businesses.

Specialties: Strategic Planning, Financial Modeling, Preparation to raise capital (debt or equity), Loan packaging and SBA Guaranteed Loan Programs, Business Start-ups, Business Planning, Technology Commercialization, Management Consulting, Training



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Eual Hall

Business Development Specialist,
Southern University Agricultural
Research and Extension Center



Experience:

Business Development Specialist
Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
1994 – Present (22 years)

Licensed Louisiana Real Estate Broker, License Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Producer,
Business Development Specialist in present career.

Activities and Societies: Phi Beta Sigma, Graduate Chapter

Education:

Grambling State University
Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc), Business Administration and Management, Specializing in
Management, 16
1963 – 1967



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Matthew Hampton

Allen Entrepreneurial Institute,
Lithonia, GA



Lifelong, Serial Entrepreneur, currently in the process of changing the world through building Applied Entrepreneurship Eco-Systems. In the last 12 months my wife and I have developed a partnership with Accion Texas/Delta the country's largest micro-lender to introduce micro-finance to youth entrepreneurs, we have established the first N.E.S.T. Center an incubator for youth entrepreneurs, and we are currently in Silicon Valley creating the MakePaper Ap, makepaper.co, a mobile app that builds a community for youth entrepreneurs to compete, be rewarded, and be recognized for their achievements. We know youth entrepreneurship because we have lived it!

Experience:

Co-Founder/Vice President

Elevate Entrepreneurship Systems / Make Paper

August 2005 – Present (10 years 11 months) San Francisco Bay Area / Arkansas

Elevate Entrepreneurship Systems is an organization that builds entrepreneurial eco-systems for youth entrepreneurs. We currently achieve this by working in partnership with municipalities, elected officials, school districts, economic development organizations, and private corporations that seek to improve outcomes for students and communities. We help build youth-owned enterprises. Our next mission is to utilize technology to scale these activities and create a GLOBAL ENTREPRENURIAL ECO-SYSTEM FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS!!!!

Vice President / Founder

MH Marketing / Elevate

August 2000 – Present (15 years 11 months)

We are a marketing firm that specializes in designing, developing, promoting, and implementing entrepreneurship systems

Teen Connection

City of Little Rock

1994 – 1995 (1 year)



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Stephanie Hartman

Business Development Office,
LED



- Business Development Officer

Louisiana Economic Development: Small Business Services

October 2012 – Present (3 years 9 months) Baton Rouge

- Business Associate

Feduccia & Company, Inc.

May 2012 – October 2012 (6 months)

- Director's Assistant

The Host (Motion Picture)

November 2011 – April 2012 (6 months)

- Director's Assistant

Thunderstruck (Motion Picture)

September 2011 – October 2011 (2 months)

- Production Assistant/ Wrap out Production Secretary

Hijacked (Motion Picture)

August 2011 – September 2011 (2 months)

- Intern

The Celtic Media Centre



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Vickie Hendershot

Economic Development Representative
for Arkansas and Louisiana, Austin
Regional Office, EDA/USDOC



Her career history includes: Acting Director, United States Department of Commerce, Budgeting Performance and Evaluation Division, Economic Development Administration

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

JoAnn Lawrence

Deputy District Director at US Small
Business Administration

- Deputy District Director at US Small Business Administration

New Orleans, Louisiana



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

John Pierre

Chancellor,
Southern University Law Center,
Baton Rouge



John K. Pierre has been on the law faculty of the Southern University Law Center since 1990, and in 2016 he was appointed chancellor of the law center, prior to which time he served for a year as interim chancellor. Before becoming head of the law center Pierre served as vice chancellor since 2006 in charge of institutional accountability and the evening division.

Professor Pierre has previous teaching experience as a visiting and adjunct professor at California State University, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Loyola University Law School, Southern University College of Business, Saint Leo's College, Webster University, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Community College

He received the bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern University in 1980, a master's degree in tax accounting from Texas Tech University in 1982, and a juris doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1985.

Pierre has published numerous articles on tax law, sales and contracts, real estate and commercial law, ranging from magazine features to legal journal and law review articles. Pierre is a member of numerous state and national organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association. Belton is married to Norma B. Belton. They have a combined family of six children and four grandchildren.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Adam Knapp

President and CEO,
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
(BRAC)



Adam Knapp was named president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber in April 2008. A native of Lake Charles, LA, he previously served as the deputy director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA). Knapp was a key figure in the creation of the entity, which is designed to facilitate the state's recovery efforts in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Prior to his LRA tenure, he served as economic development advisor to two governors and the policy director for Louisiana Economic Development (LED). At LED, he managed the department's economic policy initiatives, such as workforce development reform, entrepreneurial development, and risk capital accessibility. He directed the development and advancement of state legislative priorities, including the creation and refinement of important economic incentives, such as the Angel Investor Incentive, the Research and Development Tax Credit, the Film Investor Tax Credits, and the Quality Jobs Program. Under Governors Foster and Blanco, Knapp worked on economic policy and was also a vital part of the team that successfully recruited or retained such companies as Union Tank Car, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, and Albemarle Corporation, among others. Prior to state government, he worked for Accenture, one of the world's premier technology and management consultancy firms, as an emerging technology consultant. Knapp graduated from Davidson College in 1996 and also studied at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Julius-Maximilians Universität in Würzburg, Germany.

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR.

Executive Director of Small Business Services,
Louisiana Economic Development



John W. Matthews, Jr., a native of New Orleans Louisiana, graduated from St. Augustine High School and matriculated at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree and went on to obtain his Master of Business Administration Degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

After graduating from Southern, John was employed by Texaco, Inc. in a number of challenging positions including, but not limited to, Plant Chemist, Supervisor of Contracts Administration, Manager of Natural Gas Sales and Purchases, and Assistant to the President of Texaco's Natural Gas Marketing Group.

After completing twenty successful years, John elected to retire his services to Texaco. He subsequently accepted an appointment and commission by the Governor of Louisiana to the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs and Development in August 1993. His duties included coordinating, directing and monitoring programs targeted for disadvantaged and urban residents of Louisiana and coordinating legislative initiatives and economic development programs.

In February 1997, John joined the Department of Economic Development as Manager of the Small Business Bonding Assistance Program. He was responsible for directing and managing all aspects of the Bonding Assistance Program on a daily basis. John developed and established the many components of the model currently being utilized by the Department of Economic Development to help contractors acquire the necessary levels of surety bonds at reasonable rates.

John was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Division of Small and Emerging Business Development in September of 1997. His responsibilities included developing, implementing and operating specific programs designed to help small businesses compete and grow in this economy. As of September 2003, John is currently Executive Director of Small Business Services which, among other objectives, provides sources of management, technical and financial assistance programs for small businesses throughout the State of Louisiana.

John serves on the boards of several professional groups in Louisiana and surrounding states in an effort to foster a proactive economic development climate for the many businesses in these communities.



2016

James "Jamie" Mayo

Mayor,
City of Monroe

Distinguished
Speaker



Political Experience:

- 1995 Elected Monroe City Councilman, District #5
- 1996 & 2000 Re-elected District # 5 Monroe City Councilman
- June 2001 Appointed Interim Mayor - City of Monroe, LA
- October 2001 Elected Mayor - City of Monroe, LA
- April 17, 2004 Re-elected Mayor - City of Monroe, LA
- February 9, 2008 Re-elected Mayor - City of Monroe, LA

Educational Information:

- Graduate of Bastrop High School
- Graduate of University of Louisiana at Monroe (NLU) with degree in Business Administration

Personal Information:

Mayor Mayo has over 20 years of business experience working with companies such as State Farm Insurance, Allstate Insurance and Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp. Married to the former Angela Washington. They have two children - Jared and Ashley, both Graduates of Grambling State University.

Economic Development:

Monroe is a five-time winner of the Louisiana Municipal Association Community Achievement Award. The past three have been in the category for Economic Development (2006, 2007, and 2008). Recent completed and ongoing local major economic development projects in which the Mayo administration has been instrumentally involved include the following: V-Vehicle Company (1400 jobs); Gardner-Denver Thomas (301 jobs); Computer Programs and Systems Inc. Call Center (100 jobs); ACCENT Call Center (500 jobs). Monroe is the headquarters for Fortune 500 company CenturyLink (formerly CenturyTel), which just completed two multi-billion dollar acquisition to become the 3rd largest telecommunications company in the United States. Louisiana economic development experts predict the Monroe Metropolitan area will have the largest percentage of job growth in the state of Louisiana during the next two years. Major Local Projects: Ongoing and recently completed major local projects in which the Mayor administration has been instrumentally involved include the following: New Comprehensive Plan; New Monroe Regional Airport Terminal; Monroe Fire-Police Public Safety Center; and the Ouachita Port Facility;

Notable Awards and Recognitions:

- National Conference of Black Mayor's Valiant Award for outstanding service in the aftermath of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita
- Who's Who Among Business Leaders
- Rupert F. Richardson Legacy Award
- Louisiana Chapter of American Planning Association Award for Distinguished Leadership
- Louisiana Transit "Extra Mile" Award for leadership in Public Transportation
- Louisiana Head Start Association Award of Excellence
- Martin Luther King Trailblazer Award from the Ouachita Parish Martin Luther King Foundation
- City of Monroe-Monroe Metro Region Top Rankings
- Top 10 for Economic Development among metro areas with populations of 200,000 or less (Site Selection Magazine: 2010)
- Top 51 Best Old House Neighborhoods - Monroe's Garden District (This Old House Magazine: 2010)
- 3rd best market in the nation for maintaining housing prices (Kiplinger's Personal Finance: 2009)
- Top 10 Tourist Attractions for Ouachita Parish - City of Monroe operated Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo (#1) and Masur Museum of Art (#7) listed among top sites. (Delta Business Magazine: 2010)

2016 Dr. Stephen C. McGuire

Distinguished
Speaker

Physics professor
Southern University and A&M CC



BATON ROUGE, La. - Southern University physics professor, Dr. Stephen C. McGuire was recently selected to be one of 10 inaugural Fellows of a prestigious international group of scientists.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration is a group of more than 900 scientists worldwide who have joined together in the search for the elusive gravity waves predicted by Dr. Albert Einstein in his general theory of relativity, a LIGO press release said.

The National Science Foundation is funding the project that is managed by the California Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Southern has been a member of the LSC since 2000.

"It is both an honor to be appointed an LSC Fellow and a privilege to represent Southern University in this world-class physics experiment, especially at such an exciting time in the evolution of the field of gravitational-wave astronomy," McGuire said. "The recognition given to our university and opportunities for our students and faculty have been, and continue to be, truly exceptional."

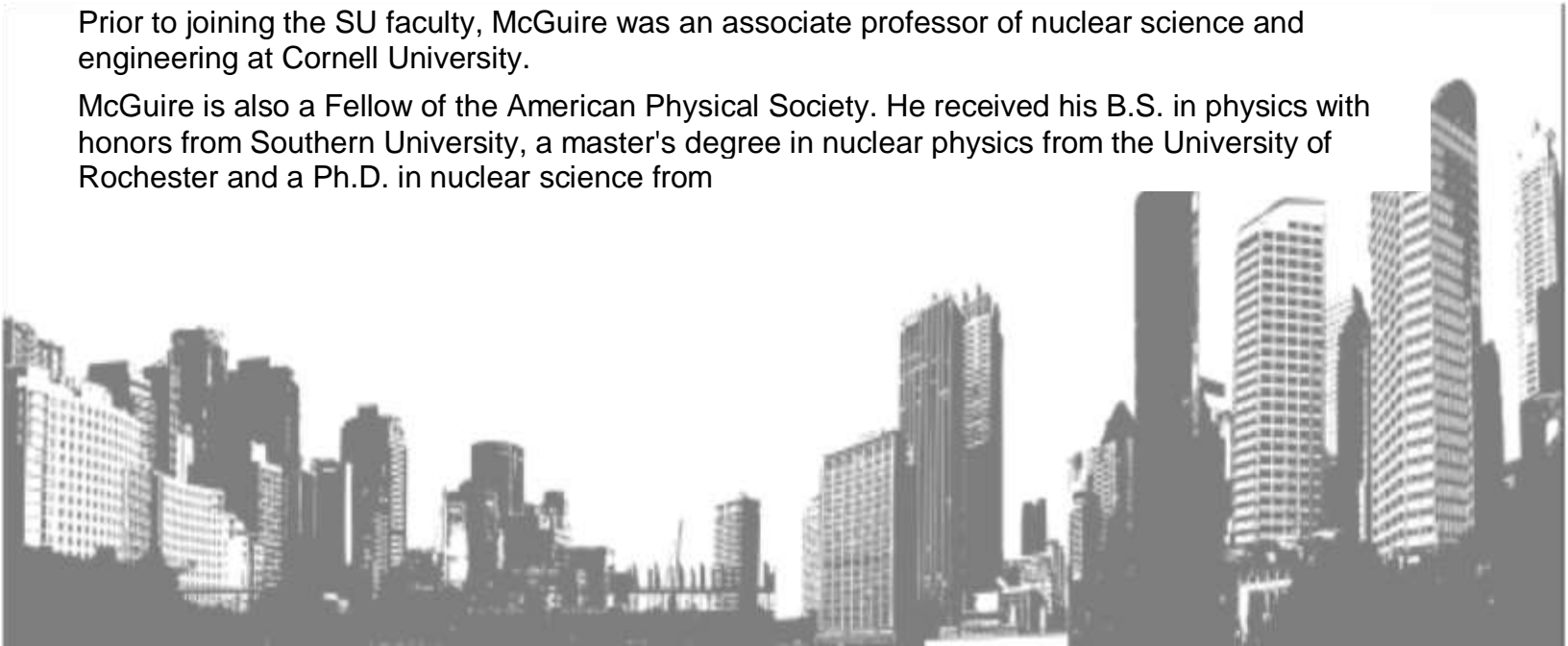
LIGO consists of two widely separated interferometers within the United States - one in Livingston, La., and the other in Hanford, Washington - operated in unison to detect gravitational waves.

LIGO is a national facility for gravitational-wave research, providing opportunities for the broader scientific community to participate in detector development, observations and data analysis.

McGuire has been active in LIGO, working in the areas of optical materials research and science education outreach since 1999. He serves as the Southern University principal investigator for the LSC and Director of the Southern University Advanced Optical Materials Laboratory located in James Hall on the Baton Rouge campus.

Prior to joining the SU faculty, McGuire was an associate professor of nuclear science and engineering at Cornell University.

McGuire is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He received his B.S. in physics with honors from Southern University, a master's degree in nuclear physics from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in nuclear science from





Chuck Morse

Director,
ConnectWorks, New Orleans

2016

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Speaker

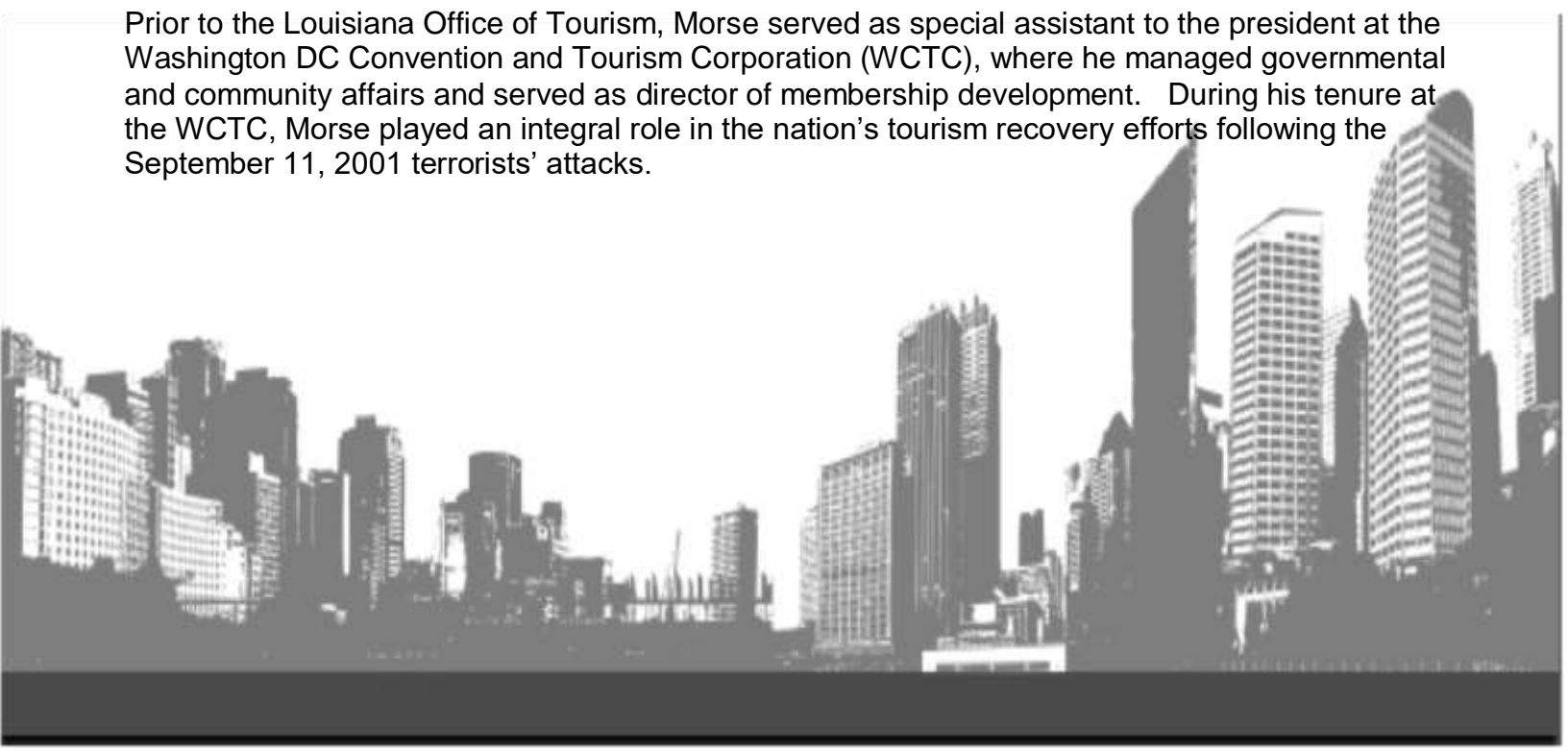
Chuck Morse serves as the Director of ConnectWorks, a program of the Goodwork Network. Morse is a champion of economic equity and inclusion. His work involves creating and implementing strategies that connect minority businesses to emerging procurement opportunities in the mainstream economy. His work supports the City of New Orleans and the New Orleans Business Alliance cluster-based approach to economic development.

Morse was a hospitality and tourism consultant prior to joining the Good Work Network. Prior to his consultancy, Morse served as the Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Office of Tourism, where he played an integral role in Louisiana's tourism hurricane recovery efforts. He oversaw the state's domestic and international marketing initiatives, including a \$10 million annual advertising and public relations program; the state's visitor welcome center network; the Atchafalaya Trace Commission and the Louisiana Scenic Byways Program; and over 82 full and part-time employees statewide.

He also served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Angele Davis. In that role, Morse oversaw rural tourism development, boards and commissions and the Louisiana Scenic Byways program.

Morse has served on the board of several professional tourism organizations, including Travel South, Travel Industry Association of America/National Council of State Tourism Directors and the Southeast Tourism Society.

Prior to the Louisiana Office of Tourism, Morse served as special assistant to the president at the Washington DC Convention and Tourism Corporation (WCTC), where he managed governmental and community affairs and served as director of membership development. During his tenure at the WCTC, Morse played an integral role in the nation's tourism recovery efforts following the September 11, 2001 terrorists' attacks.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Mary Moss

Pastor,
St. Alma Baptist Church



The Reverend Dr. Mary Whitley Moss is Pastor of St. Alma Baptist Church, Founder and Executive Director of Louisiana Area Women in Ministry, and Director of The Southeast Regional Biblical Institute. Her commitment to responsible leadership, transformative teaching and responsible handling of God's Word is evidenced in her role as pastor, teacher, and administrator. Dr. Moss sees the church as the body of Christ and as the instrument chosen of God to continue the work of the ministry of Jesus.

Dr. Moss has been privileged to serve as teacher, lecturer, facilitator, and revivalist at many schools, colleges and churches throughout this country. She is a member of the Fourth District Baptist Association, the Pointe Coupee Parish Ministers Conference and has served as the Christian Education Director for the Pointe Coupee Parish. She is a member of the Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce and has served as chaplain for the Baton Rouge Chapter of the International Organization of Churchwomen United. ^ Dr. Moss is a member of the Children Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge, Operation Safe Street of the Baton Rouge Constable's Office and the Louisiana Health Equity Group. Dr. Moss is a community leader. She is the recipient of numerous commendations and honors. Dr. Moss is married and has three children and seven grandchildren. When asked about her journey now, Dr. Moss simply says that whole desire is to preach the Word, teach the Word, and live the Word.

2016 Robert Myer

Distinguished
Speaker

Mayor,
New Roads,
Louisiana



Pointe Coupee native, business entrepreneur and philanthropist Robert Myer was elected Mayor of the City of New Roads in October 2010. His deep family roots in the area and his desire to help people have inspired him to serve in public office and to work tirelessly to move the city in a positive direction.

Myer's parents, George and Gloria Myer, reared him in the New Roads area. His father served in the U.S. Army and managed the original Ralph & Kacoo's restaurant and the Oxbow restaurant that operated on False River. His mother worked as a teacher for 38 years in the Pointe Coupee Parish school system, positively affecting the lives of students at Upper Pointe Coupee, Rosenwald and Pointe Coupee Central High. Myer has two sons, Peyton, 14, and Preston, 12, who are his "motivation to continue being a hard worker and a leader within the community."

Myer graduated from Catholic of Pointe Coupee High School in 1980 and attended Louisiana College in Pineville, La., on a basketball scholarship. There, he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in economics and finance in 1984. He worked for 17 years in banking and insurance, and in 2001, he moved home and started his own businesses and has expanded them into regional operations over time.

Myer is owner/president of Comfort Keepers, a non-medical, in-home health care business for aging citizens, with offices in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Shreveport, Lafayette, Gulfport, Miss.; and Tallahassee, Fla.; and owner/president of Express Employment Professionals, an employment agency, with offices in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Gulfport, Miss., and Hattiesburg, Miss.

Myer is founder of the Myer Restore Hope Fund, which is operated through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. The fund was established to help children with severe burns manage their health-related illnesses and discomforts. Myer started the fund last year after his son, Peyton, was severely burned in an accident that damaged a significant portion of his body.

"Through this unfortunate event in our lives, we have found an avenue to reach out to others. I understand first-hand the tremendous needs that exist for burn victims, and this fund helps them find hope in their situations," Myer said. Recently the fund gave \$20,000 to the Pediatric Burn Unit at Baton Rouge General Hospital.

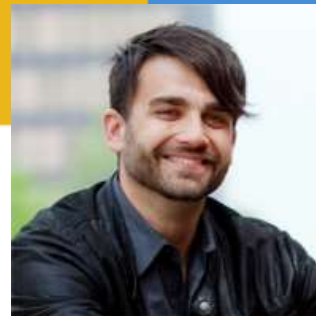
Myer is also chairman of the board for Youth Oasis, a non-profit organization that helps area homeless children. He helps to manage the organization's annual budget. At the same time, he is on the board of directors for two other non-profits which serve our area. Additionally, he actively volunteers for school activities and coaches youth sports.

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

CASEY PHILLIPS

Executive Director for the non-profit,
Public art organization, The Wall Project



A graduate of English-Writing at Loyola University (New Orleans) over the past 15 years has launched multiple entertainment companies in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Steamboat Springs (CO). In 2001, co-founded Infectious Publicity which in addition to promoting shows was a full-service publicity, band management, merchandising, and graphic design firm in New Orleans. After hurricane Katrina, began a dual existence in Los Angeles booking venues along the west coast.

Currently Phillips serves as the Executive Director for the non-profit, public art organization the BR Walls Project in which he began in 2011. By injecting momentum into the Baton Rouge creative community the Walls Project has rallied artists, activists, and entrepreneurs to participate in public arts projects across the city. Through his “Entrepreneurial Activism” approach Phillips enables highly motivated individuals and organizations to be catalysts for cultural and social change in their communities. As a proponent of the principles of creative place making and smart growth Phillips utilizes his 15+ years of branding and community organization experience to help transform the social and physical landscape of the new urban South through the arts.

Specialties: the written word : music & technology trends : arbitration : graphic design : long-distance running



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Eric Porter

CEO,
ComNet LLC, Baton Rouge



Eric Porter was grew up in Monroe, Louisiana. He is the senior partner with the construction and program management firm, ComNet, LLC. Eric attended Wossman High School where he was an all state hurdler in track in 1976 and 1977. Eric has always aspired to be in business for himself following the footsteps of his grandfather Cornelius Welch.

Mr. Porter enrolled at Southern University – Baton Rouge campus in fall 1977. He majored in business management and graduated one semester early in the fall of 1980. Eric's career started in the corporate world with Emery Worldwide from 1980 through 1988 in Kansas City, Mo. Eric was able to relocate to Louisiana and work for the old AT&T, MCI and back to AT&T. This spanned over 25 years.

ComNet, LLC was formed in 1998 by Eric Porter as a lead generating company for telecom, software development and interconnect companies that sold products that AT&T did not sale. After surviving seven AT&T layoffs from his employer over the 25 year span, in May of 2005, Eric was removed from service with AT&T as the industry changed to wireless and with mergers and acquisitions, the mother of Ma Bell, the old AT&T was purchased by one of the Regional Bell Operating companies, Southwestern Bell and it renamed the company, the new AT&T. With a great severance package and a strong will to succeed on his own, Eric made ComNet a established company. After the named storm of 2005, ComNet blew it's projections and numbers off the charts. In 2006, ComNet, LLC started another division, ComNet Construction. Today, the company, ComNet provides construction management, construction services and program services to its clients.

Eric has three children and three grand children.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Mel Robertson

Vice President,
Large Loan Commercial Division
LiftFund



I have a solid financial background in banking, commercial lending, business planning, and financing. I am a creative business professional experienced in multiple facets of financial services. I also have entrepreneurial expertise. One of my roles is to assist entrepreneurs with solving business problems, develop new strategies, and aid in building a plan to take their companies to heights of sales growth and profitability.

I am committed to empowering diverse individuals and small businesses from start up, to existing, and even expanding businesses. Proven track record in delivering results through communication, strategy, motivation, team-building, and successful program implementation. Highly effective in direct cultivation of business development prospects/opportunities. I also am specialized in dot connections for prospects or clients through a resource eco system to aid in building their networks and creating healthy business professional relationships to grow and sustain their businesses or as individuals.

High-performing business leader with significant experience leading economic initiatives.

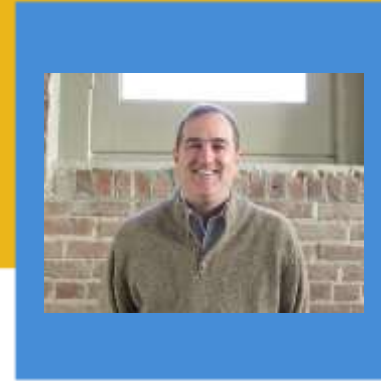
Improvement focused for igniting growth by identifying innovative opportunities (organic and inorganic), building consensus among executive decision-makers, and leading teams to deliver desired results. End-to-end experience including portfolio strategy, financial analysis, and due

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

JIMMY ROUSSEL

Entrepreneur in Residence,
POWERMOVES,
New Orleans



Jimmy is a native New Orleanian. A 1988 graduate of Dartmouth College, Jimmy has worked for the past 25 years in a variety of startup environments, taking many of the companies from idea to revenue. Jimmy has experience in all aspects of the startup arena from raising money, to building teams, to setting up sales and marketing plans, and product development. Jimmy's past experience includes being Marketing Manager for Intralox, CEO of ProTier, EIR for the Idea Village, Managing Member of Global Medium/Clearwater Partners/Mehl Research Labs, and business consultant for Makebuzz. Today, Jimmy is the Entrepreneur in Residence for the New Orleans Startup Fund. Jimmy is married with 3 children and lives in New Orleans.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Michael Stubblefield

Vice Chancellor–Office of Research
and Strategic Initiatives,
Southern University,
Baton Rouge



EDUCATION

Ph.D. Engineering Science, Louisiana State University, 1997
B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Southern University- Baton Rouge,
1991

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08/08 – Pres Vice Chancellor – Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives
07/98-08/07 Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies
07/02- 08/07 Director, Center for Information Technology Innovation
08/03-Pres Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department,
Southern University
08/97-07/03 Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department,
Southern University
01/98-Pres Adjunct Professor of Research, Mechanical Engineering
Department, Louisiana State University
10/97-09/98 Director, Research & Development, Specialty Plastics, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
10/95- 09/97 Associate Director, Research and Development, Specialty Plastics, Inc., Baton
Rouge, Louisiana.

HONORS/DISTINCTIONS

2008 Southern University – Grantsmanship Award: Millionaire Club
2008 – Pres. National Science Foundation – Advisory Committee on Cyber Infrastructure
2006 Southern University – Most Awarded Proposals / Grantsmanship Award –
Millionaire Club
2006 Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, Management Council Member & Treasurer
2004 Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, Management Council Member
2004 Baton Rouge Business Report, “ 2004 Top Forty Under Forty” Awardee
2003 Southern University – Most Awarded Proposals
2003 Southern University Grantsmanship Award – Millionaire Club
(Over \$1M in awarded grants/contracts)
2002 “Ten Paper Cup Award,” ASME Energy Sources Technology and Exhibition
Conference
2001/2002 Session Co-Chair: ASME Energy Sources Technology and Exhibition
2001 “2001 Inductee – SU Young Faculty Award: Science, Mathematics, Engineering, &
Technology Hall of Fame” Southern University, Baton Rouge
2000 Vice Chairman, East Baton Rouge Parish Planning Commission for Brownfields
1999 DuPont/Conoco Young Professor Award.



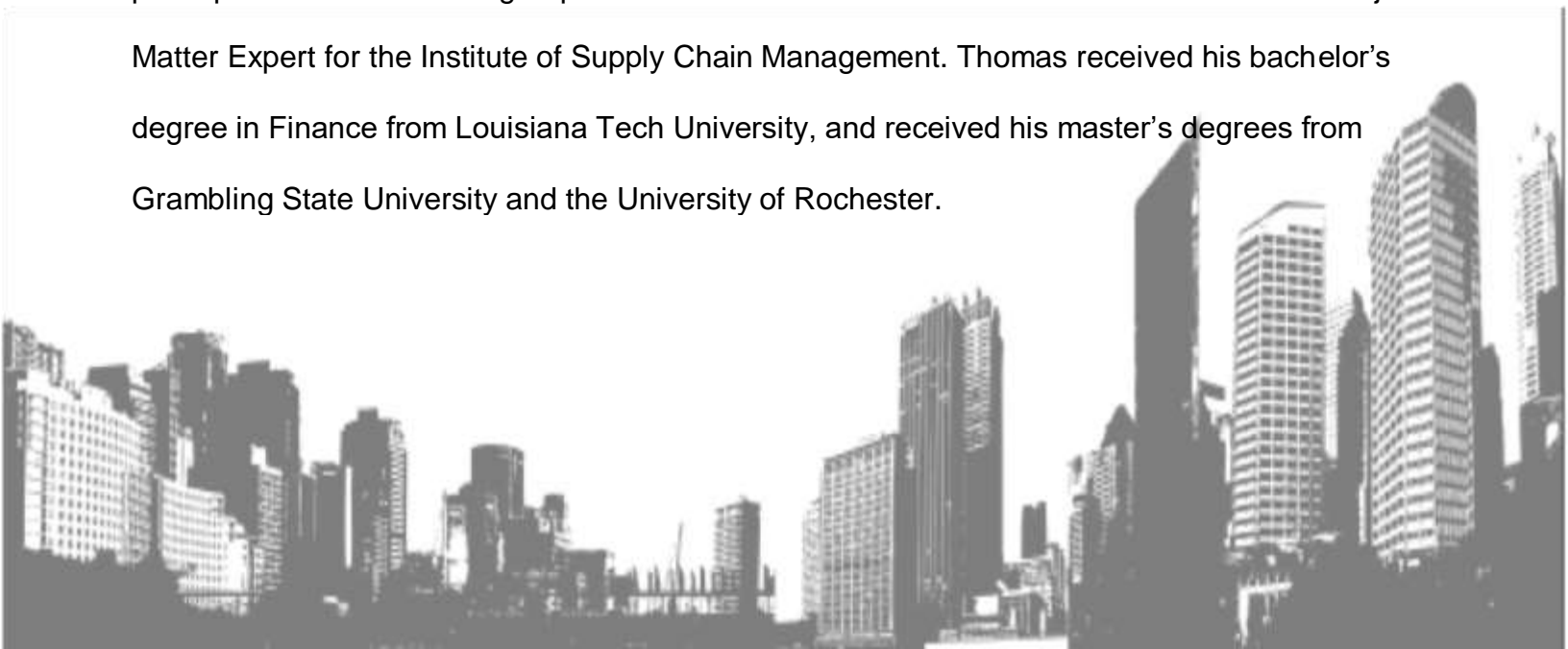
Jeffrey Thomas

Managing Director,
Minority Supplier Institute,
Shreveport, LA

2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Jeffrey Thomas is the Executive Director of the Strategic Action Council and the Managing Director of the Minority Supplier Institute. Thomas's professional experiences cover supply chain, business development, economic development and commercialization. Thomas has managed over \$1B in materials/services spend and has been instrumental in placing over \$50M in start-up companies. Thomas has led teams of professionals in the sourcing, contracting, and commercialization of goods and services for Fortune 500, mid-size, and start-up companies. In his expat role in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thomas directed the global sourcing activities for production locations in Europe, South America, North America, and Asia. He has held global leadership positions at Dell, Edwards Lifesciences, and Novozymes. Thomas's most recent assignment was Vice President of Business Development with the New Orleans Business Alliance where he recruited firms to the city, championed real estate developments, and assisted with the funding of start-ups. Thomas participates on the advisor group to ICANN for Customer Trust/Choice and served as a Subject Matter Expert for the Institute of Supply Chain Management. Thomas received his bachelor's degree in Finance from Louisiana Tech University, and received his master's degrees from Grambling State University and the University of Rochester.



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Cory Thompson

Plant Manager,
ExxonMobil,
Port Allen, LA



■ Education

Duke University Master's Degree, Engineering Management

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity

North Carolina State University, BS, Electrical Engineering

■ Experience

Southcentral Cluster Manager
ExxonMobil Port Allen, Louisiana

US Supply Manager, Lubricants & Specialties
ExxonMobil, Fairfax, VA

District Sales Manager, ExxonMobil

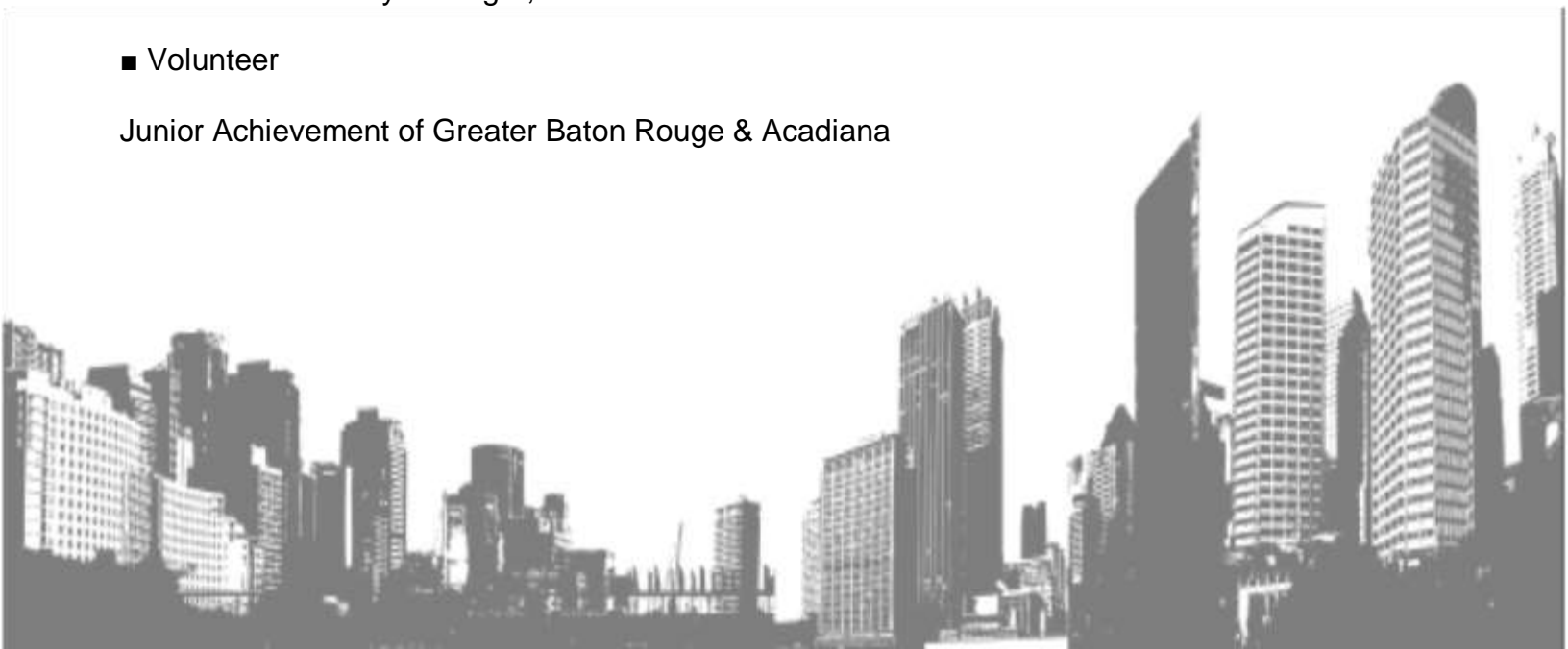
Operations Manager, ExxonMobil

Shift Supervisor, ExxonMobil

Automotive Territory Manager, ExxonMobil

■ Volunteer

Junior Achievement of Greater Baton Rouge & Acadiana



2016

Distinguished
Speaker

Jesse Washington

Mayor,
Delhi,
Louisiana



DELHI, La. (KNOE 8 News) - Most people would get excited for a pay raise. Usually, it means a little less worry about our bank accounts. However, the Mayor of Delhi is taking a pay cut: A decision he made to help the town.

Jesse Washington has only been Mayor for three weeks, but he's already delivering on a promise made in his campaign: Lowering the Mayor's salary by \$10,000 to \$58,000 a year.

"This job here, it's not about me, it's about the whole town," Washington said. "The salary to me is not comparable, and I just think that the mayors salary was too high."

In the past, there has been a steady increase in mayoral salaries, brought by ordinances enacted by the board of alderman. When compared to salaries of other mayors in other towns, Washington said it's too high.

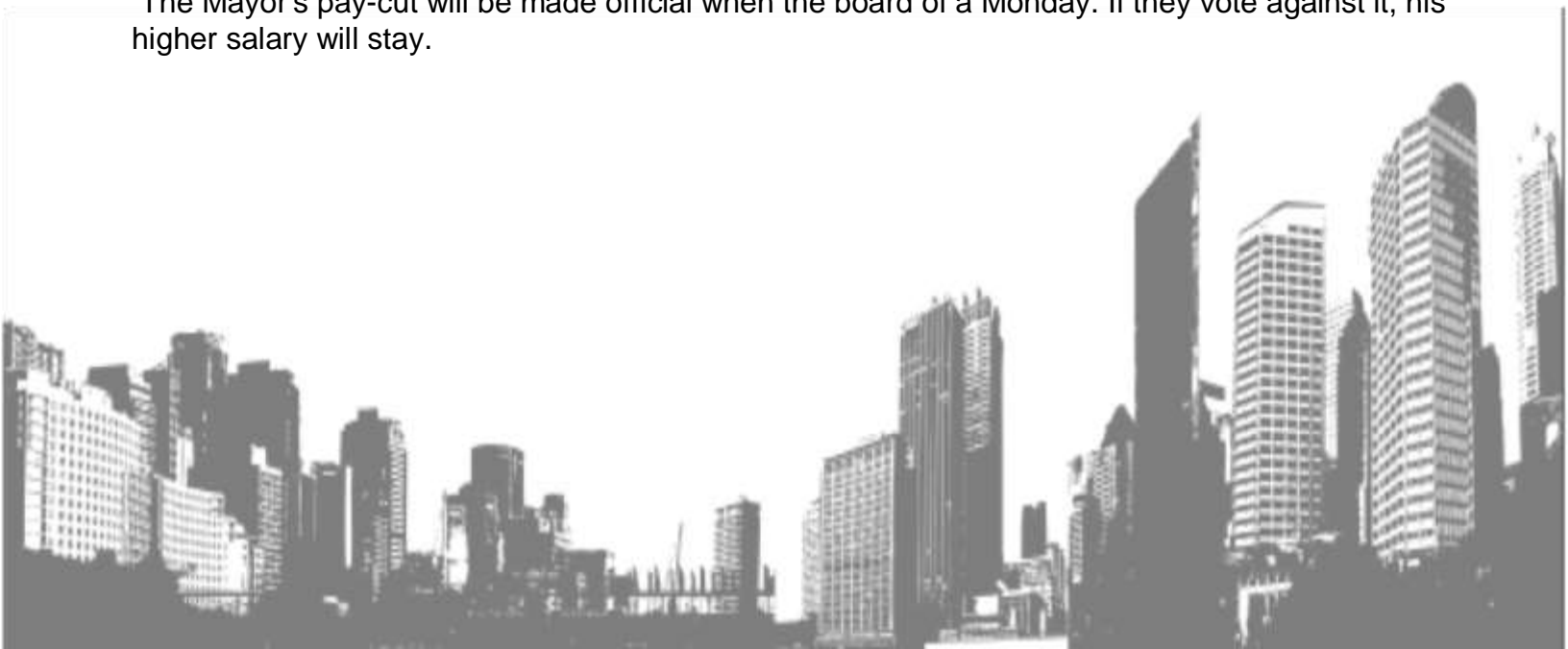
"A lot of my reasoning was when you look back at the salary of the former mayor. He was given a \$20,000 raise at one time," Washington said.

A lower salary is one of many promises Washington made during his campaign. The next? Cleaning abandoned properties in Delhi

"All of this will not happen overnight. It takes time, because I have to learn the things on the inside as well as some of the things on the outside. It's not going to happen as quick as a lot of people think it's going to happen, but we're going to work towards that goal," Washington said.

Cleaning abandoned property, and giving pay raises based on performance are two of the biggest bullet points on Washington's to-do list as Mayor. With an extra \$10,000 in the budget, Washington said it's a work in progress.

The Mayor's pay-cut will be made official when the board of a Monday. If they vote against it, his higher salary will stay.



2016 Gerald Williams

Distinguished
Speaker

Mayor,
White Castle,
Iberville Parish



Gerald Williams is Mayor of White Castle, the town, was carved out of the George Wailes Plantation "White Castle". The 1883 Charles H. Dickinson Survey of several parishes of Louisiana shows the "White Castle" Plantation property. Nearby is the plantation property of John H. Randolph called "Nottoway".

White Castle was established as a town at the beginning of the 1900s with the influx of people and business brought by the logging done in the Cyprus swamps in the area. When the Cyprus was depleted the main economic growth reverted back to the sugar cane industry that had been established during the 1800s. Individual plantation sugar mills gave way to larger mills servicing many plantations. By 1970 White Castle had three major sugar mills, Cora-Texas, Cedar Grove, and Catherine/Supples. Presently only one, Cora-Texas located just south of White Castle on LA 1, is still in service.

Plantations in the area are Nottoway, Belle Grove [1] (defunct), and Laurel Ridge among many more. People living in the unincorporated areas of Samstown, Lone Star, Bell Grove, Dorseyville Old Dorseyville School, and as far away as Bayou Goula helped support White Castle businesses. At one time there were three Car Dealerships, Dufour Chevrolet, White Castle Motor company(Ford) and Dixie Sales and Service(Chrysler/Plymouth), three drug stores, Heberts, Viallons, and Bajons, Weils and Shaheens clothing stores, and two lumber yards. Sammy's, Dominics, Tina's, Fortes and Landry's were used for grocery shopping. Big screen entertainment was provided by Castle Theater until 1959 when it was closed.

During the 1950s the Chemical industry entered the area congregating around the Mississippi river between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. This entry of this industry brought economic growth that took White Castle to the 1980s. Companies establishing chemical plants in the area near White Castle are Dow Chemical north of Plaquemine, Georgia-Pacific and Hercules north of White Castle, and Ciba-Gigey on the east side of the Mississippi.

Population trends has remained between 1900 to 2200 residents for the last 40 years within the city limits of White Castle. This is probably due to the stable boundaries. The surrounding unincorporated areas have seen an increase.

