



*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 PM – 8 PM

Welcome: Chairman Pierite  
Chancellor Pierre  
Dean Andrews  
TBTLA Council Members  
Congressman Steven Horsford- Nevada

**Monday, July 8, 2019**

7:30 – 4:00PM

Registration

8:30 – 9:30AM

Welcome Breakfast  
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 and comments

9:30 – 10:30AM

**Developments in Financial Services Affecting Rural Communities**

Moderator: Jerry Prejean-Iberia Bank

Panelist:

1. Marshall Pierite- TBTLA Chairman
2. Congressman Steven Horsford-Nevada
3. Will Campbell-VP of Commercial Services/Mortgage Retail-Essential Federal Credit Union

10:30 – 10:40AM

Break

10:40 – 11:40AM  
**Communities**

**5 G Expansion & Broadband Opportunities in Rural**

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 for the National Urban League

11:45 – 1:00PM

LUNCHEON

Speaker: Congressman Ralph Abraham- Soft Confirmation  
Introduced By:

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 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

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

4:45 – 5:45PM

Networking Reception – BDE  
Southern University  
SU Brass Band Ensemble  
Featuring SU System Institutions

6:00 – 8:00PM

Dinner – Mari Center  
Southern University – College of Business  
Speaker: Dr. Ralph Christy- Professor of Emerging Markets at  
Cornell University  
Introduced By: Dr. Cuman Gaines

**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

8:00 – 9:00AM

Breakfast

Speaker: Governor John Bel Edwards

9:00 – 10:00AM

**New Market Opportunities in Agriculture**

Moderator:

Panelists:

1. Tony Gobert-Lead Instructor Horticulture Department  
Gwinnett Technical College
2. Calvin Walker-Southern University Ag Center

3. Dwight Bertrand- McNeese State University
4. Lee Jones-Assistant State Director for USDA Rural Economic Development

10:00 – 10:15AM

Break

10:15-11:30AM

**Creating and Improving Economic and Business Relationships with Tribal Governments**

Moderator:

Panelists:

1. Heather Urena, Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning & Development District
2. Bailey Walker- Director of Tribal Relations-Tribal Diagnostics LLC and President-American Indian Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma
3. Earl Evans- Red Cedar Solutions, LLC (USET)
4. Marshall Pierite, Chairman-Tunica-Biloxi Tribe
5. Rick Ranson- Economic Development North-Cleco

11:45 – 1:00

LUNCHEON

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: Senator Donald Cravins, Sr.

Panelists:

1. Bill Rodier, 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

2:15-3:00PM Concluding Comments