



LET US DREAM

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THEME:

Community
**Interventions &
Improvements**

**CO-HOSTED
BY**



**Louisiana Tech University
Science & technology Education Center
305 Wisteria St, Ruston, LA 71272**

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2018

TIME: 1:00PM-5:00PM

COST: FREE (LIMITED SEATS)

(FREE REGISTRATION [CLICK HERE](#))

Let Us Dream Annual Conference

The Let Us Dream Conference was established to create a better networking and collaboration among volunteers, potential volunteers, philanthropists, and community organisations; thereby empowering them in their diverse community improvement programs.

The conference also introduces different community service possibilities and intervention models among younger and older generations to promote their volunteerism.

The conference is committed to bringing together the knowledge from both researchers and practitioners on the same platform to synergise their impact on community improvement initiatives.

Schedule

1:00 PM - Welcome and Introduction: Maribeth Holzer
Vice President
Let Us Dream, Inc.

1:10 PM - Official Opening of the Conference: Dr. Don Schillinger
Dean, School of Education
Louisiana Tech University

1:20 PM - Introduction to Keynote speaker: Dr. Pauline Leonard
Conference Committee Chair

1.30 PM - Keynote 1: Dr. Traci Aucoin
Director Lafayette Parish School
System GEAR UP Project

2.30 PM - Break and Poster Presentation/Table Visit

3.10 PM - Breakout Sessions/Panel Discussion (Room 1: Education; Room 2: Social Service; Room 3: Health)

4.00 PM – Introduction to Keynote speaker: Dr. Glenda Island
Grambling State University

4.10 PM - Keynote 2: Dr. Dennis Epps
Chancellor of Louisiana Delta College

4:50 PM - Conference Close: Dr. Dave N. Norris
Chief Innovation Officer
Louisiana Tech University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**TRACI
AUCOIN**

Dr. Traci O. Aucoin is currently the Lafayette Parish School System GEAR UP Project Director. She has worked in education for 30 years and has been a part of the GEAR UP initiative for 10 years. Through her work experience at University of Louisiana (UL), she has been able to develop and sustain strong community and postsecondary partnerships and bring valuable resources and expertise to the Lafayette Parish School System GEAR UP initiative. She was selected as a Louisiana Educator Voice Fellow for 21st Century Learning for the state of Louisiana.



**W.
DENNIS
EPPS**

Dr. W. Dennis Epps has been serving as Chancellor of Louisiana Delta College. Prior to serving as Chancellor, he served as Senior Vice-President for Workforce Development with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. In this capacity, he worked with employers across the state of Louisiana and was a principle partner in the founding of the Certified Workforce Developer (CWD) program for the state of Louisiana. Mr. Epps is committed to making opportunities for growth and development available to all citizens. He is a dedicated Servant Leader and is now happy to be living and serving in North Louisiana.

SOCIAL PANNEL



**PAMELA
HIGGINS
SAULSBERRY**

Dr. Pamela Higgins is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-BACS, and holds certifications as a School Social Worker, a Nurturing and Black Effective Parent trainer. She also holds memberships in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Presently she is the Director of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. She also serves as the Program Coordinator/Full Professor in the Social Work at the University of Louisiana @ Monroe. There she serves on the Diversity Committee as the Chairperson.



**ELLA
NIMMERS**

Ella Nimmers is the Executive Director for Christopher Youth Center, formerly known as Our House, Inc. Mrs. Nimmers began her professional career at CYC as the shelter director in 1996. She later worked for Louisiana Youth Challenge where she was the lead counselor for six years. She accepted the Executive Directorship in January 2009 and represents Christopher Youth Center on several community boards including the North Delta Commission on Law Enforcement Planning Board, the Fourth Judicial District Commission Youth Services Planning Board and the Northeast Louisiana HOME Coalition, the local continuum of care.

SOCIAL PANNEL



**LYNN
CLARK**

Lynn Clark, PhD is the Executive Director of the Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana. She brings to the position over 35 years experience as a PK-16 educator and a passion for providing educational experiences to children and youth both in and outside of the classroom. The Children's Coalition currently serves the 11 parishes in Region 9 and surrounding parishes with services addressing the developmental, social, and emotional needs of children ages 0-18 through early care and education, health care, parenting education, and youth development.



**KENDRICK
JONES**

A recent graduate from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Kendrick is a 23-year-old Lake Charles, LA native that loves all things creative. Founder of The Dreamer Collective, Kendrick seeks to share the stories of dreamers everywhere and inspire the world to awaken passion and pursue purpose by means of curating creative content and spaces for creatives to thrive.

SOCIAL PANNEL



**AMY
CLARK**

Amy Clark is the Community Resource Coordinator at Ascent Health. She also volunteers for the non-profit Junior League of Monroe. Her passion is to see our community be a better place, not only for her husband and child, but for future generations. She feels blessed to be a part of organizations that continue to inspire her, believe in that passion, and actively give back to our community.



**PETER &
VERONIQUE
ROBINS
BROWN**

Peter and Veronique are a married couple living in New Orleans, Louisiana, and are the co-founders and co-directors of Food Samaritan, a non-profit food donation program. Food Samaritan is still in its infancy, but its mission is to collect leftover food from restaurants, hotels, and other food service venues, and deliver it to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and community support organizations in New Orleans.

EDUCATION PANNEL



**DAWN
BASINGER**

In her 20+ years with Louisiana Tech University, Dr. Dawn Basinger has served in a variety of capacities including as PK-16 Coordinator, Director of Alternative Certification, Director of Unit Assessment, and Director of Certification and Professional Experience. Dr. Basinger has served in her current role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs since September 2015.



**DEBORAH
HOLLIMON**

Dr. Hollimon's last full-time position was as Reading and Study Skills Program Director at the USAFA Preparatory School in Colorado Springs from 2011-2016. Currently, she is working part-time through grant to develop a Student Success Course for the Ruston campus of Delta Community College.



**ROHINI
GEORGE**

Ms. Rohini is working with the Centre for Social Action (CSA), Christ University. CSA is a centre for promoting volunteerism and enabling students to develop as socially responsible citizens through developmental initiatives. Ms. Rohini's work area includes training dropout youths for the enhancement of employability skills as well as working on environmental issues such as the decentralized solid waste management project.

EDUCATION PANNEL



**TAMMY
SCHILLING**

Dr. Schilling was previously an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Physical Education Teacher Education program in the Department of Kinesiology at Louisiana Tech University. She has also worked in community youth development programs for over 15 years. At Louisiana Tech, she directed summer programs and coordinated leadership development for Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).



**LIJO
THOMAS**

Dr. Fr. Lijo Thomas, a catholic priest from India, previously served as the pastor of St Joseph Church in Bastrop, Louisiana and also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Louisiana, Monroe. He is the founder and president of an international non-profit organization, established to empower youth and young adults named Let Us Dream, Inc, and later in 2017 he started Let us Dream Annual Conference to promote volunteerism and human capital based social changes in local communities. Now he serves as the Director of Student Welfare Office and assistant professor at CHRIST University, Bangalore, India.

HEALTH PANNEL



**KACIE
HOBSON**

Kacie has been with Med Camps for 8 years; serving in different roles such as Camp Counselor, Volunteer & Events Coordinator, and an Administrative Assistant. Kacie now serves as an American Camp Association certified Camp Director. Kacie also serves as the Youth League Director for the Dixie Diehards baseball league for those living with special needs.



**LORA
PEPPERS**

Lora Peppers is a native of Monroe. She worked at the Main Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library for 23 years. In her current position, she serves as a Genealogy Associate. She has volunteered for Camp Quality for the past 24 years, and also serves on the camp COC.



**SOVICHAN
E SCARIA**

Sovichan E Scaria is from Kerala, India. He is one of the Board of directors of Golden Pond Spiritual Center. Since 2003 he has been serving as the Carmelites of Mary immaculate priest of the ULM Catholic Campus Ministry and St. Lawrence Church in Swartz, LA. He has MFT master's from ULM and now he a research student of Marriage and Family Therapy of ULM, Monroe.

HEALTH PANNEL



**MICHELLE
DAVISON**

Michelle Davison is the Executive Director for the American Red Cross of North Louisiana. She has been with the Red Cross for over 21 years. Ms. Davison loves her job, which involves mostly working with the Boards of Directors in Shreveport, Alexandria and Monroe and fund-raising, but with a fair amount of disaster work and services to the Armed Force thrown in. Ms. Davison is also an instructor in CPR and First Aid. And she is the handler for the founding member of the American Red Cross Pet Therapy Visitation Team.



**ALICE M.
PROPHIT**

President/CEO Living Well Foundation
The Foundation manages the monies from the sale of Glenwood Regional Medical Center since 2006. All monies are invested and grants/initiatives are provided to area agencies, state universities and hospitals, and other qualifying entities for healthcare related projects for the 8-parish service area.

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