



Empowering Communities



# LET US DREAM

## TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

November 3 - November 5, 2023

CHRIST UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE, INDIA



**EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES:  
STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

### PARTNERING UNIVERSITIES



**BINGHAMTON**  
UNIVERSITY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**katho**  
Katholische Hochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Catholic University of Applied Sciences

Register Here for Free: <https://letusdream.org/triennial-conference-2023>

Website: [www.letusdream.org](http://www.letusdream.org)



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Let Us Dream



Let Us Dream

# ABOUT US

The Let Us Dream Conference provides a platform to share, learn, and celebrate people and social service groups dedicated to uplift the society. Since its inception in 2017 at Louisiana Tech University, the annual conferences have provided opportunities to engage in active conversations grounded in community-improvement-based research, experience, and best practices. The conferences are organized by groups of volunteers and hosted in institutions across the world.

The Conference is a forum for initiating a spectrum of service possibilities and intervention models to promote and support engagement in volunteerism across generations. It was established to effectively network and collaborate with volunteers, philanthropists, and community organizations, thereby empowering them in diverse community-improvement programs.

It opens opportunities for students, researchers, along with practitioners to share from their knowledge and experiences. This synergizes the effort and impact towards community improvement. Volunteers from local communities participating in the conference can engage in fruitful dialogues with visionaries to strengthen their existing initiatives.



# HISTORY

The Let Us Dream Conference was launched in 2017 at Louisiana Tech University. The first annual conference provided a forum to share experiences, activities, challenges, and achievements to recognize the pressing need for community improvement.

Featuring prominent keynote speakers and three panel discussions pertaining to Education, Health, and Social Service, the conference resonated with immense success among its 200 participants.

Over the years, the Conference sites have expanded to three additional localities and evolved to include annual locally-hosted events and an international one.

This year marks the second Let Us Dream Triennial International 2023 Conference. The focus is to foster networking and community-improvement collaboration within specific communities. This year's international conference will provide a transnational forum for global networking and collaboration.

It offers an opportunity to explore and share many, varied community-service possibilities and intervention models, as well as volunteer opportunities for both, younger and older generations.

The primary intent is to create an inclusive, diverse, cross-cultural environment for sharing and growth all of this executed through community improvement initiatives among scholars, practitioners, and volunteers of all ages.

## VISION



Empowering local communities for sustainable global impact and improvement.

## MISSION



1. Promote community intervention research and learning.
2. Share experiences of community organizations.
3. Engage compassionate individuals in community empowerment.



## WHY PARTICIPATE?

The Let Us Dream Conference is presented to:

- Empower people of diverse age groups and backgrounds working in a myriad of community improvement programs aiming at a better tomorrow.
- Non-profit organizations, philanthropists, board members, social workers, educators, and educational administrators interested in community collaborative initiatives.
- Post-secondary student leaders, instructors, and professors who can promote community service and learning among students by introducing diverse community improvement interventions.
- Business owners involved in voluntary community development projects and retirees willing to share expertise and time for the betterment of the community.

## HOW CAN IT IMPACT YOU?

Your contribution to the community matters, and this Conference provides:

- An invitation to share, learn, support and celebrate the diversity of our selfless acts and initiatives around us.
- A forum for sharing experiences, including the success and challenges in community improvement organizations and efforts.
- Inviting individuals with bigger hearts and deeper thoughts for society and its progress.



## UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITIONS

- Globally located but locally established bridging researchers and practitioners.
- Promoting solution-focused culture by introducing diverse and creative solutions.
- Believing the vision of global inclusion, global citizenship and one world.
- Targeting volunteers and promoting volunteerism.
- Developing partnerships and opportunities for collaboration, both locally and globally.
- Free of cost.

# THEME

## EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES:

### STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The LUD Conferences carry a vision of Empowered Communities actualised by people coming together to share transformative stories of social intervention. These individuals have a shared commitment of establishing a sustainable community life and network of resources. Building a sustainable future means adopting responsible practices encompassing social, educational, health, environmental, and economic development. The process of creating a sustainable future entails transitioning from aspirations to actions. This iterative process involves establishing connections, collaborating and forming partnerships with various stakeholders, engaging and empowering one another, and fostering cooperation. Throughout this journey, we gain inspiration by sharing best practices, working together, and implementing initiatives that contribute to the overarching goal of empowering communities.

The ultimate objective is to empower all sectors of society, which necessitates involving a broad ecosystem comprising NGOs, educational institutions, corporations, volunteers, and civil societies. Each entity plays a crucial role in this transformative process. The process of creating a sustainable future entails transitioning from aspirations to actions. The Let Us Dream Conference aims to share authentic stories, inspire one another, foster collaboration, and discover ways to improve lives and our world. This transcends our lifestyles and requires us to establish and strengthen connections while working collectively to create a better world for ourselves and future generations. Embracing a sustainable future involves modifying our approach and actively engaging in broader issues that contribute to a more desirable world.

Throughout this journey, we gain inspiration by sharing best practices, working together, and implementing initiatives that contribute to the overarching goal of empowering communities. It involves us creating and strengthening associations and working together to create a better world for ourselves and future generations. Creating a sustainable future involves changing the way we live. It also requires our participation and involvement in more significant issues that will help the world to be a better place.

# EDUCATION

CHAIR



**Mr. Jimmy Cherian**  
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# HEALTH

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CO-CHAIR



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# SOCIAL

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# OPERATIONS

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| CO-CHAIR



**Mr. David S R**

Founder, E-Cure Charitable Trust,  
Bangalore, India  
david@e-cure.org

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SI No	Time	Particulars
1	10:00 - 10:30 AM	Introduction & Welcome, Opening Address
2	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Keynote Speaker
3	11:15 - 11:30 AM	Break
4	11:30 - 12:30 PM	Panel Discussion
5	12:30 - 01:30 PM	Lunch, Stall Visit
6	01:30 - 03:00 PM	Audience Engagement, Immersive Learning
7	03:00 - 3:30 PM	Break, Stall Visit
8	03:30 - 04:00 PM	Changemakers
9	04:00 - 04:20 PM	LUD Expressions
10	04:20 - 04:30 PM	Closing Note
11	04:30 - 05:00 PM	Networking, Stall Visit
12	05:00 - 06:00 PM	Cultural Events

## CONFERENCE CORE COMMITTEE

Dr. Susanne Mayo -Theo Louisiana, USA	Fr. Joseph Jayraj Chennai, India	Mr. Micky Joseph Chennai, India
Mr. Arun Fernandez Chennai, India	Dr. Phinu Jose Bangalore, India	Mr. David Selvaraj Bangalore, India
Mr. Jimmy Mannal Trivandram, India	Mr. Godvin V P Trivandram, India	Mr. Rahul R L Trivandram, India
Rev Dr Joji Reddy SJ Hyderabad, India	Ms. Lisa Elam Louisiana, USA	Dr. Lindsey Vincent Louisiana, USA
Dr. Laura Bronstein New York, USA	Mr. Michael Kuffmann New York, USA	Ms. Debbie Collett O'Brien New York, USA
Rev Dr Lijo Thomas Director & Dean, CHRIST University, Lavasa, Pune	Dr. Pauline Leonard, Co-Director, Let Us Dream	

# HOST UNIVERSITIES



## CHRIST UNIVERSITY

CHRIST University was born out of the educational vision of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, an educationist and social reformer of the nineteenth century in South India. Established in 1969, as Christ College, it undertook ground breaking initiatives in Indian higher education with the introduction of innovative and modern curricula, insistence on academic discipline and imparting of holistics. The multi-disciplinary University focuses on teaching research and offers services for Bachelors to Doctoral programmes across humanities, social sciences, science, commerce, management, engineering, education, and law to over 21,000 students.



## BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Binghamton University is a well-known research institution that boasts one of the fastest-growing research programs in New York State. Our aim is to provide a 21st-century college education that combines academic excellence with innovative research, scholarship, and educational value. Our community comprises over 14,400 undergraduate students and 3,900 graduate students, who are encouraged to explore and learn about art and culture, science and engineering, people, families, communities, and nations. At Binghamton University, we offer a unique educational experience that integrates all aspects of college life with cultural and intellectual exchange, enriching the lives of our students both during their time here and beyond. We also encourage our students to serve the community, as we have a significant economic impact on the region and the state. Our goal is to help our students succeed and make a positive impact in the world as they transition to the next stage of their lives. Furthermore, Binghamton University remains dedicated to the mission of Let Us Dream through the College of Community and Public Affairs, which has been hosting the annual Binghamton Let Us Dream conference since 2019.



## LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Louisiana Tech University is a renowned educational institution located in Ruston, Louisiana. Founded in 1894, it has a rich history of academic excellence and is recognized for its commitment to providing an unparalleled educational experience. The University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across various disciplines, including engineering, business, liberal arts, education, and agriculture. With a vibrant campus spread over 2,000 acres, Louisiana Tech provides a conducive environment for learning, collaboration, and personal growth.



## KATHO UNIVERSITY

The Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia (KatHo - NRW) focuses on quality education, practical training, applied research and knowledge transfer while seeking to instill critical thinking skills, explore academic positions and discover self-reflective horizons in its students. The University was founded in 1971 by the five Catholic dioceses of North Rhine-Westphalia. Apart from their traditional academic undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in social services, health science and practical theology, they also pursue research projects in each of their disciplines and maintain their own research institutes.



## GRAMBLING UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1901 as the Colored Industrial and Agricultural School, Grambling State University serves more than 5,000 students representing 37 states and 27 countries. Grambling State University is a comprehensive, historically-black, public institution that offers a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Through its undergraduate major courses of study and professional focus, undergirded by a traditional liberal arts program, the University embraces its founding principle of educational opportunity. Grambling fosters a commitment to service and to the improvement in the quality of life for all persons.

# TESTIMONIALS

## DR. SUZANNE MYNETTE MAYO

FCS Lecture, Grambling State University



The Let Us Dream Conference has been one of the most inspiring experiences for the students I teach at Grambling State University (GSU) and for me since 2017. My most memorable single moment was in 2020, when the Student Panel was highlighted with student's comments and reflections on giving back to their communities and others in need. This panel awakened my inner core of what teaching and learning is all about and I continue to keep this spark today and into the future with this conference. For the many persons who are Unsung Heroes, I salute Fr. Lijo and The Let Us Dream Conference to master in featuring everyday great ones to give in the areas of health, education and social justice for all. I remain a LUD advocate and look forward to 2023 in India.

## DR. PHINU MARY JOSE

Assistant Professor, Christ University



The LUD Conference 2020 held completely online from 20 November to 22 November was indeed a life-changing experience for me. LUD opened the screens into the lives of people who joined us from South Africa to Australia to New York to Zurich to Kerala and Bangalore, breaking barriers and building bridges across the boundaries defined by geography with only one philosophy - to make this world a better place! LUD Triennial Conference 2020 became the beacon of hope for all of us involved, so much so that we continued with the same spirit in organizing the Annual Conference in 2021 and Local Conference in 2022 with the same zeal and enthusiasm. The success of these three years is not defined by the 40,000+ registrations or views online but by the leaders nurtured through volunteerism and lives touched that make ordinary days seem extraordinarily blessed

## DEBBIE COLLETT-O'BRIEN

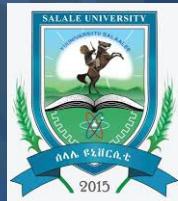
Let Us Dream Liason - Binghamton University



I have had the privilege of coordinating the Let Us Dream Conference at Binghamton University since 2019. Through this experience, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that this organization has had globally. The conference brings together practitioners, learners, and community members to sharpen their skills in a variety of disciplines, while also promoting community, empathy, and collaboration across borders. It is an honor to participate in this conference as it provides a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. I have had the pleasure of working with Fr. Lijo Thomas, Dr. Pauline Leonard, and Anita Eipe, and am continually inspired by their hard work and dedication to positive change. I am proud to be a part of this partnership between Binghamton University and Let Us Dream and am excited to see the positive impact that it will have on our local community in the future.

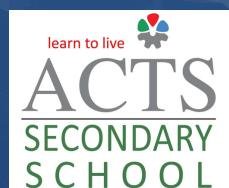
# PARTNERS

## Colleges and Universities:



L-Università  
ta' Malta

## Organisations:



and . . . . .

# CONTACT US



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## HOW TO REACH CHRIST UNIVERSITY

- Located approximately 10 km from Central (Majestic) Railway Station and Kempegowda Bus Stand.
- Well-connected to the public transport system- 1.5 hours by BIAS-7 of Vayu Vajra Volvo Bus Service from the airport to get down at CHRIST University bus stop. The A/C bus service shuttle from the airport will depart every 30 mins.
- Sites to explore- Vidhana Soudha, Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Bangalore Palace, Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Indian Music Experience, etc.

Find us on Google Maps

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