



Gulf Research Alliance Labeled Top Priority

A commitment to making regional collaborations a priority at research universities in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi has been made by the top research administrators at those institutions.

The vice presidents/chancellors of research or their designees signed on to the agreement at their follow-up meeting to the August 2007 Gulf Coast Forum, "Gulf States Alliance: Network Science and Recovery." The meeting was held January 15, 2008 at Mississippi State University.

"It was acknowledged at the Forum that the vice presidents of research (VPRs) are probably in the best position to influence our states and institutions to pursue strengths that could lead towards enhanced research and economic competitiveness across the Gulf States.

"At the conclusion of the Forum they agreed to convene in January to follow-up on key recommendations," explains Dr. Les Guice, 2007 Forum Chair and Louisiana Tech University's Vice President for Research and Development.

The VPRs, who also committed to considering incentives to make multi-state collaborations a priority with their faculty, passed the following additional six action items:

- To develop a list of key contacts at their respective universities who can serve as points of contact for faculty seeking collaborators;
- To pursue the consideration of major infrastructure to support regional collaborations;
- To encourage interinstitutional appointments on Master of Science and Ph.D. advisory committees;
- To provide institutional funding parameters for multi-state proposals;
- To submit potential proposal ideas from each institution for multi-state proposals and to encourage the selection of competitive teams from the region (collaborators outside of the region would not be discouraged);
- To host video conferences as necessary, between institutions expressing an interest in pursuing a particular major

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Louisiana's Cyber Future Looking Up

Securing Louisiana's \$50 million pledge to the Cyber Innovation Center will be Governor Jindal's priority during the March 2008 special session to spend the State's surplus. He committed that the first \$50 million of that surplus will be spent for the Cyber Command. Bossier City and Bossier Parish have already committed \$50 million to the project.

Pointing out that landing the new Command could have the same type of 'transformative' impact on other high-tech military commands that have located in other areas such as Huntsville, AL and Colorado Springs, CO, he said. "We're not going to let this opportunity slip through our hands."

The groundbreaking marked the start of construction of the Cyber Innovation Center, the anchor of what is now being called the National Cyber Research Park, which will house the civilian staff, contractors and research companies needed to supplement the Air Force Cyber Command.

Corporations ranging from Northrop-Grumman and General Dynamics as well as the regional utility, AEP-Swepco, either have some operation at the new Center or have signed on as supporters.

The Research Park will be able to tie into Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI), the State's high-speed research network, making it possible for university researchers across the state and nation to tap into work being done at the Park.

Although a number of states are competing for the Cyber Command, Barksdale is considered the front-runner for its permanent location. According to U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, the fact that the Air Force

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Officials at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Cyber Innovation Center that will tie into the Cyber Command provisionally housed at Barksdale Air Force Base. (Photo by Neil Johnson.)

Gulf States Alliance University Contacts

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proposal concept, e.g. NSF Integrative
Graduate Education and Research Train-
eeship (IGERT), NSF Major Research
Instrumentation Program (MRI), Part-
nerships for Innovation Program (PFI).

The VPRs also heard a report from Dr.
Guice on the new U.S. Air Force Cyber
Command, now “provisionally” placed at
Barksdale Air Force Base. More informa-
tion on the Cyber Command’s permanent
home is expected in February or March.

“I expect there to be opportunities for
academia to collaborate with industries
and the Air Force through the Cyber
Innovation Center and the National Cyber
Research Park, which will serve as an
incubator for the private contractors and
public researchers needed to support the

Research Visitation Funding Available

Louisiana EPSCoR has released an
RFP for Links with Industry, Research
Centers & National Labs (LINK), a
program that funds visits of two to 12
weeks to an industrial facility, research
center, or national laboratory by tenured
and tenure-track faculty, post-doctoral
researchers, graduate students and, for
the first time, undergraduates.

Specific information and requisites are
available at www.laregents.org. Pro-
posals may be submitted any time until
June 30, 2010.

Cyber Command,” added Dr. Guice, who
also chairs the Louisiana EPSCoR Com-
mittee.

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gave the Bossier City area the provisional
command bodes well for its designation as
the permanent command.

Eighth Air Force Commander Lt. Gen-
eral Robert Elder also pointed out to the
Shreveport Times that “even without for-
mally having the established Cyber Com-
mand, Barksdale already has the bulk of
the work and the assets that will become
Cyber Command. People don’t recognize
that cyber operations command is already
here.”

Construction on the first building of the
research park is expected to be completed
by October 2009. The entire first phase
of the park includes 500,000 square feet
of office space on 64 acres located next to
Bossier Parish Community College.

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