



Post-Katrina/Rita Research & Education Forum Scheduled

The first in a series of Post-Katrina/Rita research and educational leadership forums will be held April 2-4, 2006 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. Titled "Science Recovery and Discovery: The Role of Higher Education in Securing a Sustainable Future," the forum will focus on the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the Louisiana coast.

The forum will host national experts who will interact with Louisiana and Gulf Coast university faculty, staff and students, as well as community and private sector representatives, to help establish and define the role of the State's research and education communities in Louisiana's immediate and long-term recovery efforts.

Sponsored by the Board of Regents and its Louisiana EPSCoR program, the forum will complement the Regents' recently approved Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative that dedicates \$5 million per year for five years to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the Louisiana Coast. (*See accompanying article.*)

The impetus for the event has been the recognition that Louisiana's education and research communities are poised to demonstrate systematic, coherent and high-profile leadership in addressing the impact of the storms," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie.

The goals the Board of Regents has articulated for the forums are: 1) to provide continuing advice regarding Louisiana's pace-

April 2-4, 2006

Save the Dates



New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street

**Science Recovery and
Discovery: The Role of Higher
Education in Securing a
Sustainable Future**



Hotel registration deadline: March 3, 2006

Board of Regents Post-Katrina/Rita Research and Education Forum

Forum Registration is free, but required. Deadline for pre-registration is March 15, 2006. For more information and to register, please visit: www.laregents.org/forum2006/

setting scientific research relevant to the State's economic recovery and advancement; 2) to help maintain and elevate the trajectory of research and education in the State; and 3) to extend hope and opportunity to current and future Louisiana faculty and students.

"The 2006 forum, combined with others to follow, will have two interdependent thrusts: recovery and advancement of the sciences
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Regents Allocates \$25 Million to Post-Katrina Initiative

A program allocating approximately \$25 million to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the Louisiana Coast has been established by the Board of Regents. The five-year Post-Katrina Initiative will be funded with annual appropriations of about \$5 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), beginning 2006-07.

"While Support Fund dollars will still be spent for traditional purposes, the Board will undertake new and redefined priorities that have emerged post-Katrina," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie in making the announcement. "Because the funding will significantly increase the potential for leveraging Support Fund monies to attain federal and private funding, we anticipate that the total resources available through this initiative will actually be significantly more than the annual \$5 million allocation."

The BoRSF funding sources for the Post-Katrina Initiative are: 1) monies unspent in the 2005-06 fiscal year competitions; 2) budget adjustments to existing programs over the Initiative's five-year existence; and 3) revised overall Support Fund budget projections, said Dr. Savoie.

"Long-range implications of Katrina/Rita for all Support Fund programs are unfolding," observed Dr. Kerry Davidson, Board of

Regents Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs. "We are absorbing information relative to changes in proposal pressure along with evolving research and educational opportunities. Though it is undoubtedly essential to redirect resources, meaningfully defining the Post-Katrina Initiative in an atmosphere which continues to be filled with uncertainty, reevaluation, and redefinition is a challenge that we will have to face and overcome."

Noting that the cross-program breadth of the Post-Katrina Initiative is "unique in both its conceptualization and administration," Dr. Davidson said that all awards will still be made on a competitive basis, with proposals subject to peer review by out-of-state consultants.

"The staff is already considering priorities for the Post-Katrina Initiative by comparing 2006 proposal submissions with past patterns, and drawing insights from the ongoing rich and wide-ranging discussion of post-Katrina/Rita research and education priorities, occurring both statewide and nationally," said Dr. Davidson. "To further refine directions for the Initiative, discussions will be held with members of the Support Fund Planning Committee over the next few months and recommendations will be presented to the Regents by the summer of 2006."

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and humanities in Louisiana, and fostering ideas in the sciences and humanities which are relevant to recovery and advancement,” said Dr. Kerry Davidson, Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, who is coordinating forum preparations for the Regents.

“This forum will highlight ways to integrate science and engineering ideas related to rebuilding the environmental, social, health and business landscapes of New Orleans and the Louisiana coast,” said Dr. Robert Twilley, Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU) professor in oceanography and coastal science, who chairs the Forum Planning Committee.

According to Dr. Davidson, the second forum, which will be held in 2007, will address research and educational advancement. He added that a final agenda for the April 2-4 Forum, which is based on input from university researchers and administrators throughout the State, will be forthcoming.

Members of the 2006 Forum Planning Committee include the following: Dr. Robert Twilley, Chair, LSU; Dr. John Clements, Co-Chair, Tulane University Health Sciences Center (TUHSC); Dr. Shirley Laska, Co-Chair, University of New Orleans; Dr. JoDale Ales, Louisiana Community and Technical College System; Dr. Rex Caffey, LSU Agricultural Center;

Dr. Patrick Carriere, Southern University and A&M College; Dr. Gene D’Amour, Xavier University of Louisiana; Dr. Maureen Lichtveld, TUHSC, Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeher, LSU Health Sciences Center; Dr. Ray Sterling, Louisiana Tech University; Dr. Robert Thomas, Loyola University New Orleans; Dr. Mark Zappi, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Ms. Connie Fabre, Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance, Inc.; Dr. Michael Khonsari, Board of Regents and EPSCoR Project Director, and Dr. Davidson.

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He added that themes guiding proposal submission will be determined in part by the Post-Katrina forums hosted in New Orleans by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana EPSCoR program in 2006 and 2007. The Forums’ Planning Committee will discuss the design of a request for proposals (RFP), topics for proposal submission, discipline eligibility, and the program’s interfaces with the BoRSF’s constitutionally mandated objectives. (To review Board of Regents Support Fund programs, go to <http://laregents.org/www2/index.htm>)

New EPSCoR Committee Member Appointed

Dr. Laura S. Levy, Associate Senior Vice President for Research at Tulane University, has been appointed to the Board of Regents EPSCoR Committee. She succeeds Dr. Nicholas J. Altiero as the Tulane representative.

Dr. Levy earned her Ph.D. degree in developmental and cell biology at the University of California and completed her postdoctoral training in molecular virology at the Louisiana State University Medical Center. She joined the Tulane School of Medicine in 1984 where she presently serves as professor of microbiology and immunology.

Katrina Focus of Sixth Materials & Emerging Technologies Conference

“Katrina-Challenges and Opportunities” was the focus of the sixth in a series of annual conferences of materials and emerging technologies. Hosted by the Louisiana Tech University Institute for Micromanufacturing and sponsored by the Board of Regents and Louisiana EPSCoR, the conference was held December 12-13.

Dr. Michael Khonsari, Louisiana EPSCoR Project Director, gave the opening presentation on the impacts of the hurricanes and related BoR/EPSCoR initiatives. Other invited speakers hailed from Johns Hopkins University, the National Science Foundation, Sandia National Laboratories, and the University of New Orleans.

The clean-up activities surrounding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina brought to light several challenges in the effective monitoring, detection and treatment of waterborne pathogens and contaminants, according to Dr. Blake Simmons, a principal member of the technical staff of the Sandia National Laboratories Nanoscale Science and Technology Department.

He described the synthesis and utilization of metallic nanoparticles with unique surface characteristics that are useful in SERS platforms. SERS is a powerful technique that holds great promise in the realization of highly sensitive, nanoscale, and fully remote sensing devices. He also described the development of a microfluidic device that has proven effective in trapping and concentrating bacterial cells, spores and viruses.



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