

**REPORT TO THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**REVIEW OF PROPOSED ENDOWED CHAIRS  
FOR EMINENT SCHOLARS**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND  
FISCAL YEAR 2022-23**

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## **Report of the Review Panel for the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program**

### **FY 2022-23 Competition for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds**

The three-member Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program external review panel received and reviewed the following documents:

- a. The current Board of Regents Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program Policy (revised June 2020);
- b. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals to the Competitive and Restricted Bequests Endowed Chairs Subprograms for fiscal year (FY) 2022-23; and
- c. Thirteen (13) proposals for Chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram under the FY 2022-23 Request for Proposals.

On February 28, 2023, the panel met by videoconference to discuss, rate, and rank the thirteen (13) proposals submitted in the Competitive Subprogram and develop funding recommendations. Based on the submitted proposals, prospective chairs were rated according to evaluation criteria defined in the RFP, including: (1) alignment with role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities (30 points); contribution to academic training in priority areas (25 points); potential to contribute to economic development in Louisiana (20 points); long-term campus investment and appropriateness of the chair (15 points); and appropriateness of available resources (10 points).

The burden of proof was on each submitting institution to demonstrate the manner and extent to which the proposal satisfactorily addressed these criteria.

**Attachment A** contains the rank-order prioritization and scores of the thirteen (13) proposed Endowed Chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram resulting from the rating of each proposal according to evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. **Attachment B** contains a summary evaluation of each chair proposed in FY 2022-23.

Following are comments about the proposal submission and review process and suggestions for maximizing the impact of the Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Chairs Program:

1. The external review panel members strongly affirm that the Endowed Chairs Program continues to effectively coordinate public and non-State resources for the purpose of improving the quality of higher education and its role in advancing Louisiana's economy, society, and culture. The overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Program, which is important as monies available for matching are limited. The review panel urges that every effort be made to provide additional resources to fund, in rank order according to merit, as many of this year's excellent proposals as possible, to help attract high-caliber scholars who are the hallmark of a superior higher education system.

2. The panel reminds applicants that for Endowed Chairs to be truly transformational in priority academic areas the campus must provide sufficient resources separate from the endowment to support not just recruitment, but retention of superior scholars. This must include a salary line sufficient to draw a senior, tenured faculty member with an outstanding record of scholarly/educational/professional accomplishments, as well as access to appropriate facilities, colleagues, and resources to pursue professional work at the level of quality and impact that led to the chairholder's selection.

The careful coordination of the review process provided by the Board's Research and Sponsored Initiatives staff is acknowledged and appreciated. Further, the review panel commends the Regents for its insistence on the independence of the external review process.

## ATTACHMENT A

### BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program - Proposal Scoring and Funding Recommendations

**FY 2022-23**

Rank	Proposal #	Chair Title	Institution Name	BoRSF Match Requested	Alignment with Role, Scope, Mission, & Strategic Priorities (30 points)	Contribution to Academics/ Training in Priority Areas (25 points)	Potential to Contribute to Economic Development in LA (25 points)	Long-term Campus Investment & Appropriateness of Chair (15 points)	Appropriateness of Available Resources (10 points)	Total Score (100 points)	BoRSF Match Recommended
1	009EC-23	Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging	Tulane University Health Sciences Center	\$800,000	29	24	19	14	10	<b>96</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
2	004EC-23	Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery Resubmission 2023	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	28	24	18	14	9	<b>93</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
3	002EC-23	Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology	Louisiana State University and A&M College	\$800,000	28	23	17	14	9	<b>91</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
4	003EC-23	Alexandria Business Foundation Endowed Chair in Accounting	Louisiana State University of Alexandria	\$400,000	27	22	17	13	8	<b>87</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
4	010EC-23	Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	\$400,000	26	21	18	14	8	<b>87</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
6	008EC-23	Nicholas K. Akins Eminent Scholar Chair in Engineering	Louisiana Tech University	\$400,000	26	22	17	13	8	<b>86</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
7	006EC-23	Joseph M. Nadell, MD Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	26	23	16	12	8	<b>85</b>	
8	011EC-23	Valery, Ruby, & George Coco/BORSF Endowed Chair in Education for Educational Innovation, Research, & Policy	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	\$400,000	27	22	15	13	7	<b>84</b>	
8	005EC-23	Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Chair 2023	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	27	22	16	11	8	<b>84</b>	

10	013EC-23	ULM Endowed Chair in Agribusiness	University of Louisiana at Monroe	\$400,000	26	22	16	12	7	<b>83</b>	
10	012EC-23	The Kim Sledge Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance	University of Louisiana at Monroe	\$400,000	26	22	16	12	7	<b>83</b>	
10	007EC-23	Kelsey Bradley Favrot Family Chair in Pediatric Neuro-oncology	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	26	22	15	12	8	<b>83</b>	
13	001EC-23	Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy	Louisiana State University and A&M College	\$800,000	26	22	13	12	8	<b>81</b>	

## ATTACHMENT B

### **Ranked #1: Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging – Tulane University Health Sciences Center (009EC-23)**

In 2022, Tulane University Health Sciences Center requested \$1.2 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund to augment committed donor support to establish the Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging. The panel recommended funding the first installment of the \$400,000 match and encouraged Tulane to seek remaining matching in future funding cycles. In FY 2022-23, TUHSC is seeking an \$800,000 investment from the Board of Regents Support Fund for the full unmatched portion toward a \$5 million Presidential Chair in Aging.

TUHSC will award the Lerner Presidential Chair to a renowned scholar, investigator, and mentor who has made exceptional achievements in the interdisciplinary study of aging and whose career clearly demonstrates adherence to the highest professional standards, which include attainment of national and/or international distinction for having made unique and significant impacts on their field through outstanding research, creative scholarly achievement, teaching, and/or service. The recruited scholar will be welcomed into an environment that is ripe for enhanced interdisciplinary research and clinical activity, bridging the critical work being conducted at both the Tulane Center for Aging and the Tulane Brain Institute – as well as other university entities – while also, specifically, expanding the reach and scope of the Tulane Center for Aging. Importantly, the Lerner Presidential Chair will produce economic returns for Louisiana – a state with a rapidly aging population – by advancing groundbreaking research objectives, propelling promising research forward within a critical time for the study of aging; by attracting federal research funding; by catalyzing innovation; and by drawing preeminent scholars, investigators, and clinicians to the city, state, and region.

A national search for the Lerner Presidential Chair will be conducted by a search committee that includes current Board of Regents eminent scholars, as well as an expert external to TUHSC. As part of the campus's commitment to diversify its faculty, minorities and women will be given special consideration in the search process. TUHSC will dedicate a salaried line at the level of full professor for the Lerner Presidential Chair.

The Lerner Presidential Chair will be awarded to a preeminent scholar and senior investigator in the field of aging studies, with deep experience in establishing and cultivating collaborative, multidisciplinary teams around focused areas of academic, research, and service potential. The chairholder's primary role and responsibilities will include both research and education. The holder will conduct and catalyze scholarly research pertaining to the growing and critical field of the study of aging; amplify faculty expertise on Tulane's uptown and downtown campuses, harnessing intellectual strengths from throughout the university to generate powerful new ways to address the complexities of aging; provide senior academic leadership across the breadth of Tulane's schools, departments, and centers related to the area of aging studies; and develop curricula and teach at the graduate, and possibly undergraduate, levels. The Lerner Presidential Chair will work closely with Tulane's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and will establish formal affiliations with the Tulane Center for Aging and the Tulane Brain Institute, to advance the interdisciplinary study of aging at Tulane and TUHSC.

The Center for Aging is directed by Dr. S. Michal Jazwinski, holder of the John W. Deming, MD Regents Chair in Aging. Dr. Jazwinski is an investigator with several million dollars in research funding, a professor of medicine and biochemistry, and a national expert on the genetics of aging. The Center for Aging is home to a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Aging and Regenerative

Medicine, which has been remarkably successful in securing competitive supplemental funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Recently it received two supplements to study Alzheimer's Disease, which went to both junior and senior faculty members at the Tulane National Primate Research Center. It is anticipated that the Lerner Presidential Chair will play a key role in the continued success of the Center for Aging, which has gained significant ground over the past 13 years, with more progress to be made. As a leader in the field of gerontology, the holder of the Lerner Presidential Chair will work in tandem with the Center for Aging to foster and support the development of research programs across a broad spectrum of disciplines that will provide solutions to the problems associated with aging at the levels of the individual, the community, and the population. It is hoped that by advancing new and innovative initiatives with special emphasis on multidisciplinary efforts the Lerner Presidential Chair will attract national and international experts to Tulane and TUHSC, and the Center for Aging will become one of the preeminent centers for aging research in the country.

The recruitment process has been well thought out and the institution appears highly committed to the position. Support is currently \$5 million from the private donor and \$400,000 from the State. TUHSC plans to supplement this with an additional \$800,000 in state match (and the required tenured full professor salary line). The previous application did not specify how much of these funds will be under the purview of the Lerner Presidential Chair or what purpose(s) these very substantial monies are intended to serve. The current application appears to clarify this issue, stating that 70% of the donor funding shall be used at the discretion of the chairholder to support research, professional development, and/or service. The panel enthusiastically recommends funding the request at the \$400,000 level and encourages the authors to resubmit in future years for the remaining funds.

**Ranked #2: Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery Resubmission 2023 – LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (004EC-23)**

The Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery honors a physician who has helped transform the field of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery by working to foster and promote a unique interdisciplinary surgical subspecialty, now known as Skull Base Surgery. For more than 31 years, Dr. Nuss has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (Otolaryngology1) at LSUHSC-NO, and for 26 of those years he has served as Chair. During that time, Dr. Nuss has built a highly prestigious Skull Base Surgery program, which has elevated the standard of clinical Otolaryngology care in Louisiana, and the body of work generated by this program has earned him a nationally and internationally distinguished reputation in the field, while at the same time bringing widespread recognition to LSUHSC-NO as a center for such work.

The LSUHSC-NO Department of Otolaryngology has requested \$400,000 to fulfill the Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery. The purpose of this Endowed Chair is to build upon the contributions of Dr. Nuss and his colleagues by recruiting and retaining an eminent faculty member with outstanding scholarly and clinical accomplishments who will provide leadership to continue to expand the Skull Base Surgery specialty and the quality of care provided to patients. The nature of this faculty appointment will be to preserve and expand the scope and breadth of the Department's established clinical and research programs in Skull Base Surgery, to raise Skull Base Surgery awareness through education, to coordinate Skull Base Surgery clinical outreach efforts, and to enhance the medical community's fundamental understanding of Skull Base Disorders.

The Nuss Chair aligns precisely with all components of LSUHSC-NO's mission. The Department conducts research in a wide variety of areas, both internally and through their collaborative interdisciplinary research efforts with other LSUHSC-NO departments and centers as well as external partners. In this context, the strategic priorities for the Chair include using the new resources of the endowment to introduce skull base learning materials into the pre-clinical medical school curriculum; expanding opportunities for interested students to elect brief, focused clinical rotations; working as a liaison with Residency Program Directors in the primary care fields; expanding continuing education for practicing physicians in primary care as well as targeted specialties including ENT and Neurosurgery; creating and curating a database for Skull Base diseases; and directing research efforts towards some of the less common skull base disorders.

The Otolaryngology/Skull Base Surgery program at LSUHSC-NO is outstanding, with a broad-based-research program, an extensive and lucrative clinical program, and a strong national reputation. The program has done an excellent job of integrating elements of Otolaryngology into the medical curriculum. One of the real strengths of the Chair is the proposed responsibility to expand the integration of Otolaryngology into the medical curriculum and to primary care physicians, since approximately 25% of adult, and 50% of pediatric primary care involves the head and neck. The ongoing research is substantial. Finally, and most important, the proposed responsibilities for the Nuss Chair have been revised to be more consistent with an endowed chair rather than a department chair. Therefore, it is with enthusiasm that the panel recommends \$400,000 in matching funds.

**Ranked #3: Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology – Louisiana State University and A&M College (002EC-23)**

Louisiana State University and A&M College is requesting \$800,000 in matching funds to create a \$2 million Endowed Chair within the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science. The purpose of the Endowed Chair is to pursue cutting-edge research affiliated with the Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium at LSU, expand the curated lichen collection, provide education/training, and contribute to workforce development of next-generation scientists working in biodiversity with a focus on lichens.

Dr. Tucker, a retired faculty member, previously donated \$1.2 million to create perpetual support for the LSU Herbarium and to establish a \$2 million Endowed Chair, matched by the Regents in 2017, for an eminent scholar working in plant systematics research. A renowned lichenologist and leading authority on floral development in legumes and other groups of flowering plants, Dr. Tucker was one of the first women to receive LSU's highest faculty rank of Boyd Professor. She is also credited with building the herbarium lichen collection, which with 44,000 specimens is one of the largest such collections in the Southeast US. LSU's vision is to make its Biological Sciences program an unparalleled leader in the region and nation for botanic systematics. Founded in 1869, the LSU Herbarium is the oldest collection of preserved plant specimens in the Gulf South and one of the two largest collections of plants in Louisiana. It would significantly benefit the curation of the LSU Herbarium to have an expert in lichenology to provide help in accurately identifying specimens, growing the collection via fieldwork, and providing advice to Herbarium leadership in how to best maintain the specimens in perpetuity.

The role of the Chair is to provide scholarly leadership in lichenology, as was done by Dr. Tucker herself. The incumbent will establish a research enterprise, a teaching program encompassing formal coursework and individual mentorship of undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students in this discipline and a public service program in the Biological Sciences Department that is on par with the very best national and international programs.

Improvements to the previous proposal have been made that indicate the Tucker Chair would contribute to economic development in several ways: 1) preparing students for careers in technical fields that are important for continued economic growth in Louisiana and the nation; 2) carrying out lichenology research and consulting that will benefit and support government agencies and businesses, particularly those targeting environmental conservation; 3) performing research relevant to conservation of Louisiana's swamps and wetlands, which are both fragile and vital to recreation and the \$1 billion seafood industry; and 4) bringing in extramural funding that will directly enhance technology-related employment in the state. It is encouraging to see that the Chair will not only support programs of the Department of Biological Sciences but also collaborate with other major departments, including the Departments of Renewable Natural Resources and Plant Pathology, as well as other units within the LSU Agricultural Center. The panel enthusiastically recommends contributing \$400,000 towards the donation from Dr. Tucker to create the Endowed Chair and recommends that additional matching funds be requested in future funding cycles.

**Ranked #4: Alexandria Business Foundation Endowed Chair in Accounting – Louisiana State University of Alexandria (003EC-23)**

The ABF Endowed Chair in Accounting will assist LSUA's College of Business to recruit and retain a prominent accounting faculty member and will enhance the reputation, visibility, and prestige of its accounting program. Consistent with the mission of the University, the chairholder will focus attention on teaching, practical/applied research, and community engagement with a significant impact on the community, region, state, and country. Accounting and auditing continue to be designated as "five-star" jobs, and the holder of the Chair will therefore be instrumental in addressing workforce development, education, and job market needs.

To be consistent with the current mission of the College of Business, the scholarship focus of the Chair is practical/applied research in the area of accounting and must focus on the workforce needs in central Louisiana and across the state. The creation of this Chair will 1) enrich undergraduate and professional accounting education in all areas of accounting studies, including financial accounting, cost accounting, accounting information systems, auditing, taxation, data analytics, and fraud; 2) position the Department of Accounting and Finance and the LSUA College of Business as a leader in accounting education; 3) provide support to the accounting profession by educating future accounting leaders; 4) develop research in areas of workforce development and employer needs; 5) provide leadership in curriculum development to meet the changing needs of the community and region; and 6) build practical, applied scholarship in the accounting program.

The holder of the Chair is expected to offer high-quality academic and experiential opportunities to meet the academic, cultural, vocational, social, and personal needs of the students. The chairholder will address the needs of regional industries by preparing well-qualified graduates necessary to foster economic development. Additionally, the chairholder will be charged with initiating research that improves the business community and creates jobs.

Such responsibilities clearly align with the missions of the College of Business and LSUA to provide students the education, skills, and development needed to establish a foundation for future success and in an environment conducive to critical thinking, experiential learning, and civic and community engagement. In so doing, the Endowed Chair will help the College of Business fulfill its mission of providing a quality and innovative undergraduate business education that prepares future leaders and professionals to compete for global opportunities.

The proposal is a straightforward request that lays out clear criteria to align the proposed Chair with the role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities of LSUA. Further, the proposed Chair contributes to academics and training in priority areas of the campus's economically underdeveloped area. The University has made a strong long-term commitment to linking the Chair to the campus and the available resources appear appropriate. The panel recommends \$400,000 in matching funds to complete this request.

**Ranked #4: Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair – University of Louisiana at Lafayette (010EC-23)**

The Kathleen B. Blanco Public Policy Center/BORSF Endowed Chair will be assigned to the Director of UL Lafayette's Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center (Blanco Center) for the purpose of enhancing the research and impact of the Center as well as expanding opportunities for student research at graduate and undergraduate levels. As the first public policy research center at a public university in Louisiana, the Blanco Center has a unique opportunity to use research to advance evidence-based policy to make Louisiana a better place to live and work.

Against a backdrop of generational challenges related to education, poverty, criminal justice, healthcare, and the environment, the Blanco Center is committed to pursuing interdisciplinary research to inform state and local policy in these areas. Funds from the Endowed Chair would enable the Blanco Center to expand and sustain independent Center-led research and support its broader dissemination. The chairholder will have recurring resources to participate in conferences; purchase hardware, software, and data; travel for field research such as interviews, field surveys, focus groups and workshops; and cover costs associated with publication and expanded efforts to promote the Center's research, including hosting events.

Researchers at the Blanco Center will focus on the policy areas of education, poverty and economic opportunity, criminal justice reform, health and healthcare, the coast and environment, and governmental ethics. While the Blanco Center's priority areas were chosen based on historic challenges in the state and a desire to make progress for the residents of Louisiana, the state offers a real-world socio-economic laboratory of sorts, which provides a local context to study challenges that are shared by many communities across the South and the United States more broadly. The Blanco Center is committed to producing new knowledge and insights in these areas and lessons learned will be shared broadly to benefit other communities facing similar challenges. The Chair will enable the Blanco Center to develop a broader set of Center-led research on these topics, providing new insights for Louisiana policy makers as well as contributions to the broader academic literature.

The proposal presents a well-articulated plan for the appointment of the chairholder. The role will have significant impact given the close alignment among the mission, scope, and strategic priorities of the Center and the University. Further, the Chair and Center will have a strong influence in local, regional, state, and national contexts. The commitment of the University to the Chair is solid, and the holder will integrate well into the academic, research, teaching, and service environment of UL Lafayette. The panel strongly recommends matching of \$400,000.

**Ranked #6: Nicholas K. Akins Eminent Scholar Chair in Engineering – Louisiana Tech University (008EC- 23)**

Louisiana Tech University is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to create the \$1 million Nicholas K. Akins Eminent Scholar Chair in Engineering. The Chair will be housed in the Computer Science and Cyber Engineering programs (CYEN) within LA Tech's College of Engineering and Science (COES). The chairholder will teach, advise graduate students, conduct research, and participate in technology transfer and economic development activities. Both undergraduate programs are fully accredited by ABET, with CYEN being the first BS program in the nation to become ABET accredited.

The role of the Chair directly supports the vision of CES and University with efforts to 1) improve diversity and inclusiveness by ensuring broad participation in the selection and hiring process; 2) enhance student learning and success by hiring an expert and practitioner in the field of cybersecurity to ensure the undergraduate curriculum is connected to regional and national needs and to provide a research mentor for undergraduate and graduate students; 3) increase research and economic impact by expanding ongoing cybersecurity-related research; and 4) build national prominence by hiring an expert in cyberspace or similar fields. The CYEN Program is integrated among many disciplines, including Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering, and the Chair will enhance the interdisciplinary research related to CYEN.

The research environment at LA Tech is highly interdisciplinary and free of departmental barriers. The COES faculty has generated over \$2.9 million in research expenditures, performing sponsored research projects with both graduate and undergraduate student involvement. LA Tech has been recognized as a Center of Academic Excellence and recently received a \$3.5 million grant through NSF's Cybercorps: Scholarship for Service program. This grant provides generous scholarships and assists in placing graduates in cybersecurity positions within the federal government.

The Interstate 20 corridor across north Louisiana is a rapidly developing technology cluster. North Louisiana is home to the National Cyber Research Park, which includes the Cyber Innovation Center and General Dynamics' new Integrated Technology Center. In addition, the Air Force Global Strike Command is located nearby, at Barksdale Air Force Base. Near the center of this landscape is LA Tech, which maintains significant partnerships with all. Having an Eminent Scholar Chair will help to fill this need for talent and continue to grow the economic impact of this cluster on the campus and in the region.

The Akins Chair's focus on cyberspace research will complement existing Chairs in Engineering by further enhancing the interdisciplinary research capabilities of COES. The proposal is well written and recommended for the \$400,000 match requested.

**Ranked #7: Joseph M. Nadell, MD Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery – LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (006EC-23)**

The LSUHSC-NO Department of Neurosurgery is requesting \$400,000 to match the Joseph M. Nadell, MD Endowed Chair of Pediatric Neurosurgery to fulfill the need for pediatric neurosurgery expertise, not currently available in Louisiana. The goals of the Chair are to combine research and teaching, with the teaching focus preeminent, all in the context of a robust clinical practice. The Chair is envisioned to continue Dr. Nadell's lifelong work and build upon his legacy. The aims are straightforward and exactly in line with Dr. Nadell's earliest aims: to educate healthcare professionals, to provide compassionate care for sick children, and to develop cutting-edge surgical techniques and devices to treat and manage children with surgical neurological disorders.

The chairholder will bring expertise in research and education in the field of Pediatric Neurosurgery to a robust primarily Adult Neurosurgery department and will continue the vision and role of leadership established by Dr. Nadell in the development of a subspecialized division of Neurosurgery to deliver an outstanding level of care to the state and the region. Children's Hospital New Orleans strongly supports the plan that this eminent scholar will lead the Neuroscience service line including Neurosurgery, Neurology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Behavioral Medicine, with the idea that this person will help to establish and coordinate all these services through relationships already established with the Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Children's Hospital in Baton Rouge and clinics in Lafayette and Gulfport, MS. In addition, the chairholder will serve as a mentor to junior faculty, helping them begin their research careers.

There is little doubt that LSU School of Medicine would benefit greatly from the addition of a senior pediatric neurosurgeon. Unfortunately, it is not clear that pediatric neurosurgery is sufficiently developed at LSUHSC-NO to warrant such an appointment. The current application does not provide sufficient detail to assess the ongoing research in the Neurosurgery Department nor does it provide information on the package that would be provided to enable the proposed candidate to carry out the ambitious goals outlined in the proposal. Finally, the website of Children's Hospital gives a much better picture of the integrative nature of the pediatric neurosurgery program than is outlined in the proposal. The applicants would benefit from incorporating some of that information into the application in a future cycle.

**Ranked #8: Valery, Ruby, & George Coco/BORSF Endowed Chair in Education for Educational Innovation, Research, & Policy – University of Louisiana at Lafayette (011EC-23)**

The type of chair requested in this proposal would serve a combination of needs related to both research and workforce development. Louisiana, like other states in the U.S., is experiencing a severe teacher shortage. The College of Education & Human Development (COEHD) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is one of the largest providers of teachers for the state of Louisiana. As such, the COEHD is seeking innovative solutions to address this workforce need. The teacher shortage is vast and complex, but the COEHD at UL Lafayette is determined to grow its research initiatives around educator recruitment and changes needed to retain more current educators.

The COEHD is developing an innovative laboratory school concept with a mission to advance K-12 educational equity, opportunity, and innovation for all of Louisiana. While the work toward this mission involves a physical school intended to model and showcase best practices as an immersive experience for future teachers, the broader vision is to use the work and research conducted in the laboratory school to inform public policy and practice more broadly. Education majors will have opportunities to gain professional experience in an immersive laboratory school setting designed to showcase global best practices and serve as a site for cutting-edge educational research.

The mission of the UL Lafayette Learning Lab is to advance educational equity, opportunity, and innovation for all of Louisiana. The vision of the Learning Lab is to create and sustain a culture of curiosity, creativity, and courage to use knowledge and skills for innovating a better world. The requested Chair aligns with the Lab's priorities to promote diverse worldviews grounded in tradition, heritage, and culture; develop leaders and innovators; cultivate aesthetic sensibility; and improve the human condition through research that can drive change in state and national education policy in order to have a positive impact on the K-12 teacher workforce.

The Chair will enable significant expansion of research and development to gain insights into the factors contributing to the teacher shortage and development of knowledge that can be shared with Louisiana policy makers and the broader research community. The Chair will be the hub of innovation for the research efforts associated with the Lab School and all its initiatives.

The proposal is well written and straightforward. Overall, the creation of the Lab and the appointment of an eminent scholar to this Chair are worthy and well-thought-out goals; however, the proposal does not make entirely evident how the Lab and its Chair will aid in reversing the increasing teacher shortage. In addition, the proposal should make clearer how the combination of state funding and tuition will achieve the revenues cited in the proposal.

**Ranked #8: Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Chair 2023 – LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (005EC-23)**

LSUHSC-NO's Schools of Dentistry and Medicine request \$400,000 to complete the Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Chair. The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) program currently immerses prospective dentists/physicians in an integrated OMS and Doctor of Medicine (MD) program or an OMS-MD scientific study and clinical experience through the Schools of Dentistry and Medicine.

The purpose of this Endowed Chair is to build upon the contributions of Dr. Jack Kent by recruiting and retaining an eminent faculty member with outstanding scholarly and clinical accomplishments who will provide leadership to continue to enhance the field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and the Schools of Dentistry and Medicine, and to increase access to quality care provided to patients within Louisiana. The goals of the faculty appointment are to preserve and expand the scope of the Department's established clinical and research programs in OMS, raise OMS awareness through education, coordinate OMS clinical outreach efforts, and enhance the medical community's fundamental understanding of OMS.

The goals appear consistent with the existing education, research, and service environment; however, it is unlikely that any chairholder will be able to carry out all the many goals outlined. To be successful, the holder will have to concentrate fully on a subset of them. Regarding the faculty associated with the program, a summary of 15 faculty members is provided but their roles in the program are not always clear. For example, Dr. Spagnoli is listed as a Clinical Associate Professor, but from the information provided appears to be in private practice in Supply, NC. Discussion of ongoing research areas is insufficiently detailed. While numerous research areas are mentioned, there is no indication of research projects ongoing at LSUHSC-NO and who the participants are.

While the expected qualifications of the chairholder are reasonable, it is surprising that success in obtaining research support is not listed. There is also no discussion of what will be available to the holder in the form of resources to achieve the stated goals or what role the holder will have in directing the funds available via the Chair.

This is an extensive proposal containing a significant amount of general information, but it often fails to relate that information to the proposal's specific purpose. Moreover, the goals for the Chair are so extensive as to appear unachievable. It would be helpful to see a more focused application that more clearly describes the status of the program and exactly what and how the Chair can contribute.

**Ranked #10: ULM Endowed Chair in Agribusiness – University of Louisiana at Monroe (013EC-23)**

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to create an Endowed Chair in Agribusiness within the College of Business and Social Sciences' School of Management. The purpose of the ULM Endowed Chair will be to attract and retain a faculty member who will primarily focus on teaching and community engagement, with teaching as the principal emphasis.

The Agribusiness program at ULM has a curriculum that supports career opportunities in the production, commercial processing, and marketing of food, fiber, and oil-based agricultural products. The College of Business and Social Sciences houses centers that provide economic and community development support, including small business development, economic research, and risk management, all of which would be applicable to the agribusiness focus of the Chair. The College provides support through the Precision Ag Research Center, the ULM Small Business Development Center, the Center for Business and Economic Research, and the Northeast Louisiana Business and Community Development Center, which are available to serve the needs of regional agriculture and agribusiness entities.

The proposal states that the recruitment and retention of a prominent faculty member in agribusiness would enhance the visibility and prestige of ULM's program, consistent with its missions of teaching, research, service, and community engagement, having a significant impact on students, the community, the region, and the country.

The institution would identify the chairholder through a national search and provide a nine-month base salary of at least \$160,000 for a tenured associate or full professor. This salary would be supplemented annually with \$20,000 from endowment earnings. Also provided would be support for a full-time graduate assistant from the MBA program and a reduced teaching load of four courses per year. The primary goals and objectives of the chairholder would include providing excellence in teaching to agribusiness students and leading extramurally funded applied research involving students, faculty, and other colleagues.

The reputation and activities of the chairholder will be used to attract high-quality students to the Agribusiness program. The Chair will also have the capacity to improve life in the region by lending agricultural expertise to a variety of agricultural community issues. Third, the Chair will be expected to consider additional agricultural concentrations that might benefit the region, such as veterinary technicians.

The panel appreciates that the proposal included additional data related to the number of students in the program. However, it is difficult to judge the job market in the region without specific information about the graduates and their success in being placed in the agribusiness sector.

Furthermore, the training does not seem to be focused but instead attempts to cover all agricultural bases including greenhouse operations, veterinarian technicians, hemp production, row crop operations, etc., many of which are complex and have entire degree programs at other institutions. A major challenge of the proposal is the same as last year: it is difficult to discuss an eminent scholar position given the lack of other agricultural programs at the institution, which will undoubtedly hinder the ability to attract and retain someone of prominence in the field.

**Ranked #10: The Kim Sledge Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance – University of Louisiana at Monroe (012EC-23)**

The University of Louisiana at Monroe requests \$400,000 in matching funds to create the Kim Sledge Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) in the College of Business and Social Sciences. The Sledge Endowed Chair position will help the College recruit and retain a prominent RMI faculty member with national and/or international recognition who will build and maintain the reputation, visibility, and prestige of its RMI program. Consistent with the mission of the University and College, the chairholder will focus on research, transformative education, and industry engagement that have significant impacts on the community, region, and country. Because of the nature of the RMI program and industry, the holder will have a teaching/education focus preeminent over research/scholarly activity and service, preparing individuals to support the RMI industry and workforce needs.

The holder is expected to offer high-quality academic and experiential opportunities to meet the academic, cultural, vocational, social, and personal needs of undergraduate students seeking a degree in RMI. The holder will address the needs of the local, regional, and national RMI industry partners by preparing well-qualified graduates able to succeed in the workforce, as well as work with industry representatives to create partnerships that will be mutually beneficial.

Louisiana is one of the top users of surplus lines insurance due to the risky nature of its oil and gas industries, chemical production, agricultural production, sporting events, and festivals. Having a nationally recognized scholar who specializes in this unique area of the industry could pay dividends for the industries that rely on surplus lines to conduct business.

The proposal provides a solid case for the Chair. Risk management and insurance are an especially important market in Louisiana and the Sledge Chair will contribute to the development of the RMI specialists needed now and in the future. What the proposal should make clearer is how the Chair will translate the education of RMI specialists into economic development for Louisiana. The proposal rests on the supply side of the equation: If we build it, they will come. It needs to focus more on the demand side: How will ULM increase demand for the degree?

**Ranked 10: Kelsey Bradley Favrot Family Chair in Pediatric Neuro-oncology – LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (007EC-23)**

LSUHSC-NO requests \$400,000 to complete the Kelsey Bradley Favrot Family Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuro-oncology in the Department of Neurosurgery. This Chair will combine scholarly research and teaching emphases, with the scholarly research focus preeminent.

This is a period in which improved outcomes for children with brain tumors can be achieved if they are treated by specially trained pediatric neuro-oncologists. There are currently no pediatric neuro-oncologists practicing in Louisiana. Children and their families must travel hundreds of miles, at least as far as Houston, TX, for specialized/comprehensive care. This is of particular concern for the more than 25% of New Orleanians who live in asset poverty. The Favrot Chair will recruit a greatly needed and eminent pediatric neuro-oncologist, who will support clinical research and the training of future Louisiana physician specialists dedicated to this discipline.

The goals of the Chair are to provide and expand state-of-the-art care for Louisiana children and those of neighboring states with primary and metastatic brain tumors; foster innovative therapies, such as antiangiogenic therapy and immunotherapy, through clinical trials; and ultimately find better therapies for children afflicted with brain tumors. Clearly, this Chair is aligned with the mission and strategic priorities of LSUHSC-NO. Moreover, it was recently reported that with the implementation of a proper neuro-oncology service, the proportion of patients treated with curative intent increased and survival improved. The patient volume also increased from 15.5 per year to 44.8 per year. The academic, teaching and service environments in Neurosurgery at LSUHSC-NO are strong. While it appears that there is ongoing research in Neurosurgery, it would have been helpful to see a broader explanation of this research and the level of extramural funding. The expectations and qualifications of the Chair are reasonable, as is the recruitment plan. There appears to be a little confusion in the proposal, however. The section on the Expectations of the Eminent Scholar speaks to making the chairholder the head of Pediatric Surgery, while in another section references that holder being the head of a section of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Essentially the proposal argues that funding the Chair will allow LSUHSC-NO to establish a departmental section for pediatric neurosurgery. Presently, the two existing pediatric surgeons are junior faculty only six years past completing their training. No senior faculty are mentioned as currently serving as pediatric neurosurgeons. While the panel agrees that services in pediatric neurosurgery are currently limited in Louisiana (as they are in general), an Endowed Chair is an unlikely solution to the problem. Simply put, it appears that there is not currently a functioning pediatric neurosurgery unit, though it is exciting that Children's Hospital plans on making the neurosciences service its next major investment. Establishing a pediatric surgery/neurosciences unit/section/division led by a chairperson might be a major step toward creating an environment suitable for recruitment of an Endowed Chair in Neuro-oncology.

**Ranked #13: Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy – Louisiana State University and A&M College (001EC-23)**

LSU A&M is requesting \$800,000 in matching funds to create a \$2 million Endowed Chair housed in the LSU School of Music within the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. The purpose of the Haymon Chair in Music Therapy is to oversee academic curriculum development, teach music therapy courses, guide new music therapy faculty and clinical supervisors to help deliver the highest-quality curriculum, and facilitate the creation of clinical partnerships across Louisiana and the nation. The chairholder will also establish a research agenda that aligns with national healthcare needs as well as LSU Scholarship First Agenda priorities, by providing opportunities for students to learn about and conduct research to meet the music-in-healthcare needs of Louisiana families. The chairholder, as the central figure in program development and implementation, will fill education, research, and service roles, with the education focus preeminent.

Engagement of the School of Music in the community is currently evident in three arenas: music-in-entertainment, music-in-education, and the academic study of music as a discipline. With the addition of a music therapy program, engagement will expand into a fourth arena: music-in-health. Music therapy undergraduate students will engage with healthcare, educational, and other community settings through intense study and clinical practicum of 180 hours. The Chair of the Music Therapy program would provide the resources needed to create a sustainable structure whereby not only internship clinical training opportunities expand across the state, but also healthcare partners work together to create new positions in music therapy, ultimately in every region of Louisiana. Testimonials offered by consultants indicate that there are significant opportunities for collaboration with area hospitals and other academic entities. However, given the significance of the internship, it seems to be important to formalize the clinical training partnerships at Our Lady of the Lake, the Baton Rouge Medical Center, and Children's Hospital New Orleans.

Significant progress has been made in establishing the Music Therapy program at LSU A&M. Dr. Kamile Geist was hired as the chairholder in Fall of 2022 and occupies the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. She is a recognized teacher, clinician, and researcher. She will offer the courses in Music Therapy in Fall 2023, with a program approval finalized to allow admission of students into the degree in Spring 2024. Dr. Geist has already made substantive connections with Johns Hopkins University and ULM.

Only one other university in Louisiana – Loyola University New Orleans – has a Music Therapy program. Loyola is a private university with tuition almost four times the cost of in-state tuition at LSU A&M. Not coincidentally, of the 73 certified music therapists listed in the Board for Music Therapy directory for Louisiana, most live in the metropolitan area of New Orleans, with only two in Baton Rouge. However, as the authors note, given the tuition differential and the student clientele, it is probable that the program at Loyola is inadequate for the remainder of the state. Is there evidence of other music therapists being hired with credentials from outside the state of Louisiana? This might be further indication of the need for the LSU A&M program and evidence it will not be a detriment to the Loyola program. A future submission of the proposal would be strengthened by addressing how the Chair position will significantly contribute to economic development in Louisiana, with supporting data provided.