

**REPORT TO THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
REVIEW OF PROPOSED ENDOWED CHAIRS
FOR EMINENT SCHOLARS**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2023-24**

March 2024

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Board of Regents Support Fund

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

FY 2023-24 Competition for Board of Regents Support Fund Matching Funds

March 2024

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. The Request for Proposals for the Competitive and Restricted Bequests Endowed Chairs Subprograms for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24; and
- c. Eleven (11) proposals for Chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram under the FY 2023-24 RFP.

On March 6 and 8, 2024, the panel met by videoconference to discuss, rate, and rank the eleven (11) 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 of the eleven (11) proposed Endowed Chairs submitted in the Competitive Subprogram resulting from the rating of each proposal according to evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Note that no Restricted Bequest submissions were received. **Attachment B** contains a summary evaluation of each Chair proposed in FY 2023-24.

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 coordinate public and non-State resources effectively for the purpose of improving the quality of higher education and its role in advancing Louisiana's economy. The overall merit of proposals continues to dictate funding decisions for the Endowed Chairs Program, which is increasingly important as monies available for matching have substantially declined. 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 and to achieve the goals of the endowment as defined by the non-state donor.

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 their insistence on the independence of the external review process.

ATTACHMENT A

BoRSF Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program - Proposal Scoring and Funding Recommendations, FY 2023-24

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 (20 points)	Long-term Campus Investment & Appropriateness of Chair (15 points)	Appropriateness of Available Resources (10 points)	Total Score (100 points)	BoRSF Match Recommended
1	007EC-24	Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging	Tulane University Health Sciences Center	\$400,000	29	24	19	15	10	97	\$400,000
2	002EC-24	Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology	Louisiana State University and A&M College	\$800,000	28	24	17	14	9	92	\$400,000
3	008EC-24	Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology	Tulane University Health Sciences Center	\$800,000	27	24	18	14	8	91	\$400,000
4	001EC-24	Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy	Louisiana State University and A&M College	\$800,000	27	24	17	13	9	90	\$400,000
5	004EC-24	The Joseph M. Nadell Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery 2024 Resubmission	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	26	24	17	13	9	89	\$400,000
6	005EC-24	The Kelsey Bradley Favrot Family Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuro-oncology 2024 Resubmission	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	26	23	17	13	8	87	\$400,000
7	006EC-24	LHC Group/Myers Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Nursing and Home Health	South Louisiana Community College	\$400,000	26	22	16	13	8	85	
8	009EC-24	Valery, Ruby & Georgie Coco/BoRSF Endowed Chair for Educational Innovation, Research, & Policy	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	\$400,000	26	22	16	12	8	84	
9	003EC-24	The Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Chair 2024 Resubmission	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$400,000	25	22	16	12	8	83	
10	010EC-24	Ella Johnson Endowed Chair in Agribusiness	University of Louisiana at Monroe	\$400,000	24	21	15	12	8	80	
11	011EC-24	The Kim Sledge Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance	University of Louisiana at Monroe	\$400,000	24	20	15	12	8	79	

ATTACHMENT B

Ranked #1: Lawrence E. Lerner Presidential Chair in Aging – Tulane University Health Sciences Center (007EC-24)

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 in 2022, then the second installment of \$400,000 in 2023. In FY 2023-24, TUHSC is seeking a final \$400,000 investment from the Board of Regents Support Fund to complete the \$3 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 the 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 and 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 committee that includes current BoRSF chairholders, as well as an expert external to TUHSC. TUHSC will dedicate a salary 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 encompass 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 holding 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 in Aging and Regenerative Medicine, which has been remarkably successful in securing competitive supplemental funding from the National Institutes of Health. Recently it received two supplements to study Alzheimer's Disease, which supports 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, which will provide at the levels of the individual, the community, and the population solutions to problems associated with aging. 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 of aging research in the country.

The panel recommends \$400,000 in matching to complete the Lerner Presidential Chair and looks forward to learning about the outcomes of this critical investment.

Ranked #2: Dr. Shirley C. Tucker Chair in Lichenology – Louisiana State University and A&M College (002EC-24)

LSU and A&M College is requesting an additional \$400,000 in endowed funds to fully match the Tucker Chair in Lichenology within the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science. In last year's funding cycle, the panel recommended funding for the first match installment. The purpose of the Tucker Chair is to pursue cutting-edge research in this area, affiliate with the Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium at LSU A&M, expand LSU A&M's curated lichen collection, and provide education/training and contribute to workforce development for next-generation scientists working in biodiversity with a specific focus on lichens.

This is truly a unique request. Dr. Tucker is a retired faculty member who has previously donated \$1.2 million, matched by the Board of Regents in 2017, to create perpetual support for the LSU Herbarium through a \$2 million Endowed Chair 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 A&M's highest faculty rank of Boyd Professor. She is credited with building the LSU A&M Herbarium's lichen collection, which contains 44,000 specimens, one of the largest such collections in the southeast U.S. The vision is to make LSU A&M Biological Sciences an unparalleled leader in the region and the nation for botanic systematics. Founded in 1869, the LSU A&M 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 Herbarium to have an expert in lichenology to provide support in accurately identifying specimens, growing the collection via fieldwork, and providing advice to the collections manager 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 Shirley 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 Department of Biological Sciences that is on par with the very best national or international programs.

It is noteworthy that 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, which 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 fragile and vital to the \$1 billion seafood industry as well as recreation and quality of life in Louisiana; and 4) attracting extramural funding, which will directly enhance technology-related employment in the state. It is encouraging to see that the Tucker Chair will not only support the program of the Department of Biological Sciences, but will also collaborate other major departments at LSU A&M, including the Department of Renewable Natural Resources, Plant Pathology and units of the LSU Agricultural Center. The panel enthusiastically supports providing the second matching installment of \$400,000 for the Endowed Chair and invites the campus to submit a proposal for the final increment in a future funding cycle.

Ranked #3: Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology – Tulane University Health Sciences Center (008EC-24)

Tulane University Health Sciences Center is seeking an \$800,000 investment from the Board of Regents to augment secured donor support of \$1.2 million for the Oliver and Carroll Dabezies Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. The Dabezies Chair plays an integral role as the department head, as well as a leader and resource within TUHSC, across the University, and throughout broader local, state, and regional communities. The chairholder serves these three critical audiences through scientific expertise, clinical service, and educational preeminence. The chairholder's research bolsters TUHSC's growing Department of Ophthalmology and will foster both academic and economic expansion in the Greater New Orleans area, the State of Louisiana, and the Gulf South region.

This request is somewhat unique in that the chairholder, Dr. David Hinkle, has already been recruited and has been in place for two years. TUHSC's Department of Ophthalmology is dedicated to excellence in training and clinical care, to advancing research to discover and develop new, more effective treatments for ocular diseases, and to providing pro bono services to those in need of care. As the holder of the Dabezies Chair, Dr. Hinkle is enacting a bold vision for the department, with identified strategic priorities that are aligned with TUHSC's. The Dabezies Chair will build upon the Department's current strengths, with a goal of launching it into the top quartile of ophthalmology departments in NIH funding. Dr. Hinkle is the only retina specialist in southeast Louisiana who performs pediatric retinal surgery and the only dually trained retina and uveitis specialist in Louisiana, affording students, residents, and interns an extraordinary and unique opportunity to interact with and learn from a nationally renowned medical expert.

At the local, regional, and national levels, there is an urgent need for focus on ophthalmologic care and research, as vision loss and related ocular problems have emerged as central public health challenges in recent decades. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides estimates indicating that there are more than 3.4 million vision-impaired or blind adults in the United States today. The CDC also estimates that approximately 6.8% of children younger than 18 years have a diagnosed eye and/or vision condition, and nearly 3% of children younger than 18 are blind or visually impaired.

TUHSC is committed to the success of the Department of Ophthalmology, a growing and vital department within the School of Medicine. Over the past several decades, the Department has benefitted from TUHSC's robust institutional support, hiring a full complement of faculty members, training hundreds of fellows and residents, and expanding its research capabilities and portfolio. With the establishment of the Dabezies Chair, the Department is positioned for even further dynamic growth. TUHSC has committed to providing additional vision science research space by 2027 through its lease of space within the former Charity Hospital of New Orleans building. Once redeveloped, Charity Hospital will house more than 600 researchers, a bulk of whom will supplement TUHSC and affiliated departments. This additional state-of-the-art research space will be key in helping the Dabezies Chair recruit world-class researchers to the Department and to TUHSC.

The Chair search committee focused its efforts on hiring an eminent scholar of national and international stature whose expertise would enhance and complement the department's existing faculty strengths, and Dr. Hinkle is an ideal inaugural holder. He brings patient care options previously unavailable locally and

has a remarkable scholarly record and long list of professional awards and accolades. This Chair also has provided an opportunity to bring Dr. Hinkle back to TUHSC, where he had completed an ophthalmology residency and served as chief resident at the School of Medicine.

In recognition of the significant resources needed to attract and retain an eminent scholar of Dr. Hinkle's stature, who meets the rigorous standards of both the Louisiana Board of Regents and the institution, TUHSC has committed a line item of base salary for full professor. Additionally, TUHSC has set a minimum level for establishing this endowed chair at \$1.5 million to provide additional resources such as start-up costs and equipment, research, and lab needs. Up to 30% of donor funding may be used for salary support; the balance, but no less than 70%, shall be used at the discretion of the chairholder to support his or her work in clinical practice, research, professional development, and/or service. Additional funding from clinical activities has assisted in securing a competitive package in line with national standards.

This is an outstanding application. Dr. Hinkle is a highly trained ophthalmologist with an excellent professional record who has the strong support of the institution to move TUHSC Ophthalmology into the upper echelons of departments nationally. Given the funding level available in the Endowed Chairs program, the panel recommends partial matching of \$400,000. The campus is invited to submit a proposal for the additional increment in a future funding cycle.

Ranked #4: Ava and Cordell Haymon Chair in Music Therapy – Louisiana State University and A&M College (001EC-24)

Louisiana State University and A&M College is requesting \$800,000 in matching funds to create the \$2 million Haymon Chair housed in the LSU School of Music within the College of Music and Dramatic Arts. The purpose of the LSU Chair of 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 music therapy 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 primarily fill an educational role with a secondary role in research that serves the education focus.

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 the Music Therapy Program, engagement will expand into a fourth arena—music in health. Music Therapy undergraduate students will engage with community healthcare, educational, and other community settings through intense study and clinical practicum. Once finished with four years of coursework, students then complete an internship, comprising an additional minimum of 1,020 hours at a facility for six to nine months. The Chair of the LSU Music Therapy Program could secure the resources needed to create a sustainable structure where not only can internship clinical training opportunities expand across the state, but healthcare partners can 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 magnitude of the internship requirement, it is important that LSU A&M formalize the clinical training partnerships with Our Lady of the Lake, the Baton Rouge Medical Center, and Children’s Hospital New Orleans.

Substantial 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. Dr. Geist occupies the rank of Associate Professor with tenure and is a recognized teacher, clinician, and researcher. Her achievements as a scholar/teacher are recognized at national and international levels. Examples of her accomplishments include six international and 20 national peer-reviewed publications, six book chapters, over \$170,000 in research grant funding, and numerous peer-reviewed national and international presentations and invited trainings related to her research.

As the flagship institution in Louisiana, LSU A&M has an obligation to serve the residents of the state and region. This proposed Music Therapy degree, with the chairholder at the helm, will enhance the potential for LSU A&M to meet this important obligation and improve the lives of Louisianians. The panel sees significant improvements in this proposal over previous submissions and recommends partial matching of \$400,000. The campus is invited to submit a proposal for the additional increment in a future funding cycle.

Ranked #5: The Joseph M. Nadell Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery 2024 Resubmission – LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (004EC-24)

The LSUHSC-NO Department of Neurosurgery is requesting \$400,000 to match the Joseph M. Nadell Endowed Chair in 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 the robust, primarily adult-focused, 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 for this eminent scholar to lead the Neuroscience service line including Neurosurgery, Neurology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Behavioral Medicine, and 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 to expand their research careers.

There is little doubt that the LSU School of Medicine would benefit greatly from the addition of a senior pediatric neurosurgeon. As pediatric neurosurgery needs to be developed at LSUHSC-NO, the recruitment of a senior highly qualified pediatric neurosurgeon to oversee the product line would be an important foundation from which to grow. The current application, while improved from the last submission, still does not provide sufficient detail to access the ongoing research and extramural funding in the Neurosurgery Department but does now include information on the package that will be provided to enable the proposed candidate to achieve the ambitious goals outlined in the proposal. This improved application also gives a better picture of the integrative nature of the Pediatric Neurosurgery Program.

LSUHSC-NO has a three-fold mission: educating future healthcare providers, rendering expert patient care, and conducting innovative research. This proposal for the Nadell Chair aligns with all three components of this mission and is important to the growth of a critical specialty at the institution. The panel recommends providing the requested \$400,000 match.

Ranked #6: The Kelsey Bradley Favrot Family Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuro-oncology 2024 Resubmission – LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (005EC-24)

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 research focus preeminent. Improved outcomes for children with brain tumors can now be achieved if they are treated by specially trained pediatric neuro-oncologists. There are currently no pediatric neuro-oncologists practicing in Louisiana, so children and their families must travel hundreds of miles, at least as far as Houston, TX, for specialized/comprehensive care or be treated by oncologists who do not specialize in pediatric neuro-oncology. This is of particular concern for the more than 25% of New Orleanians who live in asset poverty. The Favrot Chair proposes to recruit a much-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 at LSUHSC-NO in neurosurgery are strong. While it appears that there is ongoing research in neurosurgery, it would have been helpful to see a broader description of this research and the level of extramural funding. While there does not seem to be a strong research presence in neurosurgery, it is surprising that there is no mention of the LSUHSC Neurosciences or Pediatric Oncology as potential collaborative research opportunities for the Neuro-oncology Program.

The qualifications of and expectations for the chairholder, as well as the recruitment plan, are reasonable, but certainly not stringent. 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 seven years past completing their training. No senior faculty are mentioned as actively serving pediatric neurosurgeons. While the panel agrees that services in pediatric neurosurgery are currently limited in Louisiana (as they are in general), an Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery would be more likely to help establish a strong pediatric neurosurgery presence, which would better enable the recruitment of a pediatric neuro-oncologist. It is exciting that Children's Hospital New Orleans plans on making the neurosciences service its next major investment. The panel recommends funding the \$400,000 request for the Favrot Chair to contribute to this broader initiative.

Ranked #7: LHC Group/Myers Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Nursing and Home Health – South Louisiana Community College (006EC-24)

South Louisiana Community College requests matching funds of \$400,000 to create the BoRSF's first Endowed Chair in the Primarily Workforce category. This proposal represents SLCC's deep commitment to advancing healthcare education and training, particularly in the expanding area of home healthcare. At its core, the Chair represents the culmination of a visionary collaboration between LHC Group, the Myers Family Foundation, and SLCC. Its primary mission is to elevate and fortify SLCC's ongoing endeavor, The Legacy Project, which began in 2020 through a groundbreaking public-private partnership of the LHC Group and the Myers Family Foundation that provided the largest-ever private investment –\$2.5 million – in a community college in Louisiana. The Legacy Project was conceived with an ambitious goal: to craft a national best-practice model for home-health education and training. Within the Project, \$600,000 is dedicated to creating a matched Endowed Chair.

SLCC has prioritized nursing and healthcare as a top workforce focus for program growth, new program development, resource development, and external partnerships. This healthcare priority for SLCC stems from the local, statewide, and national workforce shortage in healthcare. Nationally, employment of licensed practical nurses and registered nurses is projected to grow five percent and six percent, respectively, from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average growth for all occupations.

The LHC Group/Myers Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Nursing and Home Health will be integrated into a diverse environment of teaching, training, and service across SLCC's footprint. Leading a priority in the Division, the chairholder will work to develop clinical opportunities and internships with LHC Group and other home health agencies to further develop the best-practice framework for home health education and training. The chairholder will also be integrated into advisory committees to develop relationships with the committee members and elevate the Division's programs to national prominence. Additionally, and integral to the chairholder's responsibilities, is leveraging the programs' eminence and network to spur extensive fundraising and resource development initiatives.

The chairholder will also lead teams of faculty members in developing and executing Phase II of The Legacy Project. This includes:

- Offering students and faculty the opportunity to learn from home healthcare and nursing experts locally about significant issues, including career opportunities, skills needed, recent trends in the field, and issues confronting the industry;
- Leading the development and implementation of a state-recognized home health credential and spearheading a campaign for its recognition and acknowledgement on the national level;
- Building relationships with home health companies across the region to create and implement clinical partnerships and internships for interactive learning in supervised, real-world environments; and
- Building a continuing education program for healthcare practitioners in the field of nursing and home health. By leveraging the chairholder's expertise, this program aims to provide ongoing training,

workshops, and certifications that empower practitioners to stay abreast of evolving practices and technologies, thus ensuring the continual elevation of care standards across the field.

The goals of the proposal are certainly laudable and could lead this program to national prominence. However, the proposal provides very little detail about the current curriculum or how the chairholder would fit into the existing program. The duties outlined for the chairholder are largely administrative, and it is difficult to determine what academic duties they would fulfill or how the role as described would enable SLCC to attract and retain a senior-level superior faculty member, as is the goal of the Endowed Chairs program. In a future submission, the proposal should more specifically describe the academic and workforce development roles that the chairholder would play in addition to any administrative, outreach, and fundraising responsibilities.

Ranked #8: Valery, Ruby & Georgie Coco/BORSF Endowed Chair for Educational Innovation, Research, & Policy – University of Louisiana at Lafayette (009EC-24)

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. 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 that showcases global best practices and serves as a site for cutting-edge educational research.

Building on its mission of advancing statewide educational equity, opportunity, and innovation, the Learning Lab's vision is to create and sustain a culture of curiosity, creativity, and courage to use knowledge and skills to build a better world. The requested Chair aligns with the Learning 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 to have a positive impact on the K-12 teacher workforce.

The Chair will enable significant expansion of research activities to gain insights into the factors contributing to the teacher shortage and development of knowledge that can be shared with Louisiana policymakers 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.

While the UL Lafayette Learning Lab is clearly an innovative and creative solution to the growing teacher shortage, the proposal does not make clear exactly what the role of the Endowed Chair or chairholder will have in its work. Much of the proposal focuses on the benefits of the Learning Lab but does not clearly describe how the Endowed Chair fits into the educational model presented in the proposal. Certainly, the Chair would be a useful addition to UL Lafayette; however, the University needs to articulate a clearer vision for how the Endowed Chair and the Learning Lab fit together to advance teaching as a profession and address state and national teacher shortages.

Ranked #9: The Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation Chair 2024 Resubmission – LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (003EC-24)

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 who will increase access to quality care provided to patients within Louisiana. The goals of the faculty appointment are to preserve and expand the scope of 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 environments; however, it is unlikely that any chairholder will be able to carry out all of 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, and it would have been helpful to know the current level of extramural funding. 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 successful candidate 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.

LSUHSC-NO's Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program, without question, is a stellar program with an outstanding record. However, this extensive proposal containing a huge amount of historical information, in general, fails to relate that information to the current proposal's justification of matching support for the Jack Kent Foundation Chair. Moreover, the proposed goals for the Chair are so extensive as to appear unachievable. It would be helpful to see a more focused application that clearly describes the status of the current program and exactly what and how the Chair and chairholder will contribute to those goals.

Ranked #10: Ella Johnson Endowed Chair in Agribusiness – University of Louisiana at Monroe (010EC-24)

The University of Louisiana at Monroe is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds to create the \$1 million Ella Johnson Endowed Chair in Agribusiness within the College of Business and Social Sciences, David and Sharon Turrentine School of Management. The purpose of the Ella Johnson Chair will be to attract and retain a faculty member who will primarily focus efforts on teaching and community engagement, with education being the primary focus. Consistent with the current mission of the College of Business and Social Sciences, which houses the Agribusiness Program, the research focus of the Chair must be on practical applied research in the area of agribusiness.

Crop and animal production are strong drivers of economic activity in Louisiana, with agriculture at a level similar to oil and gas in its impacts on the state. Agribusiness is one of the largest sectors in the state, with over 30,000 farms covering more than eight million acres. ULM serves the northeast Louisiana area that is part of the Mississippi Delta region, a significant agricultural production locus in the state but also an area with educational challenges related to high school and college graduation rates as well as median household incomes below state and national averages.

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 by \$20,000 annually 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 to be recruited would include provision of excellent teaching to agribusiness students and leadership of 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 ULM's Agribusiness Program. In addition, the faculty holder will have the capacity to improve life in the region by lending their expertise to a variety of community issues related to agriculture and agribusiness. Third, the holder will be expected to consider additional agricultural concentrations, such as veterinary technician, that will meet the needs of and benefit the region.

A specific shortcoming of the proposal is that the training does not seem to be focused, but instead attempts to cover all agricultural practices in the region including greenhouse operations, veterinarian technicians, hemp production, row crop operations, etc., many of which require complex training. At many universities, this is achieved with a minor in a specialty area but at ULM it is unclear how this specialization is possible. Thus, the major limitation of the proposal is that the 'niche' program within the College does not seem to fit within established and focused curricula currently offered. One way to take advantage of the niche would be to leverage relationships with other institutions that have strong agricultural programs and might be open to enhanced collaboration. The proposal states that Arkansas State University, Mississippi State University, LSU AgCenter, and Southern University Ag Center collaborate extensively with the Precision Ag Research Center. By leveraging those connections, the proposal would be greatly enhanced and enable ULM to recruit a senior-level faculty member with the reputation and productivity needed to fulfill the goals of the Chair as outlined in the proposal.

Ranked #11: The Kim Sledge Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance – University of Louisiana at Monroe (011EC-24)

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 is designed to allow ULM 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, all of which have significant impacts on the community, region, and country. Due to the nature of the RMI program and industry, the Chair targets a holder with a teaching/education focus preeminent over research/scholarly activity, preparing students 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 (especially surplus lines and reinsurance) and the Sledge Chair will clearly contribute to the development of the RMI specialists needed now and in the future. The original proposal laid out the supply side of the market for RMI specialists; the current proposal makes a much stronger case for the demand side of the market. According to the Insurance Information Institute (2021), employment in the industry is expected to increase 9% by 2024. Actuary, a subset of RMI in which practitioners compile and analyze risk, was ranked by Forbes as ‘The Best Job in America’. Insuremypath.org reports that the placement rate for RMI graduates is consistently well over 90% at most programs across the country. However, the proposal does not address the demand on the student side or how effective ULM’s program has been over time in recruitment. Are the student numbers increasing, decreasing, or stable? How will the Chair be used to attract additional students into the program? Future submissions should include this information as part of the argument for the necessity of the Chair.