



# LA-NEXT Symposium

## January 8, 2026

**LSU Energy, Coast, and Environment Building**  
**238 W Stadium Road**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802**

8:00 - 8:30	Registration and Coffee
8:30 - 8:45	Overview: LA-NEXT and First Louisiana 2030 <i>Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for R&amp;D, Louisiana Board of Regents</i>
8:45 - 9:00	Overview: Research Capacity Building Core <i>Dr. Ramu Ramachandran, Interim VP for Research, Louisiana Tech University</i>
9:00 - 9:45	Panel: IGNITE Principal Investigators <i>Dr. Fred Lacy, Chair, Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering, Southern University A&amp;M</i>
9:45-10:30	Panel: A Discussion with RCU Deans <i>Dr. Greg Upton, Executive Director, Center for Energy Studies, LSU A&amp;M</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 11:20	Overview: Shared Instrumentation Facilities <i>Dr. Arden Moore, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech University</i> <i>Dr. Jonathon Raush, Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette</i>
11:20 - 11:30	Overview: Higher Education & Career Pathways <i>Dr. Ben Samuel, Associate Professor, University of New Orleans</i> <i>Dr. Nicholas Bustamante, Professor, Louisiana Tech University</i>
11:30-12:00	Panel: Bossier Parish Community College Art for Science <i>Dr. Nicholas Bustamante, Professor, Louisiana Tech University</i>
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00	3 Minute Thesis Competition <i>Dr. Ramu Ramachandran, Interim VP for Research, Louisiana Tech University</i>
3:00 - 3:30	Coffee Break (Judges confer and choose winners)
3:30 - 4:00	3 Minute Thesis Award Ceremony <i>Dr. Ramu Ramachandran, Interim VP for Research, Louisiana Tech University</i>
4:00	Adjournment



Louisiana NSF EPSCoR  
Board of Regents  
1201 N. Third Street, Suite 6-200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
louisianaepscor@regents.edu  
NSF E-CORE OIA-2437963

## Agenda for Graduate Students January 8, 2026

8:00 – 8:30	Registration, Coffee
8:30 - 8:45	Overview: LA-NEXT and First Louisiana 2030 <i>Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for R&amp;D, Louisiana Board of Regents</i>
8:45 - 10:30	Graduate Student Breakout
9:00 - 10:00	Communicating Science Through Art <i>Dr. Nicholas Bustamante, Professor, Louisiana Tech University</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Conference/Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students <i>Colleen Fava, Director, Louisiana Space Grant &amp; NASA EPSCoR, LSU A&amp;M</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 12:00	Rejoin the main session



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