



LA-NEXT Symposium

January 8, 2026

LSU Energy, Coast, and Environment Building
93 South Quad Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

8:00 - 8:30	Registration and Coffee (Lobby, 1000)
8:30 - 8:45	Overview: LA-NEXT and First Louisiana 2030 <i>Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for R&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 & Computer Engineering, Southern University A&M</i>
9:45-10:30	Panel: A Discussion with RCU Deans <i>Dr. Greg Upton, Executive Director, Center for Energy Studies, LSU A&M</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break (Lobby, 1000)
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	How To: Community College-Based Art for Science Workshops <i>Dr. Nicholas Bustamante, Professor, Louisiana Tech University</i>
12:00 - 1:15	Networking Lunch (Lobby, 1000)
1:15 - 1:30	Feedback: Survey Completion (QR Code below)
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 (Lobby, 1000)
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
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NSF E-CORE OIA-2437963

Agenda for Graduate Students January 8, 2026

8:00 – 8:30	Registration and Coffee (Lobby)
8:30 - 8:45	Overview: LA-NEXT and First Louisiana 2030 <i>Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for R&D, Louisiana Board of Regents</i>
8:45 - 10:30	Graduate Student Breakout (Rotunda Conference Room, 1019)
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 & NASA EPSCoR, LSU A&M</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break (Lobby)
10:50 - 12:00	Rejoin the main session (Dalton J. Woods Auditorium, 1001)



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