Welcome to the inaugural University of Louisiana System Academic Summit!

Last year, Northwestern State University hosted the first UL System Undergraduate Research Day and Grambling State University hosted the sixth annual UL System Service-Learning Conference. Those two independent activities are now combined into one Academic Summit to provide a richer experience for all involved.

This year, there are 44 service-learning presenters showcasing community impact projects in diverse areas such as robotics, pharmacy, computer information systems, music education, and disaster preparedness. Twenty-two academic disciplines are represented by the 77 student undergraduate research presentations both in oral and poster formats. And not to be outdone, our student artists submitted over 400 pieces for the juried art exhibition ensuring the highest quality pieces made it into the 32 slots available for the show.

The UL System has a long history of commitment to excellence in teaching and collaboration across its institutions. Those tenets culminate in this first annual event, graciously hosted by McNeese State University, and will continue in 2013 at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and then in 2014 at Nicholls State University. Also, the University of New Orleans has established an online conference archive of Academic Summit proceedings through its ScholarWorks@UNO open access digital repository so that the knowledge shared at this conference can continue in a sustainable format.

Your participation, whether as a presenter or an attendee, exemplifies what our system is all about: academic excellence, strong working relationships, and a system-wide approach to collaboration. I hope you make the most of this two-day event, attending as many diverse presentations as possible, broadening your knowledge base, and forging new friendships with colleagues across the system.

Randy Moffett
President
University of Louisiana System