Welcome to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, home of the Ragin’ Cajuns. We’re glad you’re here to participate in the University of Louisiana System’s third annual Academic Summit.

As you’ve seen, substantial construction is under way on campus. We apologize for any inconvenience it may cause. Progress is sometimes messy but the outcome of these projects will be worth the occasional noise and detours we experience.

When the dust settles, an expanded and completely renovated Student Union will become the hub of campus activities, especially for students who live in our residence halls. After the Student Union is complete at the end of this year, two buildings on Hebrard Boulevard will be torn down to provide a scenic view of it and the adjacent Cypress Lake.

A parking garage is being built between Fletcher and Rougeou halls.

And, our Quadrangle will have a new look that features a fountain with a fleur-de-lis sculpture. The redesign was initiated, designed and financed by our students.

Most of the improvements are part of a Master Plan for campus growth that was developed over the past couple of years with participation by students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community.

It’s a pleasure to host the Academic Summit this year. This two-day event is a chance for the UL System’s nine universities to share what we’re learning, to network with colleagues and fellow students, and to challenge each other intellectually.

Like previous summits, it will include a system-wide service learning conference. Helping others through service is an obligation of an educated society. As institutions of higher learning, we have a responsibility to convey this principle to the 90,000 students we teach. The summit will also include performance art, a student art exhibition, and undergraduate research.

Thank you for participating in this Academic Summit. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to return to our campus in a few months to see our progress.

Sincerely,

E. Joseph Savoie
President
On behalf of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, I welcome you to the third annual UL System Academic Summit!

This is the premier event for our nine-university system that showcases the best of academic learning across multiple disciplines. Whether you are here to learn more about infusing service-learning, undergraduate research, or artistic expression, these co-curricular activities exemplify the core of our mission: excellence in teaching and student knowledge.

We are especially appreciative of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for hosting this year’s conference on its beautiful campus. I have no doubt you will experience great food and hospitality amid the towering historic oaks that are so prolific here, and don’t forget to stop by Cypress Lake to see the alligators.

To the faculty and staff presenting or supporting your student mentees, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your students’ successes are a direct reflection upon you, and the state of Louisiana is the ultimate beneficiary.

To the students presenting, you are to be commended for going beyond the classroom in your pursuit of knowledge. It is our hope that the Academic Summit medals awarded to you are worn with pride on the day of your graduation. We also hope you will document this experience in your MyEdu.com profile so that you can showcase your work and presentation skills to potential employers.

To all attendees, make the extra effort over these two days to get to know students, faculty, and staff members outside of your own university. These are valuable connections that can reap many benefits in the future. Together, we are nine universities and 90,000 students strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra K. Woodley
President
University of Louisiana System