

2026 OPENING SESSION - LAFAYETTE

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton – 1521 W. Pinhook

Date: January 8-10, 2026



Agenda Items

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Thursday,
January 8 | 2:00-2:15 PM | Welcome to Leadership Louisiana
Vermilionville – 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette |
| | 2:15-3:30 PM | Meet the Class |
| | 3:30-4:15 | Welcome/Regional Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mandi Mitchell, CEO, Lafayette Economic Development Authority ('05 Alum)</i> |
| | 4:15/30 PM | Head to Hotel and Check In |
| | 5:30 PM | Meet in lobby of hotel for Name Tags.
Ride Bus to reception.

(Location: First Horizon Bank Tower, downtown:
200 W. Congress St./Corner of Buchanan St.) |
| | 6:00-7:30 PM | Opening Reception Host and Sponsor: First Horizon
(Dress: business casual) |
| Friday,
January 9 | 7:45-8:30 AM | Buffet Breakfast – Vermilion Ballroom at Hotel (1 st Floor) |

8:45- AM 11:45AM/ 12:00 PM	<p>“Why Louisiana Ain’t Mississippi” The people, places and history that shape our state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jay Dardenne, Former Commissioner of Administration ('94 Alum)</i>
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:10 PM	Front of Hotel - Board Bus for Alumni House – University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1:45-2:15 PM	<p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette – Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, Interim President ('17 Alum)</i>
2:30-3:30PM	<p>“State of the State” Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Barry Erwin, Chief Policy Director, Better Louisiana</i>
3:30-4:15 PM	Break - Small Group breakout discussions
4:15 PM	Board Bus for Lafayette Tour/Tides Medical
4:45-5:45	<p>Tour of Tides Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joe Spell, CEO, Tides Medical</i> • <i>Doug Payne, COO, Tides Medical ('23 Alum)</i>
5:45 PM	Board Bus to Acadiana Center for the Arts
6:00 PM	<p>Arrive at ACA Socializing, drinks and tour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 <i>Sing-for-Your-Supper...? Dinner</i></p>
8:30 PM	Load bus, return to hotel
7:45-8:45 AM	<p>Vermillion Ballroom: Breakfast Buffet <i>Sign up for door prizes!</i></p>

Saturday,
January
10

9:00-10:00 AM Leadership Louisiana 2026 Class Survey on Public Issues

- *Dr. Michael Henderson, Research Director & Assistant Professor of Research, Public Policy Research Lab, Manship School of Mass Communication, LSU*

10:00AM Break

10:15/30-11:30 AM Community Leadership in Action

- *Tina Bingham, Executive Vice President & Chair, McComb-Veazey Neighborhood ('19 Alum)*

11:30/45 AM Adjourn -- Have a safe trip home!

See you in Thibodaux, March 5-7.

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