

2026 BATON ROUGE SESSION

Location: Baton Rouge Hilton Capital Center – 201 Lafayette St.

Date: May 7-9, 2026



Agenda Items

Thursday, May 7	5:30 PM	Meet in Lobby to get nametags – carpool to reception
	6:00-7:30 PM	Old Jimmie Davis House 1331 Lakeridge Dr. (see directions in advance email)
		Hosts/Sponsors: LOGA and Entergy (Dress: business casual)
Friday, May 8	7:45-8:45 AM	Buffet Breakfast – Baton Rouge Hilton Capital Center – Capital Room
	8:45- AM	Announcements and Packet Overview
	9:00 AM	Welcome/Regional Overview/Innovation in the Nonprofit Sector Chris Meyer, President, Baton Rouge Area Foundation ('11 Alum)
	9:30 AM	Louisiana Legislative Session Update Barry Erwin, Chief Policy Officer, Leaders for a Better Louisiana

Stephen Procopio, Ph.D., President, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana ('15 Alum)

10:15 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Regional Economic Development Organizations: Connecting the economies around the state • Troy Wayman, President & CEO, One Acadiana ('23 Alum). • Rob Cleveland, President & CEO, Grow NELA • Lori Melancon, CEO, Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership
11:30 AM	Load Bus to travel to LSU
11:45 AM-1215 PM	Lunch
12:15 PM	Innovation and Research: The Economic Impact of Higher Education <i>Dr. Robert Twilley, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Louisiana State University System</i>
1:00 PM	Load Bus
1:15 PM	Presentation and Tour of Modeling Center, LSU Center for River Studies • <i>Beaux Jones, President/CEO, Water Institute of the Gulf ('24 Alum)</i>
2:30	Load Bus for Nexus Louisiana
3:00 PM	Growing Entrepreneurship • Tony Zanders, President & CEO, Nexus Louisiana • Jon Atkins, CEO, Idea Village • Destin Ortego, Executive Director, Opportunity Machine
4:00 PM	Presentation and Tour Business Incubator
4:45	Head Back to Hotel (Break)
6:00 PM	Take Bus or Meet Up at Southern University Dinner on the Bluffs

Donald C. Wade House
8205 G. Leon Netterville Dr.

Dinner from 630-800/30 PM. Bus returns to hotel.

Saturday,
May 9

7:45-8:45 AM

Buffet Breakfast – Baton Rouge Hilton Capital House –
Capital Room

Sign Up for Door Prizes

9:00 AM

Insurance Update

- *Tim Temple, Insurance Commissioner ('13 Alum)*

10:00 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM

The Louisiana Economy

- *Dr. Stephen Barnes, Director, Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Associate Professor of Research, Department of Economics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Member, Revenue Estimating Conference*

11:15/30 AM

Adjourn -- Have a safe trip home!

See you in New Orleans, July 16-18.

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