



Thursday, August 20, 2026
L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles

IDEAS FOR LEADERSHIP



	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	TRACK 4
	Ideas for Workforce and Education	State of Energy	Strategies for Community Development	Impact Investing, Philanthropy in Action
8:00 – 8:40	The Debate of K-12 Education Funding, Lessons from Other States	Innovating Energy in Louisiana	Turning Community Planning Into Action, from Indiana to Ruston	Investing in Louisiana's Future
9:00 – 9:40	How Students Find Paths to Jobs in Indiana, A Case Study	LNG, Data Centers, and the State of US Energy	In Pursuit of Rural Revitalization	Impact Investing 101: Expanding the Philanthropic Toolkit
9:50 – 10:30	How States are Meeting Their Workforce Needs	Comparing Carbon Capture in Texas	Texas MUDS, Florida CDDs, and Tools for Development Financing	Louisiana in Action: Lessons of Local Impact
10:45 – 11:45	The View from Louisiana's Large Cities: Featuring Mayors from Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport, and Monroe			
12:00 – 3:00	Lunch	Keynote Conversation: Margaret Spellings, Bipartisan Policy Center Jon Schnur, America Achieves		
		Student Exchanges To Experience America: David McCullough, III, American Exchange Project		
		Louisiana's Energy Future: Jeff Jenkins, Bernhard Capital Partners		

TRACK 1 • Preparing for the Workforce

8:00 - 8:40

The Debate of K-12 Education Funding, Lessons from Other States

SPEAKERS

Wesley Wei, Alex Spurrier, Paul Pastorek, Noemi Donoso, Ph.D.

TRACK 2 • State of Energy

8:00 - 8:40

Innovating Energy in Louisiana

SPEAKERS

Mike Mazzola, Gregory Kallenberg, Tony Zanders

TRACK 1 • Preparing for the Workforce

9:00 - 9:40

How Students Find Paths to Jobs in Indiana, A Case Study

SPEAKERS

Paul Ketcham, Cassie Squillace, Jay Styles, Rep. Ken Brass

TRACK 2 • State of Energy

9:00 - 9:40

LNG, Data Centers, and the State of US Energy

SPEAKERS

Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter, Will Green

TRACK 1 • Preparing for the Workforce

9:50 - 10:30

How States Are Meeting Their Workforce Needs

SPEAKERS

Josh Wright, Jason Kloth

TRACK 2 • State of Energy

9:50 - 10:30

Comparing Carbon Capture in Texas

SPEAKERS

Cody Todd, Andrew Waxman, Marjorie McKeithen

TRACK 3 • Strategies for Community Development
8:00 - 8:40

Turning Community Planning Into Action, from Indiana to Ruston

SPEAKERS

Rich Overmoyer, Mayor Ronny Walker, Scott Walker

TRACK 4 • Impact Investing, Philanthropy in Action
8:00 - 8:40

Investing in Louisiana's Future

SPEAKERS

Josh Fleig

TRACK 3 • Strategies for Community Development
9:00 - 9:40

In Pursuit of Rural Revitalization

SPEAKERS

John Green, PhD, Mayor Ken Ritter

TRACK 4 • Impact Investing, Philanthropy in Action
9:00 - 9:40

Impact Investing 101

SPEAKERS

John Duong

TRACK 3 • Strategies for Community Development
9:50 - 10:30

Texas MUDS, Florida CDDs, and Tools for Development Financing

SPEAKERS

Steve Robinson, Pete Williams, Taylor Gravois, Russell Mosely, Kelly Longwell

TRACK 4 • Impact Investing, Philanthropy in Action
9:50 - 10:30

Louisiana in Action, Lessons of Local Impact

SPEAKERS

Jon Atkinson, Kellie Chavez

MAYORS PANEL

10:45 - 11:45

The View from Louisiana's Large Cities

SPEAKERS

- Mayor Jacques Roy
- Mayor-President Sid Edwards
- Mayor-President Monique Boulet
- Mayor Marshall Simien, Jr.
- Mayor Friday Ellis
- Mayor Tom Arceneaux

LUNCH

12:00 - 3:00

Keynote Conversations

SPEAKERS

- Margaret Spellings
- Jon Schnur
- Jeff Jenkins
- David McCullough III



Tom Arceneaux

Mayor, City of Shreveport



Monique Boulet

Mayor-President,
Lafayette Consolidated
Government



Kellie Chavez Greene

Vice President for
Programs, Greater New
Orleans Foundation



Jon Atkinson

CEO, The Idea Village



Ken Brass

Legislator Louisiana
House of Representatives



Noemi Donoso

CEO, New Schools of
Baton Rouge

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS
SPEAKER + SESSION GUIDE



John Duong

Founder, Kind Capital



Taylor Gravois

Sr. Director, Economic
Development & Industrial
Westwood



Gregory Kallenberg

Founder, Prize Foundation



Sid Edwards

Mayor-President, City of
Baton Rouge, Parish of
East Baton Rouge



John Green, PhD

Rural Development
Scholar & Advisor



Paul Ketcham

Assistant Secretar,
Indiana Department of
Education



Friday Ellis

Mayor, City of Monroe



Will Green

Presidenet & CEO,
Louisiana Association of
Business and Industry
(LABI)



Jason Kloth

Senior Advisor, America
Achieves



Josh Fleig

Chief Innovation Officer,
Louisiana Innovation
(LA.IO)



Jeff Jenkins

Founder & Partner,
Bernhard Capital Partners



Kelly Longwell

Member, Longwell Riess,
LLC

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS
SPEAKER + SESSION GUIDE



Mike Mazzola

Principal Investigator and Executive Director, Future Use of Energy Louisiana (FUEL)



Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter

Senior Policy Advisor, Domestic Gas, Power Markets & Trade, American Petroleum Institute



Steve Robinson

Founding Partner, KBHR



David McCullough III

Cofounder and CEO, American Exchange Project



Rich Overmoyer

Founder and Senior Vice President Strategic Initiatives, Fourth Economy



Jacques Roy

Mayor, City of Alexandria



Marjorie McKeithen

Partner, Jones Walker



Paul Pastorek

Founding Partner, Civic Solutions Group LLC



Jon Schnur

CEO, America Achieves



Russell Mosely

Real Estate Developer & Attorney, Long Farm Village



Ken Ritter

Mayor, Youngsville



Margaret Spellings

President and CEO, Bipartisan Policy Center

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS
SPEAKER + SESSION GUIDE



Alex Spurrier

Associate Partner,
Bellwether



Ronny Walker

Mayor, Ruston



Pete Williams

Founder, Pete Williams
and Associates, LLC



Cassie Squillace

Senior Director of
Workforce Development-
Healthcare, BioCrossroads



Scott Walker

President & CEO,
Southwest Louisiana
Economic Development
Alliance



Josh Wright

EVP and Head of Strategy
and Growth, Public
Sector, Lightcast.io



Jay Styles

Senior Director, Business
Partnerships, Employ Indy



Andrew Waxman

Associate
Professor, Lyndon B.
Johnson School of Public
Affairs, University of Texas
at Austin



Tony Zanders

President & CEO, Nexus
Louisiana



Cody Todd

Underground Injection
Control Lead, ExxonMobil



Wesley Wei

Policy Analyst and
Research Associate,
Learning Policy Institute