

# **LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting**

April 23, 2026  
LSU University Administration Building  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

## **I. Call to order.**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

## **II. Roll Call**

Members present: Daniel Tirone (LSUA&M) - Chair, Suresh Alahari (LSU Health New Orleans), Madeline Barclay (LSU Health Shreveport), Rachelle Brown (LSUE), Sujoy Ghosh (Pennington), and Kevin McCarter (LSU Ag).

Members absent: Cynthia Thomas (LSUA), and Cassandra Williams (LSUS) - Secretary.

## **III. There were no public comments.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes from the February 27, 2026 meeting**

The draft minutes from February 27, 2026 were approved without amendment.

## **V. New Business**

The Chair went over the items that will be included in the oral report. The full report items are included in an attachment.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am following a motion by Brown which passed without objection.

Minutes prepared by Daniel C. Tirone, Chair

## ***Attachments:***

*LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report April 23, 2026*

# LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report

April 23, 2026

Assembled by Daniel C. Tirone, Chair

## LSU AgCenter

- Denise Holston, LSU AgCenter nutrition professor, is leading a **new partnership between Pennington Biomedical Research Center** and the LSU AgCenter to broaden the reach of the Pennington Generation health research study by bringing it to communities across Louisiana. The study examines the trajectory of lifestyle behaviors, including physical activity, dietary intake and sleep, throughout childhood, adolescence and young adulthood and their relationship to unhealthy weight gain and obesity. The study sample includes 1,500 Louisiana families statewide.
- AgMagic Baton Rouge was held March 23-29, 2026. The event offered an interactive, visually stimulating educational journey through Louisiana agriculture, highlighting agriculture, the environment and the vital role each plays in daily life. A total of **8,076 students, teachers, volunteers and visitors attended the seven-day event**. Volunteers contributed 3,712 hours, representing an economic impact of \$108,167.68.
- Carol Friedland, professor and director of the LSU AgCenter LaHouse Research and Education Center, has been named a **fellow of the Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers**. The honor recognizes her leadership and sustained contributions to the structural engineering profession.
- **Capitol High School in Baton Rouge has opened a new food pantry** to support students and families facing food insecurity and help remove barriers to academic success. LSU AgCenter nutrition experts played a key role in developing the pantry and shaping its long-term educational mission. The pantry, called the Lion's Den, emphasizes food access that allows students to focus on learning rather than hunger. The Lion's Den is the result of a community partnership among the LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge General, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, the Charles Lamar Family Foundation and the Joe Burrow Foundation.
- Since March 1, 2026, the LSU AgCenter has been awarded **\$2.28 million in grants**.

## LSU Alexandria

As we all know by now, LSUA's Chancellor Paul Coreil has announced his retirement. I'd like to briefly highlight the impact Dr. Coreil's leadership has had on LSUA. Dr. Coreil's tenure can be summarized as growth, modernization, and a focus on outcomes.

Under his leadership, LSUA reached record enrollment exceeding 7,000 students, expanded its presence as one of the fastest-growing undergraduate institutions in Louisiana, and elevated its visibility through strategic branding- transforming the university into a recognized, growth-oriented institution. He also prioritized campus infrastructure improvements and student success through key investments such as the Martin Family Student Success Center, new on campus apartments, and the Health Education Campus, while advancing measurable improvements in retention, graduation, and career outcomes.

Dr. Coreil did more than grow enrollment, he reshaped LSUA into a more visible, student-centered, and workforce-aligned institution. On behalf of the university community, we extend our sincere gratitude for your visionary leadership and steadfast commitment, and we wish you continued success in your well-earned retirement.

LSUA recently approved 2 Accelerated Bachelor Degree (ABD) programs which are set to begin accepting students in the fall. These programs will award Accelerated Bachelor Degrees (90 credit degrees) in Information Technology and Bioinformatics. These degrees are the first of this kind in the state. Additionally, a BS in Aviation has been added to the list degree of offerings. Students may self-select to transition from the BGS to the BS in Aviation starting Fall 2026 and new students will be accepted for Fall 2026 as well.

LSUA hosted its first Artificial Intelligence Summit, welcoming more than 200 participants from across central Louisiana for a full day of hands-on learning, collaboration, and innovation. The summit brought together small business owners, educators, nonprofit leaders, manufacturing leaders, and public service professionals to explore how artificial intelligence is shaping the future of work across industries.

LSUA hosted the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technology (LSRT) conference on March 14th. 275 radiologic technology students, technologists, and faculty from schools in Louisiana attended. I have attached the program. Two of our professors presented:

- Alisha Trisler and Elizabeth Azua (Rad Tech Faculty) presented at the Louisiana Society of Rad Tech (LSRT) - *Maintaining Excellence in Radiographic Practice: Skills Beyond the Classroom*
- Sonu Kumar (MLT Faculty) presented at the Louisiana Society of Rad Tech (LSRT) - *Working Smarter with AI: User-Friendly Tools for Everyday Tasks*

The James C. Bolton Library at Louisiana State University of Alexandria (LSUA) was awarded \$15,000 from LOUIS for OER Advancement, which funded the renewal of the library's LibGuides and LibCal, stipends to instructors for participating in OER workshops, and the purchase of promotional materials. The library also received funding from the LSUA Technology Grant for its Electronic Textbook Initiative to provide affordable learning for student

success in the amount of \$5,871 to purchase electronic resources that align with required textbooks for classes. The estimated student textbook savings for the Spring 2026 semester totaled \$356,933 per the LOUIS calculations, and savings calculated from self-service listings for actual seats filled totaled closer to \$192,166.

LSUA's Elementary Education Program earned an A+ National Council on Teacher Quality Reading Foundation Score. LSUA demonstrated Evidence of Exemplary Practices in Reading Foundations to contribute to this score.

The College of Social Science (CSS) has been heavily engaged in "Next Step" preparation with students. During the Month of March, they hosted a Career Bootcamp, Mock Interviews for interested seniors, and Law School Prep. These events have been well attended. CSS has also partnered with parish and state stakeholders to promote the Disaster Preparedness and Response degree.

As LSUA continues to position itself as the premier higher education institution in the region, faculty continues to engage in scholarship, earn certifications, present at conferences, and become active with professional societies.

Recent accomplishments from faculty include:

- Holly Wilson, PhD, Professor of Philosophy, accepted paper with coauthor Pauline Entin: "Kant, Racism, and Environmental Determinism" in *Theoria* (May, 2026).
- Holly Wilson, PhD, Professor of Philosophy, "Kant on Natural Predispositions in Human History" by the Türkiye Kant Society (in Turkey by Microsoft Teams) April 20, 2025.
- LaCour, M. & Bell, Z. K. (2026). "Less is... more?" The influence of digit magnitude and formatting on probability weighting. *Theory and Decision*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11238-025-10121-4>
- McCurdy, B. H., Goudy, K., Evans, R., Lee, J. A., Lee, D., Melby, J. N., & Weems, C. F. (2026). Pre-Parenting Education for Adolescents: Program Evaluation Model and Knowledge Outcomes. *Family Relations*. (In Press).
- Zebulon Bell, Tomesha Farris, & Richard Elder: Presentation entitled "Measuring the Value of a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology", 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (June 2026).
- Karen Slatten, Jordyn Truax.: Presentation entitled: "Communicating Medical Risk: Linguistic Probability Patterns in Public-Facing Health Information", 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (June 2026).
- Jordyn Truax, (LSUA) & Jennifer Vonk, (Oakland University): Presentation entitled: "The Effects of Zoo Visitors on Aviary Parrot Behavior", 72nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (June 2026).
- Joshua Day, Library Systems Administrator and Adjunct Instructor for the College of Business, completed the Certificate in Open Education Librarianship from the University of Minnesota.
- Dean Rafael Romero is leading the fourth season of *Bark Tank*, our student startup pitch competition modeled after *Shark Tank*. Student teams develop full business plans and present to local business leaders known as the "Top Dogs." The competition provides real-

world entrepreneurial experience, mentorship, and community engagement. Dean Romero also presented at LSUA's AI Summit on March 20 on "*AI-Driven Video Content.*"

- Dr. Grant Clary has redesigned the Entrepreneurship concentration and proposed a new AI concentration within the B.S. in Business Administration. He also presented at LSUA's AI Summit on March 20 with two sessions: "*Gemini 101: How to Save Time and Work Smarter*" and "*Personal AI Automation.*"
- The LSUA Community Public Art Heart Project was unveiled on March 11. This project was completed by students as a class assignment in FIAR 1551 Basic Design, in collaboration with Strategic Communications. The Community Heart Project is part of a broader beautification initiative led by the Alexandria/Pineville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, which envisions heart sculptures placed throughout the region as dynamic expressions of art, culture, and civic pride.
- Student artwork created in FIAR 2661 Basic Ceramics has been accepted into the regional juried exhibition, the 58th Tom Peyton Memorial Art Festival.
- Dr. Bernard Gallagher is soliciting manuscripts from local central Louisiana writers for April's issue of Verbatim, an online journal published annually in support of National Poetry Month.

## LSU Eunice

### Faculty Features

- As part of the **EPIIC grant** awarded to LSUE, the cohort presents the Spring summit "Building Partnerships for the Bioeconomy" on May 14 provides an opportunity for partners to meet with all cohort faculty and networking opportunities.
- Michael Ray Taylor, History Instructor was appointed a **National Science Foundation EPIIC A-SPARK Fellow**, which comes with a grant to hold a conference at LSUE this summer entitled Cultivating Sustainability: French Colonial Louisiana and the Circular Bioeconomy. Several French historians will participate in a workshop of papers analyzing agricultural practices in 18<sup>th</sup> century Louisiana as a French colony. This summer's conference will result in a joint publication.
- To better serve our students and regional partners, LSU-E is transitioning the Department of Workforce Innovation and Continuing Education into the newly restructured **Division of Workforce Development and Applied Sciences**. This reorganization creates a more seamless pipeline between our academic programs and the evolving needs of the modern workforce. The division encompasses Workforce development and core academic areas of Criminal Justice, Fire and Emergency Services, Business and Management, Computer Information Technology, and Agriculture. The search is underway for a new Dean of Workforce Development and Applied Sciences.

### General Program and Campus Achievements

- On April 7, LSUE, along with five (5) other Louisiana colleges and universities participated in the **Louisiana Department of Health, "Shovel ready, Freshman Class"** for the first round of the federal Rural Transformation Funds. LSU-Eunice the only 2 -year space to be included. Louisiana Department of Health with Secy Bruce Greenstein and the federal CMS group made their **only** higher education visit to the LSU-E campus.
- In the upcoming **Graduation** ceremonies, LSUE will be awarding a record number of over 700 certificates and degrees in two ceremonies, one at 10 and the other at 2pm. The latter graduation speaker is Patrick Grandy, CEO of Ochsner Health, Acadiana.
- The **Dual Enrollment program** recognizes 106 students at the Above and Beyond banquet. These students represent 27 different high schools from across the state.
- 53 students will receive a cord and certificate for earning 48+ hours of college credit while maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher. 53 students will receive a certificate for earning 30+ hours of college credit while maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- LSU Eunice hosts the **2026 Bengal Excellence Awards Banquet** on April 23, 2026 to recognize outstanding student achievement across academics, leadership, service, and involvement. More than **50 students were nominated** for consideration, with **21 students selected** to receive Bengal Excellence Awards. The selected students represent seven parishes across Louisiana. Honorees are recognized for going above and beyond in the classroom, on campus, in their communities, and through extracurricular and athletic involvement. The award recipients exemplify LSU Eunice's commitment to student success, engagement, and excellence.

- Recruiting new students continues with **Bengal Day** hosting a record breaking 124 potential students and their guests. **Summer and Fall applications** are on pace to break more records for enrollment and credit hours.
- **LSU-Eunice baseball and softball** are both ranked in the Top 10 NJCAA national polls. Each team is finishing this season's home games and preparing for playoffs. Fans are filling the new baseball stadium and LSUE baseball leads the NJCAA in attendance.

## LSU Health New Orleans

- In the School of Medicine, we are excited to report that Drs. Sam and Rinku Majumder, Professors of Immunology are co-principal investigators on 5-year, \$3.7 million NIH grant that was awarded a perfect score of 1.0 by a National Cancer Institute study section. This study seeks to confirm preliminary studies demonstrating the safety and efficacy of a natural anticoagulant, Protein S, to treat pancreatic cancer.
- Over the past several months, we welcomed four federally funded researchers to the LSU LCMC Cancer Center and have verbal agreements with three additional funded scientists who have been sent letters for signature. Additionally, regarding clinical trials, faculty have been recruited in thoracic oncology, cancer genetics, neuro-oncology and stem-cell transplantation. We will continue our focus on recruiting nationally recognized faculty towards the goal of NCI designation.
- Also at the School of Medicine, approximately 50% of our graduating students matched in Louisiana for their residency training. Of these, 85% will be training at an LSU residency program. Of students who matched outside of Louisiana, many are going to top programs around the country such as Johns Hopkins, Stanford, Cornell, UCSF, Vanderbilt and others.
- In the School of Public Health, we are working with the Cancer Center and University of Alabama to establish a mechanism for Academic-Community partnership grants. The grants will have a cancer focus but will also include chronic diseases and environmental determinants of disease.
- At the School of Nursing, Dr. Benita Chatmon, Assistant Dean for Clinical Nursing has been elected to serve on the Board of Sigma Theta Tau International, and Dr. Melissa Nunn, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs has been appointed to the Louisiana Board of Nursing
- At the School of Dentistry, Dr. Frank Martello, an alum and faculty member, has started a clinic for special needs patients. This clinic, which reflects 40 years of dedication to this population by Dr. Martello, not only helps serve a vulnerable group of patients in need, but also teaches students how to care for these patients when they enter practice, which will improve access to care.

### 1. **Human Resources-**

- 70 Promotion and Tenure packets were sent to Baton Rouge in March
- Digital Badge Task Force working on policy
- CM-75 Scientific and Research Misconduct policy- CM75 adopted and revised
- Moving to digital evaluations with real time updates- June 2026 – December 2026 – Faculty Self Evaluation for year 2026 March 2027 – Supervisor meeting for Annual Evaluation of 2026 and Planning for 2027

2. **Moodle** -was chosen to continue to be the Learning Management System Review Committee for LSUHSC-NO. The Master Services Agreement with MoodleUS is being negotiated for the LSU System. Once the MSA is complete the plan is to move forward with confirming a statement of work, developing an implementation plan, and recruiting representatives to work with MoodleUS.

3. **Exam software evaluation**-Medicine uses Questionmark product for tests, but the other schools only use Moodle for testing. A testing platform would be more secure and is expected to be more supportive of varied question types than Moodle.

4. **AI Policy-** updated draft AI policy was submitted to institutional leadership for review and returned March 31 with feedback
5. **ADA compliance AA22 Digital Accessibility Policy-**Campus is required to adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies by April 24<sup>th</sup>.
6. **University Police-** offering an Employee Self Defense class and focused on “Awareness and Self Defense”
7. **School of Medicine-**Medical students match 49-50% of students staying in state, 80-85% in LSU schools.
8. **Basic science reorganization-**Board of Regents approved names and mergers of departments
  - MGI - Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology
  - PBET - Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Experimental Therapeutics
9. **LSUHSC Campus Construction-**
  - 5<sup>th</sup> floor MEB: finalized, researchers starting to move in
  - Walkway to CALS on target to open in summer
  - Walkway to UMCNO over Tulane: no timeline, will cost ~17million, but now out of legal process
  - Dental School ongoing renovations
10. **Nursing-**
  - Curricular revision: consultant to facilitate updating the curriculum content for undergraduate and graduate courses
  - The BR campus aims to admit 90 students in the fall (3<sup>rd</sup> admission cohort); construction should be completed at the end of summer 2026 (it is on track to finish)
  - The Shreveport campus will graduate its second of May cohort 2026.

**LSUHSC Wellness Committee’s Hunger-Free Campus Workforce-** is in the process of adding a centralized pantry to its 6 current pocket pantries and recently was one of the schools to receive the BOR monetary award. Will be showcasing efforts to address food insecurity to the BOR on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Pennington Biomedical Research Center

- Close to 500 women from across the Greater Baton Rouge region gathered at Pennington Biomedical for the 26th annual Irene W. Pennington Wellness Day for Women, and almost 300 seniors attended the fifth annual Senior Black American Health Fair. The Irene W. Pennington Wellness Day for Women featured a morning dedicated to health screenings, wellness education and activities focused on mind and body health. Participants connected with health care providers and researchers while learning practical ways to support their health. In an effort to get participants moving and having fun, the Senior Black American Health Fair included activities such as line dancing, bingo, cornhole, horseshoes, a stretch zone and music from a live DJ. In addition to physical activities, the fair featured free health screenings and vaccines for interested participants. Highlights of the day included a healthy aging panel featuring experts in cancer, dementia, urology and heart health, along with a viewing of the Mama Joe Project – a story of a family dealing with dementia. Lastly, participants learned about research through an interactive experience in a mobile unit.
- In March, elected officials and community stakeholders gathered at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital to learn about Greaux Healthy, an initiative led by Pennington Biomedical in partnership with the State of Louisiana focused on preventing and treating childhood obesity. Lake Charles Mayor Marshall Simien Jr. presented a proclamation announcing March 5 as “Greaux Healthy Day” in Lake Charles. Greaux Healthy also toured other areas of Acadiana this month, including stops in Lafayette and at LSU Eunice.
- The first set of data from the Risks Underlying Rural Areas Longitudinal, or RURAL, Heart and Lung study was released. The NIH-funded, first-of-its-kind study was developed to explore why people who live in rural areas suffer disproportionately from heart and lung diseases, stroke, diabetes and obesity. Led by Dr. Stephanie Broyles of Pennington Biomedical, the longitudinal study gathered data in Assumption Parish, where health outcomes were closely tied to education level, and is now working on gathering data in Franklin Parish.
- Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation hosted another incredible "The Answer" gala on March 27, bringing together more than 300 attendees for an evening of fun, philanthropy and Louisiana flair. This year's “Best of the Bayou” theme set the stage for a lively night filled with trivia, entertainment and meaningful support for Pennington Biomedical's mission. The event's success is a testament to the Foundation team's hard work and dedication, as well as the continued generosity of our community. From start to finish, "The Answer" once again demonstrated the powerful impact of coming together to support research that improves lives across Louisiana and beyond.
- Dr. Hanim Ecem Diktas, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Ingestive Behavior, Weight Management & Health Promotion Laboratory, was named Pennington Biomedical's Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow for 2025. Dr. Diktas, who was nominated by Dr. Corby Martin and Dr. John Apolzan, has published 11 peer-reviewed journal articles, has presented 22 abstracts and posters, and serves as a peer reviewer for five journals. Congratulations also go to finalists Dr. Semira Ortiz and Dr. Elizabeth Zunica. The Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Award recognizes and encourages excellence in research, academic involvement and service by postdoctoral fellows at the Center.

## LSU Health Shreveport

- Dr. Qiang Cai, faculty physician in the Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was awarded the designation of Master of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the society's highest honor. He is the only physician in Louisiana to hold this distinction and one of only 88 physicians in the United States to receive it.
- The Physician Assistant program continues to demonstrate strong academic performance. First-year students' PACKRAT 1 scores, administered after the didactic phase and before clinical training as a national measure of medical knowledge and clinical readiness, have remained above the national average range of 132 to 140, with an average score of 146 and a high of 151 over the past three years.
- Dr. Christian Bonner, a resident in the Family Medicine Rural Residency program at Winnsboro, LA, was awarded an Emerging Leader Institute Scholarship by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Bonner was selected from a large, highly competitive national applicant pool as one of only 30 residents and students nationwide to participate in the Family Medicine Leads Emerging Leader Institute. As an Emerging Leader Scholar, he will engage in advanced leadership training, collaborate and network with family physicians and peers from across the country, complete a mentored leadership project, and contribute to initiatives that strengthen both the specialty and the communities it serves.
- The School of Medicine recently celebrated Match Day as 142 fourth-year medical students learned where they will complete their residency training. The School achieved a 98% overall match rate, exceeding the national average of 94%. Of the Class of 2026, 23% will remain at LSU Health Shreveport for residency, and 44% will stay in Louisiana. LSU Health Shreveport also filled all 142 of its residency positions.
- The Shreveport Teaching Enhancement Program, or STEP, is a collaborative initiative between the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Health Professions and Sciences that prepares PhD students and postdoctoral scholars for teaching careers in academia. Its inaugural cohort has completed the certificate program.
- The School of Medicine was recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as one of more than 50 medical schools nationwide designated as "champions" for their commitment to strengthening nutrition education for future physicians. The School will ensure that medical students receive at least 40 hours of nutrition instruction, or a competency-based equivalent, in alignment with national recommendations to better prepare physicians to prevent and manage chronic disease.
- Four medical students presented their research at the 24th Annual New England Science Symposium held at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA.

## LSU Shreveport

- LSUS has poured a lot of energy into reconstructing its student support systems since 2022, which have contributed to major increases in retention rates. The Fall 2023 cohort retained students at levels more than 10 percent higher than the previous cohorts on average as 72 percent of that cohort persisted to the second year and 65 percent to the third year. LSUS is now able to enhance its support to a significant student population who is first gen and/or works 30 or more hours per week.
- The LSUS MBA program was lauded by one of the world's top podcasters in the education and self-improvement categories. Dr. Toby Brooks, who is also director of Baylor's Academy for Teaching and Learning, said the LSUS program helped him pivot his academic career to Baylor. He noted that the LSUS MBA offers a big plus for working adults: being in a program with other established career professionals differentiates the LSUS MBA very positively from programs that focus on students fresh out of their undergraduate experiences.
- LSUS student researchers performed well at the Regional Scholars Forum, which brought 200 scholars from 34 different universities to the LSUS campus. Computer science graduate students Devesh Sarda and Udaysinh Rathod took the two honors in the "three-minute thesis" category and won the oral presentations category. Undergraduate biological sciences student Sadie Lyons won the undergraduate research poster category.
- Computer science student Augustine Nwafor took the top prize at the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Louisiana Academy of Sciences meeting for his project SmartKnee, a wearable device that provides real-time data to athletes if a knee is bending or absorbing force in a way that could lead to serious injury.
- LSUS debaters Heidi Tyler and Kaleb Schmidley won a championship title in the Team International Public Debate Association format at a national speech and debate conference.
- MBA student Kurtis Alton and computer science student Jyotish Batra won \$52,000 for first place in ULM'S Pelican Cup, a student entrepreneurship competition. Batra supplied his app development and technical skills to Alton's idea for Rx Connect, a prescription navigation app designed to remove communication barriers between providers, pharmacies, insurance companies and patients.
- Digital arts student Milan Bolden took home Best of Show at the American Advertising Awards for his movie poster "Deceptive Colors."
- The Director of the Master in Nonprofit Administration degree, Dr. Zeeshan Noor, received the Krishna K. Tummala Award for Emerging Scholars, awarded to a member of the South Asian Section for Public Administration.
- Pioneer Heritage Center director Marty Young was chosen to serve on a state committee for the National Register of Historic Places, using his decades of experience to help select Louisiana locations for national recognition.
- Dr. Katherine Pollock edited a special edition of the prestigious German journal "Colloquia Germanica" that focuses on special topics in German literacy and cultural studies.
- Details are being finalized for an April 20 event at our Shreveport campus honoring history professor Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze, the first LSU Shreveport professor ever to earn a Boyd Professorship. Mikaberidze has established himself as a world-renowned expert on the global impact of the Napoleonic era and has really put LSUS on the map with the significant number of his publications from top-rank presses, as well as his invited talks at global institutions of learning.

## LSU A&M

- Two faculty members from the LSU College of Science, Peter Doran and Bret Elder, and Lucio Miele, Director of the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), joining the prestigious 2025 class. This lifetime honor recognizes individuals for their exceptional achievements across disciplines, including research, teaching, technology, administration, and excellence in communicating and interpreting science to the public.
- NSF's \$45 million funding renewal for LSU's FUEL team (three-year scope) is a clear indicator of the success of the project so far. We're now well on our way to securing the full \$160 million announced in 2024 (10-year scope). Moving forward, FUEL will continue to engage more than 50 education, government and community, and industry and capital partners to accelerate ongoing collaboration among industry, workforce, and cradle-to-career education stakeholders; propel an intentional approach to creating opportunities for Louisiana residents; and energize public and private investors, incubators, and policymakers to sustain and develop a dynamic workforce equipped to work in Louisiana's energy industry and translate new energy technology to tech startups in Louisiana.
- George Tisdale, a junior in the LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College majoring in Chemistry, has been named a **2026 Barry Goldwater Scholar**. Established by Congress in 1986 in honor of Senator Barry Goldwater, the scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding undergraduates who demonstrate exceptional promise in STEM research careers. Only 454 scholarships were awarded nationwide for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Like humans, joint injuries and chronic joint stress in horses can lead to degenerative joint disease that has traditionally been treated with medications that target pain or inflammation. Michelle Osborn, an associate professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, and colleagues are working to more effectively address the underlying cause of the original injury, such as problematic gait problems or what are called "pathomechanical" foci. The researchers recently published **a case study in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*** of a 3D equine skeletal model, a tool that can be used to analyze posture and movement and objectively document the effectiveness of training programs in changing movement patterns. The team is excited about the potential of the 3D model to serve as a tool that can directly benefit the lives of horses and riders. The horse skeleton model, a tool for modeling whole-body posture, movement, and analysis of 3D force regimes, can also be combined with a dynamic 3D human model to understand the relationship between horse and rider.
- LSU is launching a digital twin core facility at LSU to serve the flagship and university partners. John Vickers, formerly with NASA, has come on as its inaugural director. LSU's digital twin work for NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans (where the Artemis rockets are built) also flows straight into the ongoing Artemis missions and recently helped take humanity around the Moon.