2026 LA Space Grant & NASA EPSCoR (LaSPACE) Annual Meeting

Tulane University Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life (LBC)

Kendall Cram Lecture Hall (Room #213) 936 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130

Friday, November 13th & Saturday, November 14th

Friday, November 13th

7:45 am (40) Check-in, Coffee, & Networking

8:30 am (5) Welcome & Meeting Logistics – **Colleen H. Fava**, Director & **Denys Bondar**, Tulane University Affiliate Representative

8:40 am (20) Tulane Campus Welcome – **Robin Forman,** Tulane Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

State of the State

9:00 am (15) *LA Space Grant & NASA EPSCoR Management*

9:20 am (15) LA Board of Regents Support Fund Update – **Carrie Robison,** BoR Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

9:40 am (15) Aerospace Market Trends and Regional Workforce Needs – **Kevin C. Davis,** Propulsion, Thermal Products & Test Engineering Manager, Lockheed Martin

10:00 am (25) Louisiana Works: Meaningful Employment and Skilled Talent in Aerospace & Adjacent Sectors – **Jessica Vallelungo,** Assistant Secretary for Workforce Development, Louisiana Works

10:30AM (25) NETWORKING BREAK

State of the State Continued

11:00 am (45) The Landscape for Two-Year Colleges in Louisiana Panel Discussion: **Deshjuana Bagley**, LSU-Eunice; **Amy Cable**, LA Community & Technical College System; **Joanna Rivers**, Delgado Community College; **Duane Jardine**, Nunez Community College. Moderated by Colleen H. Fava.

11:45 am (25) *LA Space Grant & NASA EPSCoR Management*

12:15 PM (70) LUNCH – QATAR BALLROOM

State of the Research – Faculty Showcase

1:30 pm (30) After the IPA: Perspective on NASA Biology Research and the Harrison Lab New Direction – **Lynn Harrison**, LSU-Health Sciences Center - Shreveport

2:00 pm (20) Multiscale Socio-Environmental Tensor Fusion Framework for Modeling Post-Hurricane Recovery in Coastal Communities (NASA EPSCoR R3) – **Hadi Salehi**, Louisiana Tech

2:30 PM (25) NETWORKING BREAK

State of the Research – Tulane Faculty Showcase (NASA EPSCoR RID RAP awards)

3:00 pm (20) Quantum Black Hole Analogs and Directional Transport in Interacting Atomtronic Systems – **Denys Bondar**, Tulane University

3:25 pm (20) Aluminum Aerosol Injection from Satellite Megaconstellation Reentry: Emissions, Transport, and Atmospheric Fate – **Yanxu Zhang**, Tulane University

3:50 pm (20) Harnessing AI for Autonomous Lunar Exploration: Intelligent Rover Navigation and Regolith Resource Extraction – **Zhenming Ding**, Tulane University

Closing Session

4:15 pm (45) NASA HQ Observations & Reflections Panel Discussion: **Gamaliel Cherry**, NASA Space Grant Project Manager; **Dave Berger**, NASA EPSCoR Project Manager; **Matt Pearce**, NASA EPSCoR Technical Officer. Moderated by: **Colleen H. Fava**.

5:00 pm (25) Open Mic / General Discussion / Day 1 Feedback

5:30 pm **Adjourn**

Saturday, November 14th

8:00 am (40) Check-in, Poster Hanging, Coffee, & Networking

8:45 am (20) Welcome – **Colleen H. Fava**, Director

9:10 am (15) Local Lockheed Martin Opportunities – Company/Facility Growth and Internship Program – **Kevin C. Davis,** Propulsion, Thermal Products & Test Engineering Manager, Lockheed Martin

State of the Students – Undergraduate Showcase

9:30 am (10) Student Rocketry Development at LSU via AIAA and Louisiana Space Grant – **Abigail Peck**, Louisiana State University

9:45 am (10) Effects of Heavy Metal Exposure from Wetland Pollutants on Brain Glutamate Levels in Mice (LaSSO) – **Josephine Day**, Louisiana Tech University

10:00 am (25) Student Poster Elevator Pitches – Round 1

10:30 AM (25) NETWORKING BREAK

11:00 am (20) Student Poster Elevator Pitches – Round 2

State of the Students – Graduate Showcase

11:25 am (15) Graduate Interjurisdictional Research Award Fellowship (GIRAF) in Practice (Sea Grant + Space Grant) – **Avi Strange**, Tulane & **Max Newman**, LSU

11:45 am (15) Adaptive Input Shaping Using Camera-Based Payload State Estimation for the NASA LSMS – **Karan Baker,** LSU

11:55 am (15) Exploration of Regolith-based Nano thermite for Lunar Infrastructure through Grain Boundary Engineering – **Emma McCarthy**, LSU

Closing Session

12:15 pm (40) NASA HQ Panel Discussion – NASA Opportunities + Career Advice – Panelists: **Gamaliel Cherry**, NASA Space Grant Project Manager; **Dave Berger**, NASA EPSCoR Project Manager; **Matt Pearce**, NASA EPSCoR Technical Officer; Moderated by: **Colleen H. Fava**, Director

12:55 pm (5) Closing Remarks / Transition to Lunch & Poster Session – **Colleen H. Fava**, Director

1:00PM (45) LUNCH + POSTERS – QATAR BALLROOM

1:45 pm Student Poster Session – Qatar Ballroom

4:00 pm Adjourn