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New Members Named to LSU National Diversity Advisory Board

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BATON ROUGE – The LSU Office of Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach, or EDCO, recently held its bi-annual national meeting and named the 2012-14 members of its National Diversity Advisory Board, or NDAB.

The board, led by Katrice Albert, vice provost for Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach, was created in 2010 to assemble a national team of alumni and friends to assist LSU and EDCO in conceptualizing the future of diversity and community outreach at the main campus.

The new members appointed to the board include Christine Bruneau, president of the Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association and an attorney with Cotton Schmidt & Abbott LLP from New Orleans; Mark Goodson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority and a 2004 and 2006 alumnus from Baton Rouge; Katherine Rasy Granier, budget administrator for the Louisiana Department of Education and a 1999 and 2002 alumna from Baton Rouge;

Beliota Parquet Hawkins, human resources manager for Shell Chemicals and a 1991 from Houston; Patrick McCune, an associate at Jones Walker Law Firm and a 2003 and 2008 alumnus and 2008 Law Center alumnus from Baton Rouge; Dr. Julie Morial Cruz of Metairie, corporate medical director at Peoples Health; Jaimee Pangburn, a community advocate and a 1997 and 2010 alumna from New Roads; Stephanie M. Possa, a partner at Tyler & Possa Law Firm and a 1999 alumna from Baton Rouge; Dr. Tasha Shamlin, the medical director at Medical Spa of Baton Rouge and a 1994 alumna from Baton Rouge; Jyric Sims, associate chief operating officer and ethics compliance officer at Clear Lake Medical Center and a 2005 alumnus from Webster, Texas; Lois Smyth, administrative compliance officer at Baton Rouge Area Foundation from Baton Rouge; and Jaime Thomas, a community advocate from Charlotte, N.C.

“The National Diversity Advisory Board represents individuals from various industries, like healthcare and insurance, higher education, economic development and finance, and non-profit and community development,” said Albert. “Having board members from these different sectors only enhances the conversation on how to advance LSU’s diversity agenda through building partnerships and pursuing external funding opportunities.”

Members that will continue their service on the board include Albert and Marco Barker, 2010 alumnus and assistant to the vice provost & director of educational equity for Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach, who both serve as ex-officio members; Cassandra M. Chandler, senior investigative services executive for Bank of America and a 1979 alumna from West End, N.C.; Julie Dickinson, a philanthropist from Baton Rouge; John Paul Funes, president and CEO of Our Lady of the Lake Foundation and a 1992 alumnus from Baton Rouge; Mario Garner, chief operating officer executive of HCA Regional Medical Center and a 2002 alumnus from Dublin, Ga.; Kellie Irving, director of Diversity and Inclusion for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana from Baton Rouge; Monica Leach, assistant vice provost of Enrollment Management & Services and interim department chair of social work at North Carolina State University and a 1991 alumna from Raleigh, N.C.; Todd Schexnayder, senior vice president of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana and a 1981 alumnus from Baton Rouge; and David Sickey, vice chairman of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana from Elton.

“We are delighted to have such a diverse and talented group of alumni and friends of the university who are committed to diversity, community outreach and social justice,” said Albert. “NDAB sees LSU as a place where ‘Love Purple, Live Gold’ is more than just a motto; it is an institutional culture where passion meets genius.”

“I am extremely proud of the work that EDCO and our LSU community partners continue to implement,” Albert continued. “Whether facilitating hosting high-achieving ethnic minority students during SpringFest weekend or performing health screenings in barbershops that serve black and Latino populations, engagement and diversity are the common threads that run through our work and the university.”

The LSU Office of Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach is a division of the Office of Academic Affairs committed to fostering inclusive educational opportunities and an equitable workforce environment at LSU. EDCO provides leadership to ensure that diversity is a vital component in all decision-making processes on all administrative, academic, budgetary and strategic planning fronts, and provides training and leadership development for organizations and community partners through its diversity education services.

For more information about the LSU National Diversity Advisory Board or LSU diversity efforts and education, contact Barker at 225-578-5736, by email at diversity@lsu.edu or visit www.lsu.edu/diversity.

Pictured are NDAB members at the Spring 2012 meeting. Front row (from L to R): Mark Goodson; David Sickey; Julie Dickinson; Katherine Rasy Granier; Stephanie Possa; Julie Morial Cruz; and Lois Smyth. Second row (from L to R): Marco Barker; Christine Bruneau; John Paul Funes; Parquet Hawkins; Monica Leach; senior vice president of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and NDAB emerita Meg Mahoney; and Katrice Albert. Back row (from L to R): Patrick McCune; Jaimee Pangburn; Todd Schexnayder; Jeff

Boudreaux, attorney for Kean Miller and Associations, 1996 alumnus and 2000 Law Center alumnus, and NDAB emeritus; and Mario Garner.

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