

# Louisiana Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Teaching



## ***HONORING THE TEACHERS***

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**Louisiana State University/  
Southern University  
Regional Collaborative**

*Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

**May 23, 2007**



*Event support was provided by*

**Shell Oil Company,**

*a Regional Collaborative Statewide Corporate Partner*

# HONORING THE TEACHERS EVENT

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## PROGRAM

### WELCOME

**Exyie Ryder**

*Project Director, LSU/SU Regional Collaborative*  
Southern University-Baton Rouge

### GREETINGS AND REMARKS

**William L. Jenkins**

*President*

Louisiana State University System

**Margaret S. Ambrose**

*Interim Chancellor*

Southern University-Baton Rouge

**Kamil A. Jbeily**

*Executive Director*

Texas Regional Collaboratives

**Frazier Wilson**

*Manager, Social Investment*

Shell Oil Company

### DINNER

**Brenda Nixon**

*Project Director, LSU/SU Regional Collaborative*  
Louisiana State University System

### KEYNOTE

**Paul Pastorek**

*Superintendent*

Louisiana Department of Education

### VOICE OF THE TEACHERS

**John Griffitt**, East Baton Rouge Parish, Crestworth Middle

**Dona Robinson**, St. Landry Parish, Port Barre High

**Jennifer Williams**, Orleans Parish, Isidore Newman

### RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Presentation of Certificates of Achievement as evidence of dedication  
to life-long learning and commitment to the teaching profession.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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*Paul Pastorek*

“Our mission in public and private education is quite simple: we must make all children successful in life. Every child in our cities, our state of Louisiana, and our country deserves the expectation that they can succeed and learn. Even though it is not where it needs to be, the collaboration between K-12 and higher education has begun, and we have made some significant strides. In 2004, Louisiana’s accountability system was recognized as being the best in the country. The LA 4 Pre-K education program is also recognized as the best in the country. The teacher quality programs that have risen out of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence is recognized as the best effort at improving teacher quality in the country.

“As we grow the infrastructure and as we continue to invest in our teachers and our capacity, we will be able to get to the next horizon of education reform, where all the children, even the poor children of the state of Louisiana will be able to succeed in life.”

*Paul Pastorek  
Superintendent  
Louisiana Department of Education*



*(l to r) Linda Ramsey, Project Director, Louisiana Tech/Grambling University Regional Collaborative, Kamil A. Jbeily, Executive Director, Texas Regional Collaboratives, Paul Pastorek, Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education, James P. Barufaldi, Principal Investigator, Texas Regional Collaboratives, Exyie Ryder and Brenda Nixon, Project Directors, Louisiana State University/Southern University Regional Collaborative*

## SPEAKERS

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*William L. Jenkins*

“Thank you to all and to our Shell representatives. I cannot tell you how often it has been my privilege to express appreciation to Shell, because you do so much for education.

W. B. Yeats said, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” This quote epitomizes my own respect and admiration for teachers.

I would not be standing in Baton Rouge, on this campus, talking to you tonight if it was not for my science teachers in high school. Later in life, it became clear to me that I would not have gone into science, I would not have become a veterinarian, and then a medical scientist, pharmacologist, if it had not been for these science teachers. I will never forget them.”

*William Jenkins*  
*President*

*Louisiana State University System*



*Exyie Ryder*



*Brenda Nixon*



*Kamil A. Jbeily*



*Margaret S. Ambrose*

“I am very much aware of the fact that we are living in troubled times in America in the terms of the place that we struggle to maintain. And I know we must produce effective, efficient, competent and committed science teachers. That’s why I am so grateful to all of you for taking on that charge and that commitment.

I think it is through you and the noble profession that you have chosen that we will have a great chance of rising to the challenge of producing those science students who will then become scientists and science teachers like you.”

*Margaret Ambrose*  
*Interim Chancellor*  
*Southern University-Baton Rouge*

## HONORING THE TEACHERS

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*Frazier Wilson*

“One of the reasons we sponsor programs like this is because of the importance it is to our nation. Texas and Louisiana are two of the most important areas to this country because of the energy resources that we provide.

It makes sense that we need to make an investment in teachers who are developing the students and the future engineers and presidents of our corporation who are going to make a difference not only in the United States but in the world.

Shell is very proud to be involved in this program and we recognize you for your efforts and contribution.

*Frazier Wilson  
Manager, Social Investment  
Shell Oil Company*





## VOICE OF THE TEACHERS

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*Dona Robinson*

“The most important thing you can do as a teacher is to make it really relevant to the students. Show them how math and science are applied in real world applications.

“The participation in this collaboration has been a great experience. To actively engage students, you have to actively engage the teachers.

“To touch a student, you touch the world. To touch a teacher, you to touch the universe.”

*Dona Robinson  
St. Landry Parish, Port Barre High*



*John Griffitt*

“As it was mentioned earlier, the lever is a powerful tool. It’s not always the power on the lever that matters, and science teachers will see where I am going with this; sometimes, we either have to change the lever, or change the fulcrum, go out boldly and make people ask: “Why, why, why?”

*John Griffitt  
East Baton Rouge Parish, Crestworth Middle*



*Jennifer Williams*

“How did I get to become Presidential Awardee for this year? A lot of hard work, a lot of sweat, a lot of hours, and lots of crazy ideas that came to fruition.

“If I could leave with you just a little glimpse of how to pursue the type of success that I have, join a professional organization, become involved, go out and mentor other teachers.

“The more that we spread the work of this Collaborative, the materials that Shell has so generously given to us, the more students you will reach, the better the education will become in our state”

*Jennifer Williams  
Orleans Parish, Isidore Newman*



*Brenda Nixon, Gary Miller, Shell Oil Company and Jean May-Brett, Middle and Secondary Standards, Louisiana State Department of Education*



*Kamil Jbeily is introduced to Vice Chancellor Johnny Tolliver, for Academic Affairs at Southern University, Baton Rouge Campus by Exyie Ryder*



*Frazier Wilson with teachers honored*



*Superintendent Pastorek with teachers honored*



## Louisiana State University/Southern University Regional Collaborative

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*Prepared by*



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